

## Language contact and intonation change: The case of Galician and Galician Spanish

Language contact is one of the driving forces of language change. As Thomason and Kaufman (1988:3) state, “contact-induced language change at all levels of linguistic structure is a pervasive phenomenon”. A language contact situation may be observed when at least two different language varieties are spoken within the same social group in a given period of time. In such a situation, at least three sociolinguistic scenarios may be encountered, each of which may give rise to a specific pattern of prosodic change. In the first scenario, the speakers of a linguistic community learn their first language and then, during a later period related to a second socialisation stage, they acquire their second language (Barker, 2005; Devis Herraiz, 2008; De Leeuw *et al.*, 2010, 2012; Simonet, 2011, among others). As a potential consequence of this, bilingual speakers who are dominant in one of the two languages will involuntarily transfer some of the intonation characteristics of their L1 to the L2, giving rise to direct transfer. The second scenario is one in which the speakers have a similar competence in the two languages, which can thus be considered L1s, though they may use them for different purposes (Queen, 2001; Colantoni and Gurlekian, 2004; O’Rourke, 2005; Hickey, 2008; Fagyal, 2010; Muntendam, 2013, among others). As a result, fusion will take place, as simultaneous bilinguals will mix up intonational features belonging to each of their two languages and may develop an intonation system different from the ones used by monolinguals in each of the two languages. The third scenario corresponds to a situation where a part of a linguistic community is competent in both languages, while another part is monolingual (Romera and Elordieta, 2013). As a potential consequence, accommodation will take place when a group of speakers of a given variety of L adopt certain characteristics of the variety of that same L as spoken by a different group of speakers.

This paper explores the intonational consequences of language contact in Galicia, a bilingual territory where two languages, Galician (G) and Galician Spanish (GS), are spoken. More specifically, the paper focuses on the intonation of Wh- questions in G and GS, as this group of questions has scarcely been explored. Up to the present day, most studies on Galician intonation have delved into either very general issues (Carril, 1973) or the intonation of statements and Yes/No questions (Fernández Rei, 2005; Fernández Rei *et al.*, 2007; Fernández Rei and Escourido, 2008; Pérez Castillejo, 2012; Fernández Rei, 2016), while the analysis of Wh- questions has been dealt with only partially. In this sense, Fernández Rei (1997: 250) points to the intonation of Wh- questions in Galician as showing a falling contour, where the Wh- word shows a remarkably high pitch followed by a progressive fall. It is yet to be seen whether native G intonation has had an impact on the Spanish spoken in this territory, whether the intonation system of G and that of GS have stayed separate, or whether the intonation contours of the varieties of Spanish spoken outside Galicia have left a mark on the G patterns.

In order to achieve this goal, a corpus comprising 546 Wh- questions collected by means of the *Discourse Completion Task* is analysed. The data obtained from bilingual speakers show that the intonation patterns of Wh- questions in GS are the same as in G, while they differ from the intonation patterns of Wh- questions in the other documented varieties of Peninsular Spanish (Central Peninsular Spanish, Manchego, Andalusian, Cantabrian, Asturian and Leonese Spanish). This suggests that there exists a direct intonational transfer phenomenon from G to the variety of Spanish spoken by bilingual speakers in Galicia.

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