

Voices of The Andes: Intonation and Language Contact in Peru and Argentina

Grayson Russell, Valentina Di Domenico, Franco Cangahuala; Dr. Antje Muntendam, Dr. Alexander Rice

Department of Modern Languages and Linguistics

INTRODUCTION:

- Our project investigates the effect of Quechua and Spanish bilingualism on the intonation of questions.
- The goal of this research is to identify which components of Spanish are influenced by the features of Quechua.
- This work uncovers greater insight into the general patterns that underlie language contact.
- We aim to better understand what features are able to cross-linguistically influence one another or transfer across languages entirely.

BACKGROUND:

- Quechuan languages and Spanish came into contact when the Spaniards arrived in the Andes region and began establishing colonies.
- Spanish became the dominant language, but Quechua speakers maintained their language, particularly in rural areas away from large cities.
- Most Quechua speakers also speak Spanish as a second language, leading to widespread bilingualism.
- This bilingualism has produced a unique dialect of Spanish and marked Spanish influence on Quechuan languages.
- In Quechua, questions are marked using morphological features instead of rising pitch, as in Spanish.

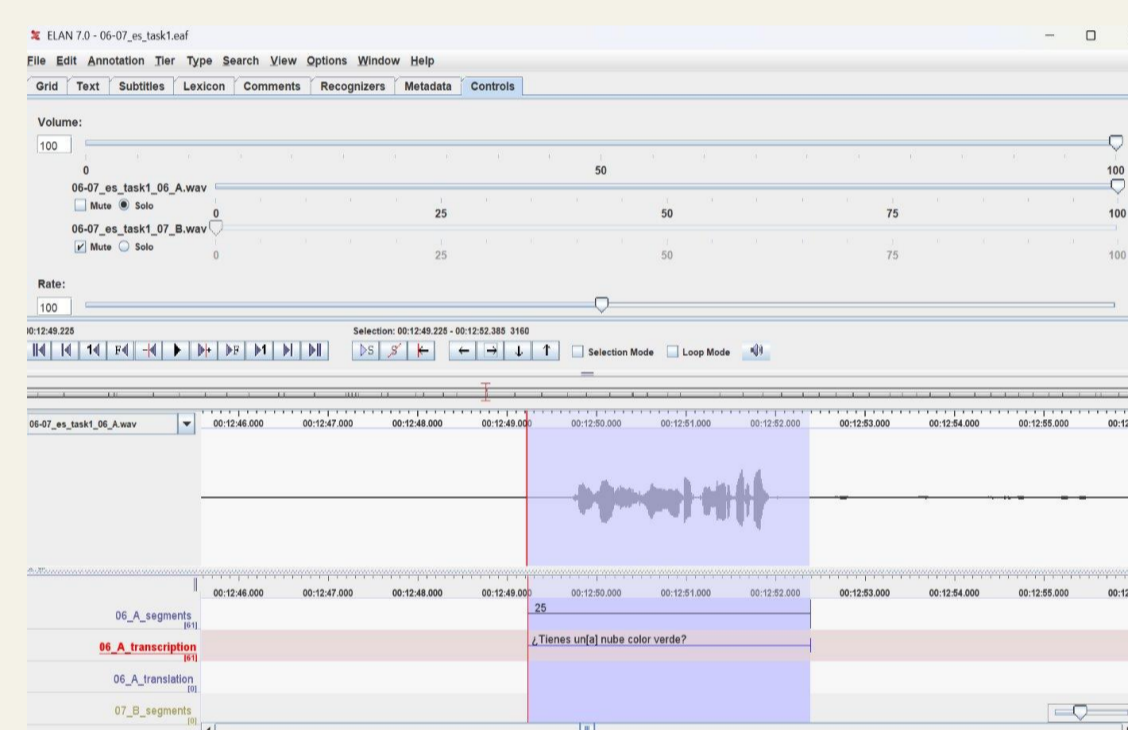
RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- How does Quechua–Spanish bilingualism influence the intonation of questions asked by bilingual speakers?
- Do bilingual speakers ask questions without classical Spanish intonation due to Quechua influence?

