

SOME DIALECTAL TENDENCIES
IN THE POPULAR SPEECH OF ARGENTINA

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I hereby recommend that the thesis prepared
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PREFACE

As the title indicates, the purpose of this work is to discuss some of the dialectal tendencies in the popular speech of Argentina as seen in the works examined. An attempt has been made to show that most of the dialect forms have their counterpart in the popular speech in Spain, and especially in Andalusia.

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CHAPTER I

THE PERMANENT CHARACTER
OF THE SPANISH LANGUAGE IN ARGENTINA

The United States has been called the melting pot of the various races of Europe and Asia. The same thing might be said of Argentina. It includes a great part of the eastern coast of South America, and vessels from all parts of the world enter its harbors. Buenos Aires, the capital and principal seaport, is a very cosmopolitan city, there being hundreds of thousands of foreign born among the inhabitants. However, the people of Buenos Aires and of the whole Argentine Republic have a strong national feeling. They do not give allegiance to their mother countries but take pride in the fact that they are "argentinos". The larger number of inhabitants is Spanish and the language is Spanish, but the educated, as well as the uneducated, pay little attention to the rules of the Royal Academy in Madrid. Many of the literary figures of the Republic have said that they see no reason why they should be limited or restrained by any group or organization in Spain. They want to be individual and original. Their boast is that they speak and write the Argentine: "Somos argentinos y hablamos argentino".

But in spite of this attitude of the people of Argentina, there are few words of Indian or other foreign origin in their speech, and most of the dialectal forms are

the result of the operation of linguistic principles which have been evident in the Spanish language always. If one considers the history of the Romance languages, this stability and permanence of the Spanish language in the New World is not surprising. It is a reflection of the habit which the Roman people had of retaining their own language. Wherever the Roman soldiers went, they took with them the Vulgar Latin, which, modified by local Arabic, Germanic, French, Italian, and American influences, became the modern Romance language.

In considering such local influences in Spain, it is seen that the Iberian dialects, which, with the exception of the Basque, were all lost as a result of the Roman domination, had very little effect on the Spanish. Menéndez Pidal says that, although there are a few words which doubtless are indigenous, the Iberian influence is very slight.¹ Likewise it may be said that the Visigothic domination failed to affect the Spanish speech very greatly. Most of the Germanic words in Spanish were introduced into it before the Visigoths came to Spain. The Roman soldiers had much contact with German soldiers, and from them they borrowed numbers of words. Many of these Germanic words, such as ardido, falda, became a part of the vulgar Latin and are seen in all of the Romance languages. Similarly, although the Moors dominated Spain for eight centuries, they did not succeed in substituting their language for that of the Roman people. The Spanish language does contain Moorish words, especially trade and governmental

1. Menéndez Pidal, Gramática histórica española, p. 15.

terms, but these words are so few in number and were introduced so naturally that the Spaniard was hardly conscious of their Arabic origin.²

Just as the strength of the vulgar Latin and its power to take the place of the native dialects was seen in the countries which came under the domination of the Roman Empire so the strength of the Spanish language is seen in the countries discovered and conquered by Spain. The Spanish spoken today in Argentina and Spanish America has been affected very slightly by the native speech, and dialectal forms are, in the main, manifestation of certain linguistic tendencies existing in the speech of the Spaniards who came to the Americas during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. Not only are the same tendencies found, but many of the words still used by the uneducated Mexicans and the "gauchos" of the Argentine pampas are conservations of forms used by the conquistadores, many of whom were Andalusian. Such words as caiba,³ truje, ansí, naides and vide, which are found in Mexico, New Mexico, Argentina, and Chile, are old Spanish forms derived from vulgar Latin. These archaisms or Latinisms show the close association between the American dialects and the popular speech of sixteenth century Spain.

The Spanish province which has had the greatest effect on the dialect of Argentina is Andalusia. The Moors were not driven out of Southern Spain until 1492, and, since the men of Andalusia

2. Ibid., pp. 18-21.

3. The shift of the accent will be explained later.

had been soldiers for generation after generation, it was natural that many of them should seek adventure in the newly discovered Americas now that there was no fighting to do at home. Consequently, the majority of the Spanish explorers and conquerors of the New World were probably from Andalusia or nearby provinces of Southern Spain, and they brought with them the soft, musical Andalusian speech. Evidences of the similarities between the Andalusian and the Mexican, Argentine, and Chilean dialects are very obvious. In his discussion of pronunciation, Navarro-Tomás often classifies peculiarities in pronunciation as Andalusian and Spanish American. It is universally recognized that in Spanish America and Andalusia, the g sound is never replaced by the g,⁴ and that the g of Andalusia and Spanish America is a predorsal sound.⁵ Many other similarities, such as the loss of intervocalic and final d and r and the interchange of r and l, are equally prevalent.

The strongest foreign influence in Argentina is the Italian. Since the Italians have gone to that republic in great numbers, 1,011, 739 having gone there between 1910 and 1931,⁶ many Italian words and phrases are used in Argentina, and the influence of the Italian is seen in other dialect forms. This Italian influence, as reflected by the literature of Argentina, is stronger in the speech of the "gaucho" and the people of the rural sections, since it is here that the Italian immigrant is

4. Navarro-Tomás, Manual de la Pronunciación, p. 94.

5. Ibid., p. 106.

6. Revista de Economía Argentina, Sept., 1932.

usually found. In many of Hugo Wast's novels and Sanchez's plays of the rural life of Argentina, outstanding Italian characters, like don Nicola in La gringa, represent a progressive element as far as economic and agricultural development are concerned. The progressiveness and the aggressiveness of the Italians in these fields help to account for their influence on the speech of Argentina.

There is very little evidence of any other outside influence. A very few English words, such as reporter⁷ and mister,⁸ and some words of Indian origin, such as tacuara⁹ and chuchazo¹⁰ are found. These last two words are fairly typical Americanisms, since words of American origin incorporated in the Spanish are often plant and animal names. Espinosa, in a study which he made of the Spanish of New Mexico, says that the number of Indian words found in the Spanish of Mexico and New Mexico is very small. In a vocabulary of about fourteen hundred dialect forms, he found only about seventy five words of Indian source. In this study, based on Hernández's Martín Fierro and the plays of Florencio Sánchez, very few Indian words are found.

Hence it is fairly evident that the Spanish American speech has not been greatly affected by the native Indian or other outside influences, and that the dialectal forms in Argentina and other Spanish American countries which are the result of Indian or foreign influences are relatively few.

