

Introduction to the Study of Language

-Ling 1-
Fall 2020

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Week 5 - November 4, 2020

Announcements

- **Midterm**: Sunday and Monday November 8-9
 - 24-hour window
 - timed: 1.5 h
- Respondus Practice Quiz: to be taken **by tonight** (23:59 PST)
- Please start/keep working on **Analysis Paper 1**
 - it is due on 11/15

Roadmap for today's class

- 60 minutes
- last 10/15 minutes: *your* time to ask me questions
 - orally by using the raise-hand button
 - by sending me a **private** message in the Zoom chat
 - questions can be on any topic of any live lecture

❖ What is morphological and syntactic variation?

Variation in morphology: reduplication in Italo-Romance

The case of the formation of **superlatives**.

- (1) a. Questa sedia è *bassissima*. (standard Italian)
b. Questa sedia è *molto/davvero/tanto bassa*.
c. Questa sedia è *bassa bassa*. (colloquial standard Italian)
'This chair is very small'

- *At least* three ways of expressing the superlative degree of an adjective.
- One of them (1a) being a **morphological derivation**.

Variation in morphology: reduplication in Italo-Romance

Morphological formation of superlatives.

- (2) a. Questa sedia è *bassissima*. (standard Italian)
‘This chair is very small.’
b. Anna è *simpaticissima*.
‘Anna is very fun.’
c. Gianni e Maria non sono *preparatissimi*.
‘Gianni and Maria are not very prepared.’
- stem of the adjective *bass-*, *simpatic-*, *preparat-* and the **suffix**
-issim-

Variation in morphology: reduplication in Italo-Romance

The formation of **superlatives** in **southern Italian dialects** (SIDs)

(3) a. Sta seggia jè *proprijə vascia*. (Calabrian dialects)

'sta 'sɛddʒa 'jɛ 'prɔprɐjə 'vaʃʃa

b. Sta seggia jè ***vascia vascia***.

'sta 'sɛddʒa 'jɛ 'vaʃʃa 'vaʃʃa

‘This chair is very small’

- Only **two** ways of expressing the superlative degree of an adjective.
- **Lack of morphological derivation for superlatives in SIDs.**
- (3b) is the strategy that replaces the morphological derivation

Variation in morphology: reduplication in Italo-Romance

Reduplication in SIDs as a strategy to express **superlatives**.

(4) a. Sa seggia jè *vascia vascia*.

'sta 'sɛddʒa 'jɛ 'vaʃʃa 'vaʃʃa

'This chair is very small'

b. Anna jè *bòna bòna*.

'anna 'jɛ 'bɔna 'bɔna

'Anna is very nice.'

c. Maria non jè *pronta pronta*.

ma'rija nɔ 'jɛ 'prɔnta 'prɔnta

'Maria is not very prepared.'

- adjective repeated twice (no availability of *-issim-*)

Variation in Syntax:
comparing
Latin American Spanish
and
Iberian Spanish

Is the following statement true?

El oceano no parte el español.

- what is **Latin American Spanish**?
- why do we use this label in contrast to **Iberian Spanish**?
- how can we evaluate the syntactic differences and the syntactic similarities between these **varieties of Spanish**?

The Andalusian origin

- majority of Spanish speakers who exported Spanish in Latin America came from the **Andalusia**, therefore:
 - many dialects of Latin American Spanish share a variety of **features** with Andalusian varieties

One example

Iberian Spanish (ISp)

VS

Andalusian Spanish (ASp)

VS

Latin American Spanish (LAmSp)

Word- and syllable-final /s/ > [h]

- aspiration of /s/ when placed at the end of a syllable (including the end of the word)

ISp: 'estos otros'

['estos 'otros] or ['estoz 'otros] 'these others'

versus

- **LAmSp:** 'estos otros'

['ehtoh 'otroh]

(Rioplatense Spanish; Río de la Plata, Argentina)

/s/ > [h] > [Ø] in Andalusian Spanish

- aspiration of /s/
- it can go further => /s/ can be deleted

- **ISp**: 'que guapas!' 'what beautiful (girls)!'
 [ke gwapas]

- **ASp**: 'que guapas!' 'what beautiful (girls)!'
 [ke gwapah] or [ke gwapa]

- with possible morphological consequences

Latin American Spanish

displays certain features

which generally distinguish it

from Iberian Spanish

Points of differences between Latin America Spanish and Iberian Spanish

- Phonetics and Phonology (sound system)
- Morphology (word structure)
- **Syntax** (sentence structure)
- Lexis (vocabulary=word use)

Syntactic differences between Latin American Spanish and Iberian Spanish

(1) syntax of **weak pronouns**

(2) syntax of **possessives**

(1) Syntax of weak pronouns

In LAmSp pronouns can be **reduplicated**

LAmSp:

a. **Me** está escuchiand**me**.

me stays listening me

b. No **la** he podido encontrar**la**.

not her has can(participle) meet her

ISp:

a. **Me** está escuchiando.

b. No **la** he podido encontrar.

(2) Syntax of possessives

- In LAmSp possessives can be **reduplicated**

LAmSp:

a. **Mi** amigo **mío**.

my friend mine

b. **Su** casa **de la mujer**.

of the woman her house

ISp:

a. **Mi** amigo / Amigo **mío**.

my friend / friend mine

b. La casa de **la mujer** / **Su** casa.

the house of the woman / her (/his) house

I will see you in 2 weeks (Wednesday 11/18)-
what can we do in the meanwhile?

- Do the readings: - *An Introduction to Language*, pp. 33-74
- Homework 4 due on **Sunday 11/8**
- Homework 5 posted on November 8
=> **NOT DUE until Tuesday November 17 at 6:00 PM (PST)**
- If you could not attend this class, you will have to take a **small quiz**
- **TAKE THE MIDTERM**
- No live lecture nor office hours with me next week (Holiday on 11/11)

STAY SAFE !

- Tips on how to proceed **successfully** every week?

I suggest you take the following **6 steps** in this order:

1. Go through the **readings**.
2. Watch the recorded **lectures** and take detailed notes.
3. Take a look at the **quizzes** to see if you understand all the questions, before completing them.
4. Attend the **live** lecture.
5. Attend the live **discussion** sections.
6. Complete and submit your **assignments**.