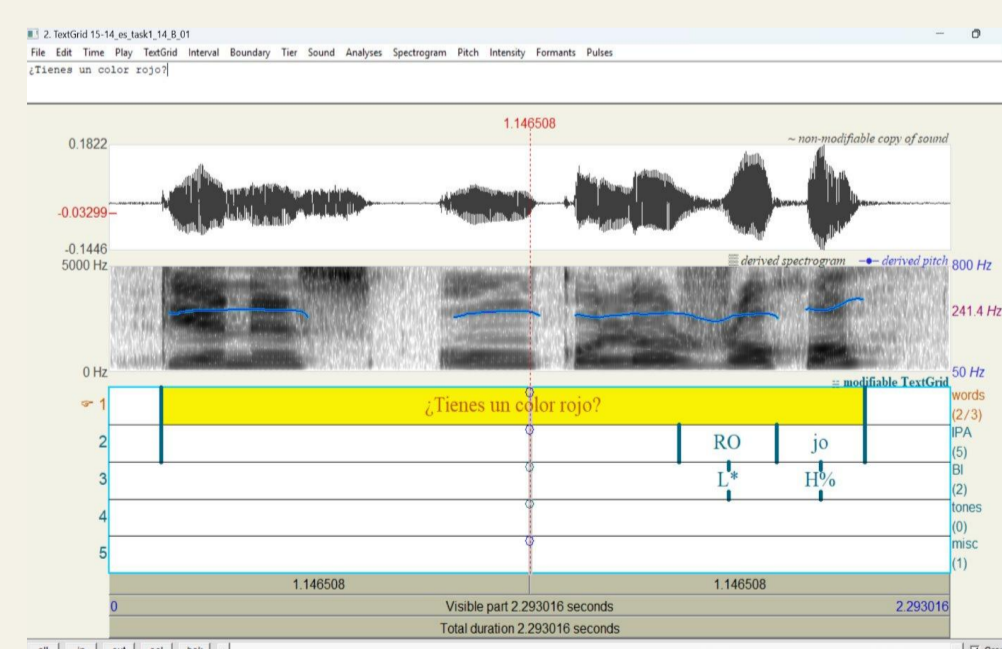
METHODOLOGY:

In order to gather linguistic data...

1. Quechua-Spanish bilinguals in Peru and Argentina were asked to participate in pairs in a language game designed to elicit questions as participants asked each other for information about a card in front of them (for example, ¿qué tienes? – what do you have? And yes-no questions).
2. These sessions were recorded (audio and video), and the data was then sent back to the United States for analysis.
3. ELAN (a linguistic annotation software) was used to isolate the questions asked during the session from the rest of the audio data.



4. Segments were then exported to Praat for syllabic division and tone labeling with the Sp_ToBI system:



5. Processed data was returned to Dr. Antje Muntendam and Dr. Alexander Rice for further analysis.

This methodology enabled us to clearly see the portions of linguistic data we were interested in – most particularly Praat. Instead of relying on hearing alone, Praat provides a visual representation of spoken linguistic data, allowing for an empirical (as opposed to subjective) view of the data collected.

PRELIMINARY RESULTS

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NEXT STEPS

- Further research is required to fully uncover the relationship between syntax and prosody in the Spanish–Quechua contact scenario, and continued analysis of the collected data is needed.
- More data on the syntax–prosody interface and other interacting features that are not fully understood would be useful.

REFERENCES

Language map of Peru courtesy of *Ethnologue* (www.ethnologue.com), used under the default license. Muysken, Pieter/Muntendam, Antje (2016), *Interfacing interfaces: Quechua and Spanish in the Andes*, in: Fischer, Susann/Gabriel, Christoph, *Manual of Grammatical Interfaces in Romance*. Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter
ELAN image and Praat image provided by Grayson Russell.

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