### Spanish in the 21st Century

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An on-line version of the Powerpoint presentation will be found via my website,

http://www.qmul.ac.uk/~mlw058/, until the end of February: follow the Quicklink to 'Spanish in the 21st Century'.

### 1 Spanish in the UK

Maintenance of A-Level entry against a background of overall decline in languages in schools

A Level entries	2002	2003	2004
French	15,614	15,531	15,149
German	7,013	6,950	6,390
Spanish	5,572	5,781	5,966

Specifically encouraged by Government in recent statements

#### Possible reasons:

- Spanish culture (music, dance, cinema, literature) is fashionable in the UK
- Spanish 'generates a sense of excitement'
- Availability of cheap flights to Spain: 12m Britons travelled to Spain in 2001
- Popularity of Barcelona and Real Madrid
- Mediterranean diet is fashionable; *tapas* bars have appeared in the UK
- Spanish has the reputation of being easy to learn, and is hence an attractive *ab initio* language at University.
- Spanish is a 'major world language'.

### 2 Spanish in the world

Language Name	Rank 2000	Population 2000	Rank 2050 (projected)	Population 2050 (projected)
Mandarin Chinese	1	885,000,000	1	1,160,000,000
Spanish	2	332,000,000	3	475,000,000
English	3	322,000,000	2	480,000,000
Bengali	4	189,000,000	?	no figures
Hindi	5	182,000,000	4	520,000,000
Portuguese	6	170,000,000	5	220,000,000

Source: B.F. Grimes ed. 1996 (updated 1999). *Ethnologue: Languages of the World* (Dallas: Summer Institute of Linguistics) and D. Graddol (1997), *The Future of English?* (London: British Council).

# 3 Spanish in the US

## 3.1 US Hispanics: the possibilities

- Melding: integration into American life and loss of Spanish
- Acculturation: integration into American life and use of English, but with retention of Spanish and Hispanic culture
- Separatism: Latino dominance in certain states with full recognition of Spanish as a (co)official language

### 3.2 The phenomenon of 'Spanglish'

The difficulty of distinguishing

## 3.2.1 Code-switching

...yo voy comer allí poquito, y yo voy comer allá poquito so I can... so they can be happy. When we come here from California, we... I... eat beans over here and chiles — same thing like back home pero porque tienen papitas con chiles, papas — potatoes with chile and all that — they think we don't like it because it's [fixed] that way. But I eat the same thing over here because we like them that way. I don't like... no quiero venir a comer dicen, porque... porque son papas con chiles, y no! No! I eat that at home pero se les hace porque you just don't feel like [eating] the food. They get mad, you know... you have to eat no matter where, everywhere you go — just a little bit so they'll be satisfied.

Source: Leonora Timm, 'Spanish-English code-switching: el porque and how not to', Romance Philology, 28, 1975, p.482.

#### 3.2.2 Borrowing

Some integrated borrowings:

```
chainear [tʃaine¹ar] 'to shine'
la suera 'sweater'
mapear 'to mop'
el jira 'heater'
```

Some spontaneous borrowings:

bussing (los están bussing pa otra escuela) 'they're bussing them to another school' re-enlist (va a re-enlist) 'he's going to re-enlist'

#### 3.2.3 Calquing

Tener un buen tiempo 'to have a good time' (standard divertirse, pasarlo bien) llamar p'atrás 'to call back' (standard volver a llamar)

# 4 Spanish in Brazil

- Spanish being 'taken seriously' in Brazil since the 1980s
- Move to make Spanish obligatory in Brazilian schools
- Interest in Spanish because of

```
Mercosur (Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay + Bolivia, Chile)
US
EU
```

The phenomenon of 'portunhol/portuñol'

A possible scenario?

Steven Fischer, Veja (April 5, 2000)

...Em 300 anos, o Brasil estará falando um idioma muito diferente do atual. Devido à enorme influência do espanhol, é bastante provável que surja uma espécie de portunhol ... faz parte da dinâmica das línguas ... O português não será substituído por outro idioma. Os brasileiros não irão falar espanhol. O que irá acontecer é a mistura das duas línguas ... Há muito menos pessoas aprendendo português do que espanhol. Essa mescla entre o português e o espanhol não é necessariamente ruim.

