

LANGUAGE CONTACT AND CHANGE:
ENGLISH'S IMPACT ON SUBJECT
PERSONAL PRONOUNS IN SPANISH

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First Things First

- ◎ Thank you!
 - Dr. Maylath
 - Dr. Stickney
 - Dr. Birmingham

What is the SPP?

	Singular	Plural
1st	I	We
2nd	You	You all/Y'all
3rd	He/She It	They

What is the SPP?

	Singular		Plural	
1st	I	Yo	We	Nosotros Nosotras
2nd	You	Tú	You all/Y'all	Vosotros Vosotras
3rd	He/She It (not used)	Él/Ella (not used) Usted	They	Ellos Ellas Ustedes

Why?

- ◉ Things I ♥
 - Grammar/linguistics
 - Spanish
- ◉ SPP Illustrates overall language change
 - Specifically Spanish/English because...
 - English—non-pro-drop
 - I went to the store vs. Went to the store
 - Spanish—pro-drop
 - Yo fui a la tienda vs. Fui a la tienda
 - Vocabulary
 - Jeans—los jeans
 - Tennis—el tenis
 - Leader—el líder
 - Grammar

Research Question

- ⊙ So, is English affecting the use of the SPP in Spanish?
- ⊙ Hypothesis
 - English has an effect on Spanish SPP
 - Language Contact
 - English language power

What do Linguists Say?

- ⦿ NO, English has not had an effect.
- ⦿ YES, of course there is English impact!

Anti-English

◉ Flores-Ferrán, 2004

- Puerto Ricans in NYC
- 41 subjects
- Native NYC residents used SPPs more than new arrivals
 - Native residents are assumed to have more English influence, whereas new arrivals know more Spanish than English
 - This would support a contact hypothesis, but...
- Inconsistencies/contradictions in use
- Similar use in San Juan
 - No correlation between overt (expressed) SPPs and exposure to English

Pro-English

- Otheguy, et al., 2007
 - Spanish-speakers in NYC
 - 142 subjects
 - Native NYC residents also used SPPs more than new arrivals
 - The more years in NYC, the more expressed SPPs
 - Older the person at age of arrival, less SPPs
 - Resistant to change
 - Generational change
 - Support for a contact hypothesis

My Research

- ◉ *Extra* Newspaper

- Bilingual newspaper
- Chicago, Il—15% of Illinois residents Hispanic

- ◉ Analysis of 10 news articles

- SPP in English/Spanish
- When in Spanish, why?
 - 3 categories
 - Sometimes necessary for clarification
 - Ambiguous (unclear what the subject is)
 - Different Subject (ex. switch from he to she)
 - No apparent reason

Results

- On average, only about 27% of the time a SPP was used in English appeared in Spanish
 - Doesn't seem very promising
- However, when used:
 - Ambiguity: 42%
 - No reason: 38%
 - Different subject: 19%

Conclusions

⦿ Limitations

- Small sample
- Speech vs. written
- Translator vs. Writer
- Synchronic vs. diachronic

⦿ What does it all mean?

- More research is needed!

Works Cited

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- ◉ Otheguy, Ricardo, Ana Celia Zentella, and David Lithert. “Language and Dialect Contact in Spanish in New York: Toward the Formation of a Speech Community”. *Language* 83.4 (2007): 770-802. 20 November 2012.
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