7. Sánchez, El desalojo, p. 165.

8. Sánchez, En familia, p. 113.

9. Hernández, Martín Fierro, p. 92.

10. Ibid., p. 21.

However, although a great deal of romantic and historical interest attaches itself to a consideration of the direct influence of the conquistadores, and though a study of Argentine popular speech would not be complete without a discussion also of localisms, the greater part of this study will deal with the more specific and fundamental principles of vowel and consonant changes and with the use of suffixes and prefixes in the formation of new words, as manifestations of general linguistic tendencies of Spain and especially of Andalusia. These principles include metathesis, assimilation and dissimilation, analogy, diphthongization, reduction of vowel and consonant groups, and vacillation of vowels and consonants. They operated in the breaking up of vulgar Latin into Spanish and are apparently almost universal principles, because many of them are found in the development of other languages. There are two important families of languages in Europe and America, the Romance and the Germanic. The Spanish is representative of the Romance group, and the English of the Germanic. In speaking of the comparison of old and modern English, C. A. Smith says:

"The guiding principles in such a comparison are reducible to two. These are the regular operation of phonetic laws, resulting especially in certain vowel shiftings, and the alterations in form and syntax that are produced by analogy." 11

The palatalization resulting from the influence of the yod in Spanish is comparable to i-umlaut in Old English, and the breaking of vowels into diphthongs is also common to both Spanish and English.

11. Smith, C. A., Anglo-Saxon Grammar and Exercise Book, p. 21.

The fact that these same principles operate in the formation of other languages, as well as in the development of Spanish from Latin and of Spanish American dialects from the Spanish, indicates that they are rather natural psychological and physiological tendencies. Hence, this study of dialectal forms is not only interesting but also should be helpful in the understanding of the general evolution of languages.

CHAPTER II

VOWEL CHANGES

A consideration of vowel changes in Argentine dialects also reveals the close relation between the development of Spanish from the Latin and the development of dialects from Spanish. Vowel changes might be divided into two classes: those affecting the tonic vowel and those affecting the atonic, but in many cases the same linguistic principles apply to both classes. Very few, if any, vowel changes are found in the dialect forms which may not be explained by the direct or indirect influence of some recognized principle seen in the formation of the Spanish language.

One of the most common and consistent changes is diphthongization. It is found in the various verb forms, in nouns, adjectives, and adverbs, as is seen in the list below:

Verb forms:

1. Infinitives:

golpiar,¹² cair,¹³ trair,¹⁴ reunir,¹⁵

2. Past participles:

aporrriado,¹⁶ carniado,¹⁷ reunidos,¹⁸

3. Present participles:

golpiando,¹⁹ culebriando,²⁰ galopisando,²¹

12. Sánchez, La gringa, p. 36.
13. Hernández, op. cit., p. 9.
14. Ibid., p. 191.
15. Ibid., p. 33.
16. Ibid., p. 10.
17. Sánchez, Barranco abajo, p. 51.
18. Hernández, op. cit., p. 9.
19. La gringa, p. 42.
20. Hernández, op. cit., p. 42.
21. Barranco, p. 57.

4. Inflected verb forms:

boliase,²² desiaba,²³ train,²⁴ volie,²⁵ creiba,²⁶

Nouns:

piones,²⁷ riales,²⁸ riunion,²⁹ piona,³⁰ saltiaadores,³¹
fainas,³² maiz,³³

Adjectives:

piores,³⁴

Adverbs:

aurita,³⁵ antiyer,³⁶ diai,³⁷

Many of the words in which diphthongization is found are words which in their original form have an ae or ea combination. A great number of them are infinitives ending in ear. Espinosa says that this tendency of two strong vowels in hiatus to form diphthongs is very strong in many Spanish American dialects.³⁸ This tendency was common in Latin as well as in Spanish. Menéndez Pidal, in his discussion of vowels in hiatus, says: "Pocas veces se conserva el hiato contando las dos vocales por dos

22. Hernández, op. cit., p. 42.

23. Ibid., p. 157.

24. Ibid., p. 227.

25. Ibid., p. 55.

26. Ibid., p. 225.

27. La gringa, p. 11.

28. Ibid., p. 40.

29. Hernández, op. cit., p. 17.

30. Barranco, p. 48.

31. Ibid., p. 45.

32. Hernández, op. cit., p. 9.

33. Ibid., p. 20.

34. La gringa, p. 54.

35. Barranco, p. 28.

36. La gringa, p. 26.

37. Ibid., p. 41.

38. Espinosa, Estudios sobre el español de Nuevo Mexico, p. 340.

sílabas."³⁹ He also says that this tendency, which is evident in the popular speech of today in Asturias, Andalusia, Mexico, and Argentina, is more general in the popular than in the literary language.⁴⁰

While aura and aurita, forms which are common in Andalusia and throughout Spanish America, involve the loss of the h, which is always silent, diphthongization explains the change of o to u. In his treatment of linking of vowels, Navarro-Tomás says that an h coming between two vowels does not affect their pronunciation in any way.⁴¹

Metau,⁴² tuito,⁴³ acabau⁴⁴ show the same tendency to form diphthongs through a loss of intervocalic d.

Such words as maiz and creiba represent diphthongization by a shift of accent. Vulgar Latin tended to form diphthongs with vowels in hiatus in such a manner that if the classic accent fell on the more closed vowel it shifted to the more open vowel. Such preference of the common people for the diphthong is seen in many dialectal forms. In castilla, ai is used for ahí and in many parts of Spain as well as throughout Spanish America maiz, pais, etc. are said.⁴⁵

Via for voy a, which is found rather generally in all of the works upon which this study is based, is a rather unusual manifestation of this tendency to diphthongize, since here the

39. M. Pidal, op. cit., p. 68.

40. Ibid., p. 70.

41. Navarro-Tomás, op. cit., p. 148.

42. Hernández, op. cit., p. 21.

43. Ibid., p. 15.

44. Ibid., p. 21.

45. Menéndez Pidal, op. cit., p. 36.

strong vowel is lost. The reason for the accent on the a is difficult to explain. It may be the same tendency on the part of the Spanish American to accent atonic words which is seen in the practice of accenting object pronouns for purposes of stress, especially when they are attached to the verb.

Altho there is no diphthongization in such words as crecer,⁴⁶ creer,⁴⁷ ler,⁴⁸ ere,⁴⁹ pa,⁵⁰ provedaria,⁵¹ and matahambre,⁵² for crecerse, creerá, leer, eree, para, proceduria and matahambre, they do exhibit the same tendency to pronounce as one syllable two vowels coming together or separated by h. This is especially true when the vowels are the same. There is a slight difference in pa, as it had to lose the intervocalic r before the reduction of aa to a could occur. Very few words retained the double vowel in the development of the Latin into the Spanish, and such verbs as creer and leer are unusual. Menéndez Pidal says:

"El más raro es el de la conservación de las dos sílabas leer, creer."

"Lo corriente es que los dos vocales se reduzcan a una sola sílaba."⁵³

The few words such as leer which have retained the two vowels are words which were not used so often during the period of

46. Hernández, op. cit., p. 84.

47. Ibid., p. 15.

48. Ibid., p. 147.

49. Ibid., p. 171.

50. Ibid., p. 9.

51. Ibid., p. 25.

52. Sánchez, Moneda falsa, p. 144.

53. Menéndez Pidal, op. cit., p. 69.

development of the Spanish language. Since the masses could not read during this period of language development, they naturally did not use leer often in their speech. Such common or popular forms as ver, ser, and pies, which were formerly veer, seer, and piees, lost their hiatus as early as the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries. When the vowels in hiatus were different, they were not reduced to one syllable until much later, and in many cases both vowels are still retained except in dialects.⁵⁴ The dialectal forms simply indicate the naturalness of this tendency of the people to simplify pronunciation.

