

Latin American Spanish

- ◆ Universally *seseísta*
- ◆ Largely *yeísta*
- ◆ *ustedes* instead of *vosotros*
- ◆ For the most part, not *leísta* (except Paraguay and Ecuador)
- ◆ Many areas s-aspiration, r/l, consonant drop, d-weakening, etc.

Andalucista Position

- ◆ Latin American Spanish is an extension of Andalucian Spanish
- ◆ Initially it was assumed that most colonists came from Andalusia
- ◆ Accounts for the seemingly obvious W. Andalucian character of Latin American Spanish

Anti-Andalucista

- ◆ In the 1930s, research, based on a sample of 10,000 early colonists, showed that only 30% were from Andalucia
- ◆ Concluded that the similarities between Latin American and Andalucian Spanish were accidental - parallel developments

Andalucista again

- ◆ Later work found several factors that resurrected the Andalucista position

Andalucista factors

- ◆ While Andalucians were not the majority, they were the single largest group - even 30% is significant given that it was the largest group.
- ◆ The very first settlers to the Caribbean were overwhelmingly from Andalucia - leading to 'founder principle' effect
- ◆ The majority of women colonists were from Andalucia

Additional factors

- ◆ Colonists typically spent up to a year in Sevilla waiting for permission to immigrate
- ◆ The voyage to America took a month or more on ships with Andalucian crews

Andalucista - but ...

- ◆ Why the Highland / Lowland contrast?
 - Highland regions (central Mexico, highland Colombia, Andean region, Boliva) lack several W. Andalucian features (e.g. s-loss, final consonant loss, d-weakening).
 - Lowland (coastal Mexico, Caribbean, Argentina, Chile) have many of these features
- ◆ Why isn't all Latin America like modern Andalucian?
- ◆ Silly idea: Andalucians to lowlands, Castilians to highlands

Andalucista - but ...

- ◆ Why do the highland dialects show some, but not all of the Andalucian features?
- ◆ Why don't lowland dialects have any *ceceo*?
- ◆ Why isn't *yeísmo* universal like *seseo* is?
- ◆ What unique Latin American features exist and where do they come from? (e.g *voseo*)

Founder Effect

- ◆ Andulucian features predominated early on - large number of settlers
- ◆ Large majority in the Caribbean
- ◆ A simpler system
- ◆ The factors for dialect leveling / simplification were in place
- ◆ This established a basic norm that included place neutralization (but not yet a voicing neutralization), *yeísmo*, lack of *vosotros*

Alternative View

- ◆ John Lipsky disputes the 'founder effect'
- ◆ Populations relatively small - each new boatload could significantly effect dialect mixture
- ◆ Place neutralization and *yeísmo* were independent developments in Latin America
- ◆ No / θ / because the place spread never reached Latin America with any force
- ◆ W. Andalusian nature of Latin American Spanish an accident

Seseo

- ◆ The place merger in Andalucía was in progress (or, perhaps, complete in some areas) during the initial period of colonization - this was brought to Latin America
- ◆ The voice merger spread south during the colonial period - because it eventually took hold in all of Spain, it also reached the colonies and took hold there
- ◆ The *distinción* dialect, associated with North and Central Spain, never reached Latin America in force

Ceceo

- ◆ Either began as a rural variety or a later development in Southern coastal areas (Cádiz, Málaga).
- ◆ Never entirely socially acceptable, hence not associated with the Sevilla prestige norm during the colonial period
- ◆ Never took hold in Latin America
- ◆ Later spread throughout W. Andalucía, but too late to reach the colonies - if it did, it would be leveled out

Shipping pattern

- ◆ Sevilla, Huelva, or Cadiz
- ◆ Canaries
- ◆ Jamaica
- ◆ Cartegena (Venezuela)
- ◆ Portobelo (Panama)

Shipping Patterns

- ◆ Pacific coast: mule train across Panama to Panama City; from there to Lima or Acapulco (also Philippines).
- ◆ On return, Veracruz and Havana
- ◆ Ports were fairly strictly controlled
- ◆ Colonies outside these patterns were more marginal (e.g. Argentina)

Highland/Lowland

- ◆ Two prestige norms in Spain: Madrid and Sevilla - in Latin America, these norms were in competition.
- ◆ Andalusian standard established basic features of Latin American Spanish.
- ◆ Mexico City and Lima, as viceroyalties, were influenced by Madrid norm because of priests and government officials
- ◆ Less accessible areas and coastal trade-route areas adhered to Sevilla norm

Canary influence

- ◆ After the decline of the agricultural economy in the Canaries in the 18th century, there was wide-spread immigration to the Caribbean
- ◆ Canarian Spanish had (has) a strong W. Andalucian character, hence, Caribbean Spanish does too

Yeísmo

- ◆ The competing prestige norm account is problematic for *yeísmo*
- ◆ Would account for lack of *yeísmo* in Highland Peru and Bolivia, but would incorrectly predict lack of *yeísmo* in Mexico
- ◆ Some suggest lack of *yeísmo* in areas where Native American languages have palatal laterals
- ◆ Many different manifestations of these palatals

s-weakening

- ◆ The competing prestige norms account fares well with s-weakening
- ◆ s-weakening is found in areas not in close contact with Mexico City and Lima
- ◆ Currently, Lima is adopting s-weakening, but this is a recent phenomenon

s-weakening Hierarchy

- $s > h$ [éhtoh]
- $s > h$, internally; $s > \emptyset$, ends of words [éhto]
- $s > \emptyset$ [éto]
- $s > \emptyset$; $s > h$, word-finally with resyllabification [éta hobra]
- $s > h$, even in some word-initial positions [éta heñora]

l > r; r > l

- ◆ Many (but not all) lowland dialects neutralize /l/ and /r/ in syllable-final position
- ◆ However, in Andalusia, l > r [árto] *alto*
- ◆ In Latin American, tends to be r > l [beldá] *verdad*
- ◆ One finds both in the Canaries

n > η

◆ n > η in word final position - common in Andalusia, Canaries, and Caribbean

• [byeη] *bien*

Voseo

◆ 14th Century Spain:

- formal

familiar

- *vos* (*vos sodes* > *vos sois/sos*) *tú* (*tú eres*)

◆ *vos* was historically 2nd person plural, using 2nd pl. verb form

◆ By 15th century, *vos* became less formal, so both *vos* and *tú* were familiar forms

Usted

- ◆ New formal forms were created: *vuestra merced, vuestra señoría, vuestra excelencia*
- ◆ 3rd person singular
- ◆ Late 15th century:

• formal	familiar
• <i>vuestra merced, etc.</i>	tú ~ vos
• (<i>vuestra merced es</i>)	(tú eres ~ vos sois / sos)

Adjustments

- ◆ *vuestra merced* became dominant as new formal form, contracted to *usted*
- ◆ Different solutions for familiar form in different regions:
 - Spain abandoned *vos*, so did areas in Latin America near Mexico City and Lima
 - More remote areas of Latin America (Central America, Argentina, Chile) retained *vos*, sometimes in competition with *tú*