(Source: John Lipski, 'Too close for comfort? The genesis of "portuñol/portunhol", at http://www.personal.psu.edu/faculty/j/m/jml34/portunol.pdf)

### 5 The unity of the Spanish-speaking world

### 5.1 What do we mean by unity?

• The broad acceptance of a written norm, achieved via the Asociación de Academias de la Lengua Española, and consisting of:

a common spelling system

a common grammar

an inclusive dictionary

Mutual comprehensibility among speakers, aided by:

Education

Social mobility

The media

• Factors favouring unity:

Globalisation

Movement of population to urban centres producing linguistic levelling

Spanish spoken relatively little as a second language outside the Spanish 'speech community' (in marked contrast with English)

## 5.2 How might Spanish fragment?

## 5.2.1 Case study 1. Sound change: the impact of the fall of syllable-final /s/

#### Standard

```
lo bueno [lo 'βweno] / los buenos [los 'bwenos] come ['kome] / comes ['komes]
```

Developments in varieties of Spanish observable today

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lo bueno [lu 'βwenu] / los buenos [lɔ 'βwɛnɔ] come ['kome] / comes ['kɔmɛ] (W. Andalusia, Latin America) lo bueno [lo 'βweno] / los buenos [lo 'bweno] (Canaries)
```

## Consequences:

Lack of one-to-one correspondence between letters and phonemes: buenos = bueno, comes = come Increased marking of plurality (e.g. by more frequent use of article:  $el\ bueno\ /\ lo(s)\ bueno(s)$ )? Increased marking of person (e.g. by more frequent use of subject pronouns:  $el\ come\ /\ tu\ come(s)$ )?

# 5.2.2 Case study 2. Morphological change: second persons

Peninsular standard:

tú hablas vosotros/as habláis usted habla ustedes hablan

Mexican standard:

tú hablas ustedes hablan

usted habla

Argentine:

vos hablás ustedes hablan

usted habla

## 6 Will English change Spanish?

## 6.1 Lexical borrowing

Straight borrowing: estándar 'standard', software

Folk etymology: *emilio* 'e-mail' Calquing: *desodorante* 'deodorant'

Widening of meaning: *sobrio* 'moderate'  $\rightarrow$  'sober' (but notice *ser / estar sobrio*)

Reversal of borrowing:  $referee \rightarrow \acute{a}rbitro$ 

Integration of borrowing: gol: golear 'to score a lot of goals against', goleada 'heavy defeat', goleador 'high goal-scorer'

# 6.2 Syntactic borrowing

A case study: the *ser* passive.

All four sentences below represent an extension of the ser + past participle passive construction in Spanish. However, (1)–(3) are consistent with existing possibilities in the language. (4), though as yet uncommon, is an economical and convenient innovation in journalistic register.

- (1) Elías resucita al muchacho después de haber sido rogado por su madre
- Cf. preguntar (preguntar a uno si...)
- (2) La resistencia de los ciudadanos fue respondida con ráfagas de metralladora
- Cf. contestar (contestó (a) la puerta, (a) la pregunta)
- (3) El paciente fue transplantado de corazón
- Cf. operar (el paciente fue operado (de corazón))
- (4) La víctima fue forzada sexualmente y prendida fuego
- How else can this be expressed as a coordinate sentence?

But we may predict that the Spanish passive will not extend to making prepositional objects the subject of a passive sentence, since this has no existing parallel of any kind in Spanish:

(5) \*La cama fue dormida en

### 7 Conclusion: the prospects for Spanish in the 21st century

- The number of native Spanish speakers will continue to grow
- Publishing in Spanish and the use of Spanish on the Internet will increase
- Spanish will become the second language of the US, though the exact nature of US Spanish is difficult to predict at this stage
- The demand for Spanish as a foreign language will continue to grow
- Spanish will change, but the unity of Spanish at the cultured written level will be maintained and the sense of a Spanish speech community will be preserved
- Spanish will continue to borrow from English, but the borrowing will be a process of enrichment rather than impoverishment

Some further reading

Lipski, John M., 2005. 'Too close for comfort? the genesis of "portuñol/portunhol", at

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