Synalepha of vowels between words is exactly the same thing except that the diphthongization or reduction of vowels occurs between words rather than within a word. Synalepha is seen in words in which the vowels are the same, as for example in l'arcuiler,⁵⁵ mijita,⁵⁶ l'armonia,⁵⁷ mijo,⁵⁸ and in words in which the vowels are different as in pol,⁵⁹ pal,⁶⁰ paca,⁶¹ la nagua,⁶² and distá.⁶³

A similar change is seen in the reduction of diphthongs

54. Ibid., p. 69.

55. Sánchez, El desalojo, p. 155.

56. Sánchez, Los derechos de la salud, p. 17.

57. Sánchez, Moneda falsa, p. 150.

58. Ibid., p. 143.

59. Ibid., p. 144.

60. Sánchez, En familia, p. 95.

61. Barrenco, p. 57.

62. Ibid., p. 24.

63. Ibid., p. 51.

to a single vowel as in fi,⁶⁴ soa,⁶⁵ quienquiere,⁶⁶ and cencia,⁶⁷ for fuí, sois, quienquiera and ciencia. In vichar⁶⁸ probably the diphthongization of the ea to ei occurred first; then the unaccented i was lost. In the development of Spanish from the Latin the unaccented vowel quite often disappeared in a similar manner.⁶⁹

Some few dialectal forms are found in which entire syllables have been lost either at the beginning or at the end of the word. The most common instances of this are seen in the various forms of estar as to,⁷⁰ tará,⁷¹ and taba,⁷² but the same tendency is seen in pidemia.⁷³ The loss of final e in tion⁷⁴ is an example of a common occurrence in the development of Spanish. Final e is always lost after t, d, n, l, r, s, c.⁷⁵ The loss of an unaccented or internal postonic vowel, which Menéndez Pidal says generally disappears,⁷⁶ is seen in carbunelo⁷⁷ and apotra.⁷⁸

Just the opposite tendency is seen in such words as haiga,⁷⁹ fierrocarriles,⁸⁰ ausiencia,⁸¹

64. Hernández, op. cit., p. 26.

65. Ibid., p. 153.

66. Sánchez, El desalojo, p. 161.

67. Hernández, op. cit., p. 50.

68. Ibid., p. 32.

69. M. Pidal, op. cit., p. 34.

70. Barranco, p. 45.

71. Ibid., p. 31.

72. Ibid., p. 61.

73. Ibid., p. 58.

74. La gringa, p. 61.

75. M. Pidal, op. cit., p. 66.

76. Ibid., p. 65.

77. La gringa, p. 28.

78. Hernández, op. cit., p. 133.

79. La gringa, p. 37.

80. Ibid., p. 54.

81. Hernández, op. cit., p. 151.

compriendo,⁸² ruempa,⁸³ and revuelver.⁸⁴ The breaking of the o and o to ie and ou is the result of analogy with nouns and verb forms in which the root vowels e and o break. Because of analogy with other forms, these changes sometimes occur when the root vowel is not stressed, as in revuelver.

Except for the changes brought about by metathesis, as in naides,⁸⁵ and bialador,⁸⁶ other vowel changes are caused by the substitution of one vowel for another. Some of these substitutions are the result of assimilation or dissimilation and the influence of certain consonants, but most of them simply illustrate the fact that the interchange of e and i and of o and u is as frequent in popular modern speech as it was in old Spanish. Although a is much more stable than the other vowels, sometimes it too changes.⁸⁷ In the words dispués,⁸⁸ rigular,⁸⁹ asiguro,⁹⁰ and confisión,⁹¹ the change e to i is seen, and in mesmo,⁹² recebir,⁹³ codicear,⁹⁴ and polecía,⁹⁵ the change is i to e. The substitution of e for y is another common change. In unbli,⁹⁶ the o becomes u and in oste,⁹⁷ the u becomes o. In sepultura,⁹⁸ the u becomes o.

82. Ibid., p. 157.

83. Ibid., p. 28.

84. Ibid., p. 63.

85. Hernández, op. cit., p. 6.

86. Ibid., p. 10.

87. E. Fidal, op. cit., p. 65.

88. La gringa, p. 45.

89. Ibid., p. 15.

90. Hernández, op. cit., p. 17.

91. Ibid., p. 177.

92. La gringa, p. 37.

93. Hernández, op. cit., p. 199.

94. Ibid., p. 161.

95. Ibid., p. 46.

96. Hernández, op. cit., p. 24.

97. Sánchez, El desalojo, p. 155.

98. Hernández, op. cit., p. 29.

as a result of assimilation of y in the following syllable.

Alonso says: "Todos los ejemplos son expresiones de un fenómeno común: la inconsistencia del vocalismo átono."⁹⁹ In Jusús¹⁰⁰ the e becomes y because of assimilation. The o becomes e in rare cases.¹⁰¹ This change is seen in per¹⁰² and escuro.¹⁰³ The e becomes a in such words as raí,¹⁰⁴ plaito,¹⁰⁵ and malancolía.¹⁰⁶ M. Fidal says: "El carácter más incóloro de la vocal átona se muestra bien en el cambio de la e inicial en a, cosa inaudita respecto de la tónica."¹⁰⁷ The a in malancolía is probably caused by assimilation with the following vowel, and the a in raí is influenced perhaps by the r.¹⁰⁸

Final o and a when unaccented were sometimes confused in rapid or vulgar pronunciation. Since final vowels are relaxed and the relaxed o and a are very similar in sound, this confusion is not unusual. Examples are quincho¹⁰⁹ and naco.¹¹⁰

Thus it is seen that the changes observed in the works checked all follow principles and tendencies which are seen in the breaking of the Latin into Spanish. The examination of such works as Auto de los reyes Mayos and Poema de Lío Cid will reveal many examples of vowel changes brought about by metathesis, diphthongizations, assimilation, analogy, etc.

99. Alonso, Problemas de dialectología hispanoamericana, p. 393.

100. Hernández, op. cit., p. 84.

101. M. Fidal, p. 67.

102. Sánchez, El desalojo, p. 164.

103. Hernández, op. cit., p. 41.

104. Ibid., p. 27.

105. Ibid., p. 27.

106. Ibid., p. 147.

107. M. Fidal, op. cit., p. 58.

108. Ibid., p. 58.

109. Hernández, op. cit., p. 16.

110. Ibid., p. 32.

CHAPTER III

CONSONANTAL CHANGES

The dialectal forms brought about by consonantal peculiarities may be divided into two groups, those in which there is an interchange of consonants and those in which consonants are lost. In many cases the changes in consonants are brought about by carelessness, inaccuracy, or peculiarities in pronunciation; but there are some changes in initial, medial, and final consonants which follow tendencies evident in the development of Spanish. The loss of consonants is usually due to careless or inaccurate pronunciation.

