

## The Development of Spanish Sibilants

### 1. Old Spanish

(1)		<i>phoneme</i>	<i>orthography</i>	<i>examples</i>
dentals (affricates > fricatives)	voiceless	/t͡s/ > /s̺/	c, ç	<i>decir</i> /dets̺ir/ > /deʃir/ 'descend' <i>caça</i> /kat͡sa/ > /kaʃa/ 'hunt'
	voiced	/d͡z/ > /z̺/	z	<i>dezir</i> /ded͡zir/ > /dez̺ir/ 'say' <i>pozo</i> /pod͡zo/ > /poz̺o/ 'well'
apico-alveolars (fricatives)	voiceless	/S/	ss	<i>passo</i> /paSo/ 'step' <i>espesso</i> /eZpeSo/ 'thick'
	voiced	/Z/	s	<i>casa</i> /kaZa/ 'house' <i>espeso</i> /eZpeZo/ 'spent'
palato-alveolars (fricatives)	voiceless	/ʃ/	x	<i>dixo</i> /diʃo/ 's/he said' <i>caxa</i> /kaʃa/ 'box'
	voiced	/ʒ/	j, g	<i>fijo</i> /fiʒo/ 'son' <i>mugier</i> /muʒyer/ 'woman'

(2)		<i>dental</i>	<i>alveolar</i>	<i>palato-alveolar</i>
<i>fricatives vl.</i>		s̺	S	ʃ
<i>vd.</i>		z̺	Z	ʒ

### 2. Voice Leveling

(3) <b>Voice leveling:</b>	/z̺/ > /s̺/	/s̺/	/z̺/	/S/	/Z/	/ʃ/	/ʒ/
<b>(merger)</b>	/Z/ > /S/	\	/	\	/	\	/
	/ʒ/ > /ʃ/	/s̺/		/S/		/ʃ/	

(4)	voiceless dental fricative	/s̺/	c, ç, z	<i>decir</i> /deʃir/, <i>caça</i> /kaʃa/, <i>dezir</i> /deʃir/, <i>pozo</i> /poʃo/
	voiceless apico-alveolars fricative	/S/	ss, s	<i>passo</i> /paSo/, <i>espesso</i> /eSpeSo/, <i>casa</i> /kaSa/, <i>espeso</i> /eSpeSo/
	voiceless palato-alveolars fricative	/ʃ/	x, j, g	<i>dixo</i> /diʃo/, <i>caxa</i> /kaʃa/, <i>fijo</i> /fiʃo/, <i>mugier</i> /muʃyer/

(5)                      *dental*        *alveolar*        *palato-alveolar*  
*fricatives* vl.        ʃ                      S                      ʃ

**3. Andalucia and the Americas - Merger**

(6) **Place merger (prestige dialect):**    /s̺/    /S/        /z̺/    /Z/        /ʃ/    /ʒ/  
    \    /                                    \    /                                    |        |  
    /s/                                    /z/                                    /ʃ/        /ʒ/

(7)                      *alveolar*        *palato-alveolar*  
*fricatives* vl.        s                      ʃ  
    vd.        z                      ʒ

(8) **Voice leveling:**                      /s/    /z/        /ʃ/    /ʒ/  
    \    /                                    \    /                                    |        |  
    /s/                                    /ʃ/                                    /ʃ/        /ʒ/

(9)                      *alveolar*        *palato-alveolar*  
*fricatives* vl.        s                      ʃ

**4. Spreading the Points of Articulation**

(10) **Castilian point of articulation shift:**    /s̺/ > /θ/        /s̺/    /S/    /ʃ/  
    /ʃ/ > /x/        /        |        \        \        \  
    /θ/        /S/        /x/

(11)                      *inter-dental*        *alveolar*        *velar*  
*fricatives* vl.        θ                      S                      x

(12) **Andalucian point of articulation shift:**    /ʃ/ > /h/        /s/    /ʃ/  
    |        \        \        \        \  
    /s/        /h/

(13)                      *alveolar*                                      *glottal*  
*fricatives* vl.        s    h

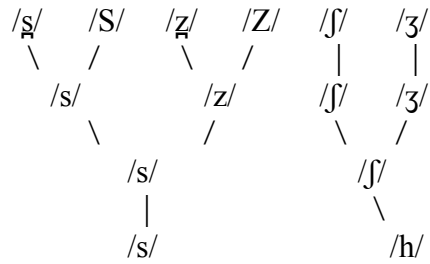
**5. Summary**

(14) **Andalucian and Latin American:**  
**(seseísta)**

Merger (16th cent.)

Voice leveling (late 16th cent.)

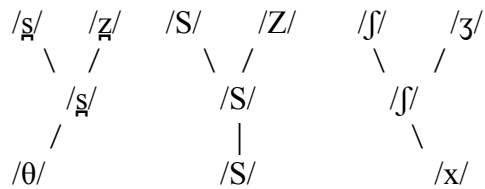
Point of Articulation Shift  
 (late 17th cent.)



(15) **Castilian:**

Voice leveling (early 16th cent.)

Point of Articulation Shift  
 (late 16th cent. To 17<sup>th</sup> cent)



(16)	<b>orthography</b>	<b>Castilian</b>	<b>Seseísta</b>
	<i>c, z</i>	/θ/	/s/
e.g.	<i>decir</i> ‘say’	/deθir/	/desir/
	<i>caza</i> ‘hunt’	/kaθa/	/kasa/
	<i>s</i>	/S/	/s/
e.g.	<i>casa</i> ‘house’	/kaSa/	/kasa/
	<i>g, j</i>	/x/	/h/
e.g.	<i>gente</i> ‘people’	/xente/	/hente/
	<i>caja</i> ‘box’	/kaxa/	/kaha/