

# Introduction

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That sociolinguistics as a field of study is continuing to grow and thrive in 21<sup>st</sup> century linguistics is evident from even a cursory glance at recent conference programs. Sociolinguistics, language variation, language change, language contact, linguistic attitudes, sociophonetics, ethnicity and identity are increasingly present as session themes. Likewise, the recent publication of volumes such as *The Cambridge Handbook of Linguistic Code-Switching* (Bullock & Toribio 2009) and the *Handbook of Hispanic Sociolinguistics* (Díaz-Campos 2011) speak both to the interest in the field on the part of scholars, as well as to the number of investigators now working in sociolinguistics and related areas. The same can be said of journals – The Linguist List database shows over 70 academic journals that publish sociolinguistic research, and of the 11 linguistic studies published by the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese journal *Hispania* in 2010, five of them dealt with language variation. The study of the sociolinguistics of the Spanish-speaking world is deepening our understanding of patterns of variation in one of the world's major languages, while at the same time informing broader issues of theoretical importance to (socio)linguistics generally – as noted by William Labov in his keynote address at WSS3 in 2006 (Labov 2006, see Holmquist, Lorenzino & Sayahi 2007). From the very beginning of variationist sociolinguistics, research on Spanish has been instrumental in the development of theory – starting with Henrietta Cedergren's (1973) study on (ch) lenition in Panama City, which Labov (1994: 94) lists as instrumental in formulating the *curvilinear hypothesis* in language change, and Poplack's early work on phonetic/phonological variation (i.e. Poplack 1980a). Many of Spanish sociolinguistics' greatest contributions are found in the area of language contact – with indigenous languages throughout Latin America (see Klee & Lynch 2009 for an overview), with European languages in Spain (see the work of José Luis Blas Arroyo (e.g. 2008) on Catalan-Castilian contact, plus many others) and via bilingualism with English in the United States (see, for example, the work of Ricardo Otheguy and his colleagues on Spanish in New York City, i.e. Otheguy, Zentella & Livert 2007 among many others; Shana Poplack on code-switching (Poplack 1980b), the work of Carmen Silva-Corvalán in Los Angeles (i.e. Silva-Corvalán 1994, among others); see Lipski 2008 for an overview of Spanish in the US). With regards to methodology, the field owes a great deal to the participant observer techniques pioneered by Jonathan Holmquist, both in Spain (1988) and Puerto Rico (2003, 2005, 2008). Additional work in corpus linguistics (see the work of Rena Torres-Cacoullos and colleagues, i.e. Torres Cacoullos 2006, Torres Cacoullos and Schwenter 2008, among others) has played an important role in applying sociolinguistic methods to historical corpora and synchronic dialect data. This brief list is by no means exhaustive, and numerous other studies and scholars in all areas of (socio)linguistics could be cited. In short, Spanish sociolinguistics has become fundamental to the variationist enterprise at the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Lotfi Sayahi, founder of the WSS conferences, wrote in 2003 that scholars working in Spanish sociolinguistics did not have a venue specific to their discipline, in which to exchange ideas and foment relationships and collaborations. This observation led to the first WSS, held at the University at Albany, State University of New York. Over the following eight years, successive WSS meetings have taken place at several locations throughout the country – WSS2 (Albany), WSS3 (Temple University), WSS4 (Albany) and its most recent meeting, WSS5 at North Carolina State University. Given the

increased interest in (Spanish) sociolinguistics outlined above, the WSS meetings are more needed and relevant than ever, bringing together scholars from around the world and from across disciplines.

The present volume contains the selected proceedings of WSS5. A total of 37 papers and posters were presented at the conference; twelve papers were selected from those submitted for publication and are included here.

In the first paper, “Southern-Bred Hispanic English: An Emerging Socioethnic Variety”, Walt Wolfram, Mary E. Kohn and Erin Callahan-Price examine the contact between English and Spanish in the US South, an area that is experiencing rapid growth in the Hispanic population, but does not have a long history of contact between the two communities and languages. Their focus is on the creation of a new ethnic variety of English, influenced not only (or even primarily) by the Spanish substrate, but also by competing norms in English – regional (i.e. southern) vs. national.

Ana M. Carvalho and Michael Child continue the theme of language contact with their paper, “Subject Pronoun Expression in a Variety of Spanish in Contact with Portuguese”. With data collected from speakers of border Spanish in Uruguay, the authors examine the possible role of contact with Brazilian Portuguese (with a relatively high rate of overt pronouns) in determining the use of an overt or null subject pronoun. Results are compared with other studies on pronoun expression and indicate that, at least with regards to this feature, border Spanish orients toward standard pronoun usage.