One of the most common changes of initial consonants is b or v to g. This change is seen in Mexico in such words as guelta,¹¹¹ golvió,¹¹² and Espinosa says it is seen in the Argentine, Colombia, Costa Rica, Uruguay and Andalusia.¹¹³ This change occurs more commonly before ue as in güey,¹¹⁴ güeno,¹¹⁵ güelta,¹¹⁶ but it is seen before o in golviese¹¹⁷ and golvió.¹¹⁸ Espinosa states that bo, vo to go is less frequent than bue, vue to güe but that it is found in almost all the regions mentioned.¹¹⁹ He explains the change before ue by saying that the initial labial is weakened because of the semiconsonantal u which

111. Campos, Folklore literario de México, p. 225.

112. Ibid., p. 220.

113. Espinosa, op. cit., p.

114. Hernandez, op. cit., p. 47.

115. La gringa, p. 34.

116. Ibid., p. 50.

117. Ibid., p. 45.

118. Barranco, p. 80.

119. Espinosa, op. cit., p. 151.

follows it, and once weakened it is easily assimilated to the u.
 When the u is initial before a tonic vowel, the sound is almost
 a g.¹²⁰ Golvio' and golviese are the result of analogy with the
 forms of the verb which do have the ue.

The change of initial n to ñ probably originated in the
 Northwest of Spain.¹²¹ The forms ñublaba,¹²² ñeblina¹²³ are found
 in Argentina. Among the explanations offered for these forms are
 the statements that they are archaisms or that they are the result
 of palatalization.¹²⁴ The latter is the more probable explanation.

Another change of initial consonants which is common is
f to j as in juera,¹²⁵ junción,¹²⁶ juror,¹²⁷ juerte.¹²⁸ Espinosa
 says this is a tendency which has always existed in Spanish,¹²⁹
 and Alonso says that it is a general phonetic tendency toward
 velarization.¹³⁰ According to Menéndez Pidal the f began to be
 replaced by the aspirate h in the fifteenth and sixteenth cen-
 turies. In fierro¹³¹ and fazen¹³² the tendency of the h and f
 to interchange is seen.

The preservation of the aspirate h is seen in juir,¹³³ and
ají.¹³⁴ Espinosa says the h is pronounced like j in New Mexico,

120. Ibid., p. 149.

121. Ibid., p. 158.

122. Hernández, op. cit., p. 26.

123. Ibid., p. 132.

124. Espinosa, op. cit., pp. 158-159.

125. Barranco, p. 27.

126. Ibid., p. 27.

127. Hernández, op. cit., p. 18.

128. Ibid., p. 29.

129. Espinosa, op. cit., p. 136.

130. Alonso, op. cit., p. 455.

131. Hernández, op. cit., p. 53.

132. Ibid., p. 162.

133. Ibid., p. 70.

134. Ibid., p. 43.

Mexico, Ecuador, Buenos Aires, Chile, Porto Rico, Costa Rica, and parts of Spain.¹³⁵ Hue becomes güe in vigüela,¹³⁶ güerfano,¹³⁷ güevos,¹³⁸ and güesos.¹³⁹ "La labiovelar, en posición inicial, refuerza su elemento velar con lo que se llega a la pronunciación g."¹⁴⁰

The change of initial hi to y in yerras¹⁴¹ and yela¹⁴² follows the same principle seen in radical-changing verbs beginning with e: errar--present indicative, yerro. . . .

The changing from voiceless to voiced consonant is fairly common. The voiceless c becomes the voiced g in garabina¹⁴³ and Gambana.¹⁴⁴ This also occurs within the word fazen.¹⁴⁵ Gambana and imborta¹⁴⁶ may be cited to show the change of the voiceless bilabial p to the voiced b.

Sometimes the change of l to r and of r to l is seen. Espinosa says that these changes are common in many Spanish dialects.¹⁴⁷ They are very evident in Spanish literature before the Middle Ages and equally common today in the popular speech of Andalusia. Examples are orvide,¹⁴⁸ refilame,¹⁴⁹ ner¹⁵⁰ for en el.

135. Espinosa, op. cit., p. 155.

136. Hernández, op. cit., p. 3.

137. Ibid., p. 10.

138. Ibid., p. 32.

139. Ibid., p. 72.

140. Espinosa, op. cit., p. 155.

141. Hernández, op. cit., p. 10.

142. Ibid., p. 32.

143. Ibid., p. 53.

144. Sánchez, Moneda falsa, p. 132.

145. Hernández, op. cit., p. 162.

146. Sánchez, Moneda falsa, p. 131.

147. Espinosa, op. cit., p. 174.

148. Sánchez, El desalojo, p. 155.

149. Ibid., p. 170.

150. Ibid., p. 155.

The e before the n is nasalized and is lost sometimes.¹⁵¹

The d sometimes becomes l and sometimes r. Such examples as alversida,¹⁵² almirar,¹⁵³ aulitorio,¹⁵⁴ alquirido¹⁵⁵ are found in many Hispanic regions and, according to Espinosa, are due to a confusion with the prefix al.¹⁵⁶ The similarity of the sounds of d and r perhaps is the explanation for resertor¹⁵⁷ and resertas.¹⁵⁸ Menéndez Pidal says that it was very common even in the Latin for d to become l or r.¹⁵⁹ The substitution of g for d is seen in malgada.¹⁶⁰ The change of d to m in mamajuana¹⁶¹ (damajuana) is probably due to assimilation.

Various consonant changes found within words are due to metathesis and analogy. Reciprocal metathesis is seen in cabres-to¹⁶² flaire¹⁶³ and abaraje,¹⁶⁴ and simple metathesis, in canop.¹⁶⁵ The substitution of s for x in esageres is due to analogy with the s sound of x before consonants. Quedra¹⁶⁶ is a result of analogy with futures and conditionals like tendré.¹⁶⁷ The change in tendré is really a natural change due to similarity in sound between rr and dr.

151. Alonso, op. cit., p. 392.

152. Hernández, op. cit., p. 6.

153. Ibid., p. 21.

154. Ibid., p. 144.

155. Ibid., p. 189.

156. Espinosa, op. cit., p. 169.

157. Hernández, op. cit., p. 35.

158. Ibid., p. 197.

159. M. Pidal, op. cit., p. 167.

160. Hernández, op. cit., p. 118.

161. Ibid., p. 10.

162. Ibid., p. 15.

163. Ibid., p. 46.

164. Ibid., p. 42.

165. Ibid., p. 35.

166. Barranco, p. 70.

167. Espinosa, op. cit., p. 179.

Consonant changes like b to v, v to b; j to g, g to j; s to z, z to s; ɟ to c, c to ɟ; and ll to y are due to the fact that there is very little difference in their sound and in some cases there is none.

