

ÖSTERREICHISCHES DEUTSCH SPRACHE DER GEGENWART

Herausgegeben von Rudolf Muhr

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Pluricentric Languages and Non-Dominant Varieties Worldwide

Part II: The Pluricentricity of Portuguese and Spanish.
New Concepts and Descriptions

In collaboration with Eugênia Duarte, Amália Mendes,
Carla Amorós Negre and Juan A. Thomas

19



PETER LANG
EDITION

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worldwide: Volume 2:**
**The pluricentricity of Portuguese and Spanish:
New concepts and descriptions**

Frankfurt a.M. / Wien u.a., Peter Lang Verlag
(2016)

This publication has been printed with the financial support of the following institutions:



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Preface

This is the second of two thematically arranged volumes with papers that were presented at the “World Conference of Pluricentric Languages and their non-dominant Varieties” (WCPCL). It comprises 17 papers about two major pluricentric languages: Portuguese and Spanish. The first volume encompasses a further 30 papers about 20 PCLs and 14 NDVs. The conference was held at the University of Graz, (Austria) on July 8th-11th 2015. It was the fourth gathering organized by the “Working Group on Non-Dominant Varieties of Pluricentric Languages” (WGNDV) since the foundation of the group and at the same time celebrating its 5th anniversary. The main objective of the conference was to get more information about the situation of as many pluricentric languages and non-dominant-varieties (NDVs) as possible. We hoped to get more empirically secured descriptions of the effects of non-dominance in order to strengthen the theory of pluricentric languages (PCLs) and to extend the description of pluricentric languages around the world. Moreover, there was the hope that papers about “new” PCLs, lesser known and researched PCLs and NDVs would be presented.

The editors are happy to say that all objectives have been met. In addition to the papers of volume 1, this volume deals with the already well researched pluricentricity of Portuguese and Spanish but attempting to bring in new concepts and descriptions.

This is done by presenting several papers about different aspects of the theory of pluricentricity and the description of linguistic variation. It is shown that cognitive linguistics and pluricentricity can work well together enabling the description of conceptual and social factors that shape the variation of meaning in pluricentric scenarios (A. Soares da Silva). And data on the demolinguistic evolution of Portuguese show that there will be a shift towards the African varieties leading to further linguistic differentiation (G. Müller de Oliveira). This is already the case with Brazilian Portuguese, which shows an increasing development of endemic features and raises questions about its treatment in codification (E. Duarte et. al. and M. Martins/B. Meisnitzer). The inherent variability of pluricentric languages is also a challenge for the methodology of language teaching and the development of new language materials for the varieties of Portuguese (E. Mendes). The influence of native African languages leads to new word formation patterns in African varieties of Portuguese (A. Mendes et. al.) and to the restructuring in East-Timor Portuguese (H. J. Batoréo). Specific linguistic features of

Brazilian Portuguese are also found in the use of subjunctive mood (D. Callou/E. Almeida) and in the ethnogenesis (indigenous identity) of Brazilian Indian groups that were deprived of their language (B. Vianna).

As codification is fundamentally important for the acknowledgement of NDVs, the delimitation of the Argentine Spanish and the publication of differential dictionaries for this variety proves this fact once again (A. Adelstein). This contemporary lexicographical work is contrasted by an overview about linguistic ideas in pre-scientific codifications of American Spanish which at the end of the 19th century were overwhelmingly negative towards indigenous lexical items created in American Spanish (S. Fajardo/R. Dorado Puntch). Central American Spanish, which covers the national varieties in Belize, Costa Rica, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama has been little researched until now but is dealt with in depth by a paper describing the characteristics of the numerous countries of this area (M. A. Quesada-Pacheco). The increased development of US-American Spanish is shown by the use of the variable *queísmo* (J. A. Thomas) while variation in multi-word-expressions is documented for the first time by empirical data from informants participating in an internet forum (R. Fitch). Second level pluricentricity is dealt with in respect to Andalusian Spanish (E. Méndez-G^a De Paredes/C. Amorós) and the Portuguese of Braga in the north of Portugal (C. Rodrigues, M. da Conceição de Paiva). A paper about migrant pluricentricity of Portuguese completes the volume in Montreal (Canada) showing variety mixing and signs of adaptation towards French and English (F. Scetti).

The editors would like to thank the regional government of the Austrian Bundesland Styria, Utica College, Utica, NY, USA and the University of Graz for the financial support of this publication, enabling it to be published. And we would also like thank those colleagues who – in addition to the editors – helped in the editing of the manuscript: Catrin Norrby (Stockholm, Sweden), Jasmine Dum-Tragut (Salzburg, Austria), Aditi Ghosh, (Calcutta, India), Salvatore Del Gaudio (Kiev, Ukraine), Máté Imre Huber (Pécs, Hungary), Gerhard Leitner (Berlin, DE), Godelieve Laureys (Ghent, Belgium), Heinz L. Kretzenbacher (Melbourne, Australia), Dawn Marley (Guildford, UK) and Adrian Tien (Dublin, Ireland).

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Graz, Rio de Janeiro, Lisbon, Salamanca and Utica, NY in April 2016