Moving across the Atlantic to Spain, Mark Amengual addresses questions of linguistic expressions of identity in his paper “Verbal Morphology and Identity in Majorca: The Manifestation of Attitudes in Writing”. The study focuses on the presence or absence of the 1<sup>st</sup> person singular verbal morpheme –o, conserved in standard Catalan but absent in Majorcan Catalan, in the writing of Majorcan Catalan speakers. Important is the observation that speakers of minority varieties (Majorcan) of minority languages (Catalan) find ways to express their regional identities, not only vis-à-vis the national language, Castilian, but also with respect to standard varieties of their own language.

Michael Newman examines attitudes toward Catalan among two different groups in “Different Ways to Hate a Language in Catalonia: Interpreting Low Solidarity Scores in Language Attitude Studies”. Here, the author examines the attitudes of two groups of Castilian-speakers in Catalonia, native Spaniards and Latin American immigrants, toward the Catalan language. Results indicate that speakers from different backgrounds respond in similar ways, but for different reasons, and underline the importance of the subtle interpretation of notions of solidarity and group dynamics.

In the final paper on language contact, “Mainland vs. Island: A Comparative Morphological Study on Spanish-Turkish Contact”, Rey Romero analyzes the influence of Turkish on two varieties of Judeo-Spanish in Turkey. Demonstrated here is the way in which a (dominant) contact language can influence the morphology of a moribund variety. Results indicate that these varieties of Judeo-Spanish preserve distinctions that are also made in Turkish more than those that are absent from the contact language.

In the first of two papers on phonetic/phonological variation, “The Intervocalic Voicing of /s/ in Ecuadorian Spanish”, Whitney Chappell investigates the linguistic factors underlying /s/ voicing in radio broadcasts from Quito. Her results indicate that previous analyses do not adequately capture the factors that constrain this process in Ecuadorian Spanish, and that voicing differs based on position in the word, among other factors.

Manuel Díaz-Campos, Stephen Fafulas and Michael Gradoville explore the effect of multiple sociolinguistic variables in “Going Retro: An Analysis of the Interplay between Socioeconomic Class and Age in Caracas Spanish”. The authors examine three phonological variables and their relation to socioeconomic class, emphasizing the role of access to education as an important factor in determining the use of standard variants. As education opportunities increase, some changes underway in the vernacular may undergo reversal, based on exposure to standard varieties of language.

Bonnie C. Holmes and Colleen Balukas begin the section on morpho-syntactic variation and corpus linguistics with their paper “Yesterday, All My Troubles Have Seemed (PP) So Far Away:

Variation in Pre-hodiernal Perfective Expression in Peninsular Spanish”. This study focuses on the extension of the present perfect into contexts that would generally require a perfective form, a process already complete in oral French, and underway in Peninsular Spanish.

The first of two related papers that address variation based on the adverb *quizá(s)* from different points of view is “Time Reference and Lexical Effects in Mood Choice Following Spanish Epistemic Adverb *quizá(s)*: A Dialectal Comparison” by Elizabeth Finanger. Using data from Argentine and Peninsular Spanish, the author finds that mood choice depends on a variety of factors, including geolect, time reference and verb frequency, among others.

Christina García continues the same theme, with her paper “Distinguishing Two “Synonyms”: A Variationist Analysis of *quizá* and *quizás* in Six Spanish Dialects”. This study demonstrates that *quizá* and *quizás* are not truly interchangeable, and adverb choice is dependent on phonological context, among other factors.

In “Factors Determining Spanish Differential Object Marking within Its Domain of Variation”, Sonia Balasch, among other results, addresses methodological issues in examining corpus data with respect to the distribution of “personal a” in two varieties of Spanish, specifically how to define the envelope of variation. For example, the author finds that animate and inanimate accusative “a” are governed by different constraints in their distribution and rate of use, and so should be analyzed separately.

Finally, Sandro Sessarego examines the origin of features in an Afro-Bolivian dialect in “On the Status of Afro-Bolivian Spanish Features: Decreolization or Vernacular Universals?”. The author provides an overview of the socio-historical context and the distinctive features of Afro-Bolivian Spanish (ABS), in order to determine the origins of this newly discovered variety. The author determines that conditions in this region of Bolivia did not favor the development of a creole, but rather ABS shows traits of a second language variety of Spanish.

WSS5 and this volume would not have been possible without the hard work and dedication of many people. First, a heartfelt thank you to Lotfi Sayhi for his help and inspiration with WSS5. I would like to thank Cascadilla for publishing not only this, but also the many other proceedings, that they make freely available online. To the anonymous manuscript reviewers that were essential in the preparation of this volume, I offer my gratitude. I would also like to thank several departments and programs at NC State, whose funding and support made the conference a success: The College of Humanities and Social Sciences Office of Research and Engagement, The Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, The Department of English, and The North Carolina Language and Life Project.

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