In the interchange of the b and v as seen in vichar,¹⁶⁸ valde,¹⁶⁹ andule,¹⁷⁰ tubiera,¹⁷¹ there is nothing strange. The b and v generally have the same sound.

Regarding the interchange of s and ɟ, z and s, in words like pobresico,¹⁷² enderosé,¹⁷³ desencillaron,¹⁷⁴ resar,¹⁷⁵ empesó,¹⁷⁶ and sonzo,¹⁷⁷ it might be said that the change is simply a confusion in spelling. Navarro-Tomás says:

"En la pronunciación hispanoamericana, en Andalucía y las Canarias es corriente cuando hablan español sustituir la c por la s."¹⁷⁸

In gueya,¹⁷⁹ crioyo,¹⁸⁰ and acoyarás,¹⁸¹ the ll becomes y. In Spanish America and in some provinces of Spain the ll has the sound of y.¹⁸²

The j and the g before e and i have the same sound, and in viage,¹⁸³ muger,¹⁸⁴ dirijir,¹⁸⁵ lijorena,¹⁸⁶ there is really

168. Hernández, op. cit., p. 32.

169. Ibid., p. 229.

170. Ibid., p. 65.

171. Ibid., p. 157.

172. Ibid., p. 166.

173. Ibid., p. 15.

174. Ibid., p. 239.

175. Ibid., p. 43.

176. Ibid., p. 160.

177. Ibid., p. 195.

178. Navarro-Tomás, op. cit., p. 94.

179. Hernández, op. cit., p. 5.

180. Ibid., p. 45.

181. Ibid., p. 14.

182. Espinosa, op. cit., pp. 190-199.

183. Hernández, op. cit., p. 133.

184. Ibid., p. 106.

185. Ibid., p. 239.

186. Ibid., p. 12.

nothing to note except the confusion of the j and g in spelling. The same is true of the change of x to s before consonants.

Jugo¹⁸⁷ and sangrador¹⁸⁸ illustrate, likewise, mistakes in spelling due, in all probability, to analogy to similar forms where the g precedes a.

Change of j to c or qu in such words as vieco,¹⁸⁹ muquer,¹⁹⁰ décase¹⁹¹ is a result of similarity of sound.

Many other dialect forms are the result of the loss, rather than the change, of consonants. The discussion of the loss of consonants may be divided into three parts: those relating respectively to intervocalic and final, initial, and grouped consonants.

Intervocalic and final consonants are grouped together because they are usually pronounced lightly and consequently easily lost. According to Menéndez Pidal, initial consonants except f and g were never lost in the development of Spanish.¹⁹² Espinosa says that occasionally initial b is lost.¹⁹³ The e is found for de in La gringa, Barranco abajo, and El desalojo. The d is intervocalic in the phrase, however.

In South American, as in Andalusian speech, the intervocalic and final consonants which are most often lost are d and r. The d is rather consistently lost in the ado past participial ending.

187. Hernández, op. cit., p. 54.

188. Ibid., p. 16.

189. Sánchez, El desalojo, p. 162.

190. Ibid., p. 169.

191. Ibid., p. 162.

192. M. Pidal, op. cit., p. 97.

193. Espinosa, op. cit., p. 226.

There are, however, in the works checked no examples of the loss of d in the endings ada or ido. In Chile cases of the loss of the d in ido are fairly frequent. The d is often lost in nouns, adjectives, etc. containing ado, as is seen in such words as lao,¹⁹⁴ entoavía,¹⁹⁵ and tuito.¹⁹⁶ Espinosa says that the loss of the intervocalic d is a phenomenon almost general in all dialects in Spain as well as in Spanish America.¹⁹⁷ Another common occurrence is the loss of final d in nouns, pronouns, and familiar plural imperatives: eda,¹⁹⁸ ustá,¹⁹⁹ mirá,²⁰⁰ traé,²⁰¹ decí.²⁰² According to Espinosa the final d is never pronounced in New Mexican dialects.²⁰³

The most common example of the loss of intervocalic r is pa for para. This is common in all of Spain as well as in Spanish America.²⁰⁴

Intervocalic s is lost in Andalusia, ca²⁰⁵ for casa, and final s is easily lost. Ma,²⁰⁶ pué,²⁰⁷ estamo,²⁰⁸ Dio²⁰⁹ and other such cases are common in all Spanish dialects.

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194. La gringa, p. 37.
 195. Sánchez, El desalojo, p. 164.
 196. Hernández, op. cit., p. 15.
 197. Espinosa, op. cit., p. 230.
 198. Barranco, p. 75.
 199. Ibid., p. 27.
 200. Sánchez, Moneda falsa, p. 139.
 201. Ibid., p. 145.
 202. Ibid., p. 154.
 203. Espinosa, op. cit., p. 231.
 204. Ibid., p. 239.
 205. Quinteros, op. cit., p. 48.
 206. La gringa, p. 8.
 207. Ibid., p. 42.
 208. Sánchez, El desalojo, p. 155.
 209. Ibid., p. 157.

In many cases when two or more consonants come together, one of them is dropped. Menéndez Pidal says:

"La permanencia de ambos consonantes cuenta con muy importantes excepciones. Hay casos en que se asimilan, o en que se transforma la segunda o se vocaliza la primera."²¹⁰

In inorancia,²¹¹ repunancia,²¹² and persine²¹³ the g is lost.

Espinosa says the g is commonly lost in New Mexican dialects in the group gn.²¹⁴ This loss of g was equally common in old Spanish and is very evident in the Andalusian of today. In cos-tante,²¹⁵ istinto,²¹⁶ and estruído²¹⁷ the n is lost. In dialects, according to Espinosa, n is never pronounced in the group ns plus a consonant.²¹⁸ The loss of n before s was general in vulgar Latin.²¹⁹

C before a consonant is lost in dotor,²²⁰ estrutor,²²¹ leturas,²²² etc. Usually c before a consonant is lost.²²³

The loss of b in the group bs, osequiar,²²⁴ oservar,²²⁵ is general.²²⁶ The b is lost before t and l in otenidas²²⁷ and

210. M. Pidal, op. cit., p. 112.

211. Hernández, op. cit., p. 29.

212. Ibid., p. 102.

213. Ibid., p. 127.

214. Espinosa, op. cit., p. 232.

215. Hernández, op. cit., p. 201.

216. Ibid., p. 101.

217. Ibid., p. 219.

218. Espinosa, op. cit., p. 235.

219. Grandgent, An Introduction to Vulgar Latin, II 171.

220. La gringa, p. 26.

221. Hernández, op. cit., p. 17.

222. Ibid., p. 227.

223. Espinosa, op. cit., p. 229.

224. Hernández, op. cit., p. 11.

225. Ibid., p. 98.

226. Espinosa, op. cit., p. 227.

227. Hernández, op. cit., p. 3.

sulevar.²²⁸

The s is omitted before t in compotura.²²⁹ However, no reference to its omission before t was found.

In veceuario²³⁰ the d in the group nd is omitted.

The Spaniards of the sixteenth century pronounced carelessly, lightly, or not at all, final and intervocalic consonants and confused many consonants. These tendencies toward careless and inaccurate pronunciation are still evident in many Spanish provinces, especially in Andalusia. They are prevalent in Chile, Mexico, and other Spanish American countries, as well as in Argentina.

228. Ibid., p. 197.

229. Ibid., p. 171.

230. Ibid., p. 157.

CHAPTER IV

SUFFIXES, PREFIXES, AND
THE FORMATION OF NEW WORDS

In the Americas the habit of exaggeration and the love of freedom and originality seem to be more marked than in Europe. The inhabitants of both North and South America have less reverence for the old and less desire to follow conventions. Due to their scorn of custom and authority, they often coin new words with which to express their new ideas. Of course these tendencies, which are often designated by the term Modernism, exist to a lesser degree in Great Britain and Europe, as a result not only of modern inventions and conditions, but also of the influence of and contact with the New World.

As a result of this spirit of the American citizen, the vocabulary of the Spanish American has been materially increased. New words have been formed, especially by the use of prefixes and suffixes. Suffixes are also used to show varying emotions.

In Argentina, as well as in Chile and Mexico, there is a rather excessive use of suffixes. The diminutive -ito is added to nouns, adjectives, and adverbs. In some cases it is difficult to decide just why the suffix is added. Such forms as elefanti-
ta,²³¹ toditas,²³² manchita,²³³ padroncita,²³⁴ hambrecita,²³⁵

231. Sánchez, Moneda falsa, p. 151.

232. Hernández, op. cit., p. 8.

233. Ibid., p. 186.

234. Sánchez, Moneda falsa, p. 132.

235. Sánchez, El desalojo, p. 159.

enfermita,²³⁶ dinerito,²³⁷ ojitos,²³⁸ despacito,²³⁹ and pesitos²⁴⁰ are very common. In Chile sometimes two or more diminutives are added to the same word as in lueguitito. This use of -ito is common in Andalusia also. The priest in the Quinteros' Puebla de las mujeres adds a diminutive wherever possible. He uses feitas,²⁴¹ ladroncito,²⁴² suertecita,²⁴³ seguidita²⁴⁴ and numerous other words ending in a diminutive. His niece, Ángela, calls attention to his habitual use of such forms when she says: "Es un sinvergüencita, como dice el tío."²⁴⁵ He seems to use diminutives in order to avoid a very positive statement. Ladroncito is not so harsh as ladrón. This use of suffixes is also a reflection of tendency toward exaggeration which is common in popular speech. Fewer examples of use of the diminutive -illo are found, although they are quite common. Concerning -ín, -ina, chiquitines,²⁴⁶ chiquilina,²⁴⁷ the following statement is found in Gramática castellana: "ín, ino, íno, mas bien que sufijos diminutivos propios de la lengua de Castilla, son terminaciones usadas en otras provincias españolas."²⁴⁸ Many of these diminutives are used to soften words and expressions. "El uso del

236. Ibid., p. 158.

237. Ibid., p. 165.

238. Ibid., p. 166.

239. Hernández, op. cit., p. 30.

240. La gringa, p. 22.

241. Quinteros, op. cit., p. 17.

242. Ibid., p. 15.

243. Ibid., p. 10.

244. Ibid., p. 40.

245. Ibid., p. 29.

246. La gringa, p. 5.

247. Ibid., p. 6.

248. Real Academia, op. cit., p. 20.

diminutivo por modestia, lo mismo que el de carino al hablar con niños, forma gran parte del empleo familiar de los diminutivos."²⁴⁹

Augmentatives include -on, pujones,²⁵⁰ papelón,²⁵¹ and azo, amigazo,²⁵² -ote pavota.²⁵³ Many of the terminations are depreciative. -Ejo which is usually applied to nouns ending in l or n denotes decided contempt: capitanejos.²⁵⁴ Sometimes -azo is used to form a new word, often the result of an act, as lanzazo²⁵⁵ and plomazo.²⁵⁶ These words are probably analogous with the many other words of similar form and meaning, such as puntazo, amenaza. . .

A great many words are found which are formed by analogy with the formation of other words. Carñero²⁵⁷ and barullero²⁵⁸ use a very common ending. Sabedoras is formed by the use of another common ending. In hembraje²⁵⁹ the ending is one seen in many words, such as pasaje vasallaje. . . Malevos²⁶⁰ is another new word formed by adding a suffix.

Adjectives like rotoso,²⁶¹ which are formed by use of the suffix -oso indicating the possession of a quality, follow a very common rule for the formation of adjectives in the development of Spanish.²⁶²

249. Lenz, La oración y sus partes, p. 195.

250. Hernández, op. cit., p. 217.

251. Ibid., p. 105.

252. La gringa, p. 35.

253. Barranco, p. 70.

254. Hernández, op. cit., p. 107.

255. Ibid., p. 22.

256. Ibid., p. 62.

257. Ibid., p. 170.

258. Ibid., p. 196.

259. Ibid., p. 11.

260. Ibid., p. 16.

261. Ibid., p. 41.

262. W. Fidal, op. cit., p. 191.

But perhaps the outstanding group of new words formed by the use of a suffix is that of verbs like runbiar,²⁶³ solteriar,²⁶⁴ pijotiaba,²⁶⁵ and cepiada.²⁶⁶ All of these new verbs are formed by the suffix -ear which by diphthongization becomes -iar.

"Los dos sufijos propiamente activos de las romances eran desconocidos del latín clásico y salen del griego. El latín vulgar, en la época imperial lo acogió en la forma -idiare, en español -ear que es el sufijo más comúnmente empleado, a veces junto al derivado inmediato y sin diferencia de significación: colorar, colorear, o con diferencia: pasar, pasear."²⁶⁷

Although in Argentina this suffix is not used as a different ending for a verb ending in ar, its use in forming new verbs does show the continuance of its popularity. In the form trotiado²⁶⁸ the two forms trotar and trotear are seen.

In many cases prefixes are used, not only with verbs to give new form and meaning, but also with adjectives and adverbs.

Verbs:

enriendo,²⁶⁹ enllenar,²⁷⁰ rejuñtábanos,²⁷¹ enprestar,²⁷²
dirme,²⁷³ redota,²⁷⁴ reclarar,²⁷⁵ enconciace²⁷⁶ dejuero²⁷⁷

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263. Hernández, op. cit., p. 35.
264. Ibid., p. 161.
265. Ibid., p. 57.
266. Ibid., p. 16.
267. E. Fidal, op. cit., p. 267.
268. Hernández, op. cit., p. 19.
269. Hernández, op. cit., p. 6.
270. Ibid., p. 14.
271. Ibid., p. 20.
272. Ibid., p. 29.
273. Ibid., p. 39.
274. Ibid., p. 228.
275. Ibid., p. 227.
276. Barranco, p. 36.
277. La gringa, p. 11.

Adjectives:

devalde,²⁷⁸

Adverbs:

entouvin,²⁷⁹ endeveras,²⁸⁰ adeveras²⁸¹

Many of the forms are due to analogy. Dir is in expressions like He de ir developed by the elision of the e, and since it was correct to use dir in some instances, the uneducated person probably decided that it was correct to use it in all cases.

All of these forms show that there is nothing so very startling about any of these dialectal tendencies. All of them, including vowel and consonant changes, and the use of prefixes and suffixes, follow principles of language development which have their counterpart, in nearly all instances, in the development of the Spanish language from the vulgar Latin and specifically retained in the Andalusian dialect of today. Nevertheless the turns which some of the principles take are interesting.

278. Hernández, op. cit., p. 124.

279. Barranco, p. 70.

280. Ibid., p. 39.

281. Ibid., p. 55.

CHAPTER V

ARCHAISMS AND LOCALISMS

Several other quite interesting dialectal forms are found in Argentina. Some of them reveal the great similarity between the Argentine speech and that of Andalusia. This is especially true of the group of archaisms or Latinisms. These Latinisms must be remnants of the speech of the Spanish Conquistadores, because they exist in Mexico, Chile, and other American countries where the Spanish people made settlements. They are still found in many provinces of Spain, especially in the popular speech of Andalusia.

Dende²⁸² is an archaism used for desde. Ende as well as dende was used although not always as an equivalent of desde. About the fourteenth century dende came to be a synonym of desde. At present it is used for desde in Mexico, Colombia, Chile, Argentina, Peru, and other Spanish American countries, and in some provinces of Spain, including Andalusia.²⁸³ Ansi²⁸⁴ and ansina,²⁸⁵ archaisms for así, are found in several forms: ansí, assín, ansina, asín, etc. In the twelfth and thirteenth centuries the forms asi, asín, assí, and assín were used. In the fifteenth century the form preferred was ansí, and it is the form most used by the writers of the sixteenth century, although Valdés in his Diálogo de la lengua expressed a preference for así. In the classical period the accepted form was así, but ansí, ansina and asina were still used in the popular speech of the uneducated. These forms are

282. Hernández, op. cit., p. 4.

283. Hernández, op. cit., p. 9.

284. Ibid., p. 29.

285. Espinosa, op. cit., p. 78.

still found in the popular speech of some provinces of Spain as well as in Spanish America.²⁸⁶ Truje,²⁸⁷ trujo,²⁸⁸ etc. are archaisms which are common in the works of Cervantes and other classical writers. However they are sometimes classified as popular forms. These words are common today in Andalusia, Santander, Vizcaya, Aragon, Leon, and many other provinces of Spain and throughout Spanish America.²⁸⁹

Mesmo²⁹⁰ was used in classical Spanish. It is found today in the popular speech of New Mexico, Mexico, Chile, Argentina, Andalusia, and several other provinces. According to Espinosa mesmo is a newer form than mismo, and mismo came from meismo while mesmo came from meesmo.²⁹¹ Other archaisms are ande,²⁹² vide,²⁹³ naide,²⁹⁴ or naides,²⁹⁵ and ollín.²⁹⁶ Ande when it means adonde could be a result of reduction of the two vowels ao to a, but sometimes ande is used for donde. Vide, vido, . . . are the old forms of the modern verb ver. Naide shows the metathesis of the i. M. Pidal calls it a vulgarism.²⁹⁷ Often an s is added after the final vowels a, o, e as in naides.²⁹⁸ The a in ollín became o giving ollín. Of ollín, M. Pidal says: "La n de non y de la conjunción sin se extiende a los anticuados allín and assín."²⁹⁹

286. Ibid., p.

287. Hernández, op. cit., p. 6.

288. Ibid., p. 40.

289. Espinosa, op. cit., p. 80.

290. Hernández, op. cit., p. 11.

291. Espinosa, op. cit., p. 82.

292. La gringa, p. 6.

293. Ibid., p. 46.

294. Barranco, p. 38.

295. Hernández, op. cit., p. 4.

296. Ibid., p. 4.

297. M. Pidal, op. cit., p. 43.

298. Espinosa, op. cit., p. 249.

299. M. Pidal, op. cit., p. 295.

Old imperfects like creiba,³⁰⁰ traiban,³⁰¹ caiban,³⁰²
oiban³⁰³ are interesting.

"En el latín clásico los verbos ere tenían su imperfecto con la terminación eba y los ire con ieba que el latín arcaico y vulgar hacía iba. El romance conservo la b de aba pero en las otras conjugaciones la b se pierde."³⁰⁴

As was mentioned in the discussion of vowel changes, these imperfects show a shifting of the accent to the strong vowel. This shifting of accent is very common and is a tendency evident in old Spanish also. Espinosa says in speaking of the New Mexican Spanish:

"Es difícil precisar cuales de estos cambios acentuales se han cumplido dentro del nuevomejicano y cuales fueron ya traídos por los colonizadores; pero indudablemente muchos estaban en la lengua general de los siglos XV y XVI, puesto que son comunes a casi todos los dialectos actuales de España y de la América española."³⁰⁵

Another change in the position of the accent is seen in ojála.³⁰⁶

The shifting of the accent to the atonic personal pronoun is quite interesting. It is probably due to a desire to emphasize the pronoun by copying the English principle of stress for emphasis, but no explanation was found. It is contrary to all the principles of accent for the Spanish language. Not only is the pronoun regularly atonic, but the final unaccented vowel in a word is relaxed. Examples of this shift of accent are tenganló.³⁰⁷

300. Hernández, op. cit., p. 25.

301. Ibid., p. 53.

302. Ibid., p. 11.

303. Ibid., p. 35.

304. M. Fidal, op. cit., p. 266.

305. Espinosa, op. cit., p. 52.

306. Hernández, op. cit., p. 28.

307. Ibid., p. 77.

guardese,³⁰⁸ atajamela,³⁰⁹ llamelá,³¹⁰ dejeme,³¹¹ crealó,³¹² and oigalé.³¹³

The shift of accent in dejela,³¹⁴ mandese,³¹⁵ sosieguense,³¹⁶ etc. is probably analogous with the accentuation of the penult vowel in all words ending in a vowel.³¹⁷

Ruth Richardson in her edition of La gringa classifies andás,³¹⁸ dejes,³¹⁹ tengás,³²⁰ etc. as cases of shift of accent,³²¹ but reis³²² and sos³²³ are second person plural forms used instead of the second person singular, as they were in old Spanish, and therefore it seems possible that andás, dejes, might be second person plural forms in which the unaccented weak vowel in the diphthong has been lost.

This use of the second person plural for the singular is very common, especially in the case of the personal pronoun. Lenz says:

"Parece que pronto en la época colonial se generalizó el uso de vos de tal modo que las formas tú y te se perdieron completamente del uso popular, al menos en toda la América del Sur y parte de la central. . . . Los españoles y criollos, aun de baja procedencia se habrán arrojado el tratamiento de los caballeros en oposicion a

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308. Ibid., p. 102.
 309. Barranco, p. 30.
 310. Ibid., p. 74.
 311. Sánchez, Moneda falsa, p. 131.
 312. Ibid., p. 151.
 313. La gringa, p. 12.
 314. Sánchez, El desalojo, p. 156.
 315. Ibid., p. 157.
 316. M. Pidal, op. cit., p. 34.
 317. Hernández, op. cit., p. 162.
 318. Ibid., p. 197.
 319. La gringa, p. 12.
 320. Ibid., p. 93.
 321. La gringa, p. 93.
 322. Barranco, p. 24.
 323. Sánchez, El desalojo, p. 161.

los indios. Rebajada así la esfera social del voseo al trato familiar, naturalmente ya no servía para el tratamiento de respeto y dejó ese lugar a usted."

Vos is used as a singular pronoun as a subject and object of preposition. Vosotros is seldom used. The plural form is ustedes.³²⁴ In these uses of second person plural, Argentina follows archaic custom as well as tendencies in Spain.

Although Lenz says that tú is lost completely in the popular speech of South America, it is seen occasionally, as in tú, mangia.³²⁵ Speaking of the use of tú in Chile, Lenz says:

"Tú es raro en boca del pueblo, porque ha sido, y es todavía corriente cuando caballeros y señoras hablan con la servidumbre y en general, con gente de clase inferior, de modo que tú tiene cierto sabor a desprecio."³²⁶

Just as social standing is indicated by the use of second person plural vos, so ña,³²⁷ ño,³²⁸ misia³²⁹ indicate social standing. Alonso says they are all familiar forms and indicate low social position, but misia indicates a higher rank in society than ña. Sion³³⁰ for sior is another form used among the lower classes.³³¹

The words of American origin include words belonging especially to Argentina and words belonging to America in general. Most of the words in each group are words used in

324. Lenz, op. cit., p. 242.

325. Sánchez, Al desalojo, p. 159.

326. Lenz, op. cit., p. 243.

327. Barranco, p. 57.

328. Ibid., p. 35.

329. Ibid., p. 27.

330. Ibid., p. 50.

331. Alonso, op. cit., pp. 417-420.

describing local conditions and activities. Names of plants, foods, animals, clothing, and types of people make up a great portion of these Americanisms. Such foods and drinks as mate,³³² cancha,³³³ and such articles of wearing apparel as poncho³³⁴ are widely known. Jaranchos³³⁵ and chimanga³³⁶ are names of birds. China,³³⁷ gringo,³³⁸ gaucho,³³⁹ chapetón,³⁴⁰ bachicha³⁴¹ are terms applied to particular types of people. Another group of Americanisms is made up of ranching and farming terms and includes chacras,³⁴² coginillo,³⁴³ cauchaje,³⁴⁴ and redomón.³⁴⁵

Che, which is a Spanish exclamation used to attract the attention of a person, also exists in the Italian and may be a result of the Italian influence, which is quite strong in rural sections of Argentina.

This Italian influence is a result of the recent trend of Italian immigration to Argentina. In 1910 the Italians entering the Argentine Republic numbered 102,019, and from 1910 to 1931, more than a million entered the country. During the same period only 1,138,851 Spaniards went there.³⁴⁶ A large number of these

332. Barranco, p. 23.

333. Hernández, op. cit., p. 5.

334. La gringa, p. 65.

335. Barranco, p. 52.

336. Ibid., p. 47.

337. Ibid., p. 41.

338. La gringa, p. 7.

339. Barranco, p. 75.

340. Hernández, op. cit., p. 54.

341. La gringa, p. 29.

342. Ibid., p. 3.

343. Hernández, op. cit., p. 223.

344. Ibid., p. 11.

345. Hernández, op. cit., p. 20.

346. Revista de Economía Argentina, Sept., 1932.

people returned home, but many remained in Argentina. In 1928, Dr. A. E. Bunge, a well-known Argentine economist, prepared a study entitled Seventy Years of Argentine Immigration, in which he showed that during that period 5,740,000 immigrants entered the country, and that Italians and Spaniards constituted 79.6 per cent of them.³⁴⁷ Since most of the Italians have gone to Argentina during the last thirty years, the Italian influence was not very evident before the end of the nineteenth century. The years when the greatest number of Italians went to Argentina were 1910, 1913, when 114,252 entered the country, and 1923, when the number was 91,992.³⁴⁸

The Italian influence is seen in such expressions as de cuel bon,³⁴⁹ signor³⁵⁰ un altro amico,³⁵¹ chiamatelo³⁵² facite³⁵³ and various others. The similarities between the Spanish and Italian will tend to make the assimilation of many of these words and phrases fairly easy.

It seems that it is in the use of the second person plural pronoun and in the use of Italian words and expressions that the Argentine dialect differs most from that of Andalusia and other Spanish provinces. While the shift of the accent to the personal pronoun is not common in Spain, other cases of shift of accent found in Argentina are observed in the Spanish peninsula.

347. Reed, W. A., "Trends of Immigration in the Americas," Bulletin of the Pan American Union, pp. 711-712.

348. Revista de Economía Argentina, (Sept., 1932).

349. Sánchez, Moneda falsa, p. 136.

350. Ibid., p. 136.

351. Ibid., p. 132.

352. Ibid., p. 132.

353. Ibid., p. 132.

CHAPTER VI

SIMILARITY OF SPANISH AND ARGENTINE DIALECTS

In various places in this discussion attention has been called to the fact that dialectal forms and tendencies found in Argentina exist in Spain, especially in Andalusia. It is also true that the greater part of dialectal forms of the Argentine Republic and of other countries were evident in the development of the Spanish language from Vulgar Latin. The reading of the Spanish of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries will prove this statement.

Likewise, an examination of the plays of the Quinteros and the rural plays of Benavente is sufficient to prove that many of these Spanish American dialectal forms are common in Spain. This is especially true of Andalusia. Such forms as fumao,³⁵⁴ dao,³⁵⁵ venfo³⁵⁶ in which the intervocalic d is lost are very common in Andalusian speech. The final r is often lost, as in aye,³⁵⁷ zeño,³⁵⁸ penza.³⁵⁹ Such forms as usté,³⁶⁰ cazualida,³⁶¹ are as common in Andalusia as in Argentina, Mexico, Chile, and other Spanish American countries.

The prevalence in Mexico, Chile, and other Spanish American countries, as well as in Spain, of these and other dialectal forms observed in Argentina tends to establish the fact that

354. Quinteros, op. cit., p. 19.

355. Ibid., p. 48.

356. Ibid., p. 48.

357. Ibid., p. 82.

358. Ibid., p. 26.

359. Ibid., p. 11.

360. Ibid., p. 19.

361. Ibid., p. 26.

dialects are, in the main, the result of the operation of natural laws. And, since very few foreign words or forms are found, it is safe to say that the Spanish language, like the Latin, is not easily affected by outside influences. Also the fact that more people speak Spanish than any other language except English indicates that the Spanish explorers and conquerors, as well as the Romans, succeeded in establishing and making permanent their language wherever they went.

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