

ABSTRACT

This thesis examines the intonation patterns found in two varieties of Spanish, as spoken in Lima and Cuzco, Peru, and compares them with the patterns found for Cuzco Quechua. Utterances are analyzed in two pragmatic contexts, both broad and contrastive focus, and in two modalities, both declaratives and interrogatives. The intonation contours are examined within the Autosegmental Metrical (AM) model of intonation. In addition to conducting a cross-dialectal analysis of Peruvian Spanish, this dissertation adopts a sociolinguistic approach in order to examine the possibility of contact between the prosodic systems of Spanish and the indigenous language of Quechua. That is, within Cuzco, speakers with different language backgrounds are compared, including native Spanish speakers, native Quechua-Spanish bilinguals, and native Quechua speakers who are also second language learners of Spanish.

This dissertation attempts to answer the following questions. First, is Peruvian Spanish intonation similar to other varieties of Spanish intonation previously described in the literature? Also, does Cuzco Spanish intonation differ from that observed in Lima, a region with historically less contact with Quechua? And last, does Cuzco Spanish demonstrate features also found in Cuzco Quechua, which would suggest the possibility of intonation contact?

In order to address these questions, a corpus of Quechua declaratives drawn from semi-spontaneous recordings is examined in order to identify the types of intonation contours observed. Prenuclear peaks are shown to be aligned within the stressed syllable for nearly all Quechua tokens. Also, the majority of peaks in Quechua are downstepped, although relatively even adjacent peaks and upstepped peaks are observed for both Quechua-Spanish bilinguals and native Quechua speakers.

For the analysis of Spanish, data are collected via a reading task. In broad focus declaratives, the peaks and valleys in the fundamental frequency contour (F0) are examined for height and also alignment relative to the stressed syllable. Lima speakers demonstrate posttonic alignment of prenuclear peaks, similar to previous descriptions of other varieties of Spanish. Cuzco speakers range from all posttonic prenuclear peaks to all tonic prenuclear peaks, with intermediate alignment patterns as well. Speakers from the different native language groups are spread across the different alignments observed. For the feature peak height, variation is found in both Lima and Cuzco. Distinct patterns are identified for the nuclear peak, which may be lower, even, or higher than the previous peak.

In the analysis of utterances with contrastive focus, in comparison to the broad focus utterances previously described, several prominence-lending features are observed, including earlier peaks on the subject under focus, greater downstep between focal and postfocal peaks, and a compressed postfocal tonal range. As a group, Lima speakers demonstrate the use of several of these features, whereas the Cuzco group (combining monolingual and bilingual speakers) does not demonstrate as many focus features, although two monolingual Spanish speakers do pattern similar to the Lima group. The other Cuzco monolingual and bilingual speakers either show some features in the direction predicted, no features, or features in the opposite direction. The mixed results from Cuzco demonstrate the heterogeneity of the Spanish spoken in Cuzco, as well as the complexity of the language contact situation.

In the analysis of interrogatives, both yes/no and pronominal questions in Quechua are shown to end in a fall, similar to declaratives, which is consistent with impressionistic descriptions of Quechua found in the literature. On the other hand, a rise is observed in Spanish yes/no and pronominal questions in both Lima and Cuzco. Also, the initial peak is higher in questions for nearly all speakers in Spanish. Since questions are realized with a final fall in Quechua and a final rise in Spanish, the Quechua-Spanish bilinguals and native Quechua speakers appear to be maintaining two different intonation systems for Quechua and for Spanish.

This study offers an initial description of both Peruvian Spanish and Quechua intonation using instrumental analysis. Lima and some Cuzco Spanish speakers are shown to coincide with previous descriptions of other varieties of Spanish, depending on the feature considered. More variation is found within Cuzco, including patterns of tonic peak alignment, which are not previously found in broad focus, except in other contact varieties of Spanish. In addition, Cuzco Quechua coincides with the feature of aligning prenuclear peaks within the stressed syllable. This data then suggest the possibility of contact between prosodic systems. However, not all intonation features are shown to be influenced. For example, the final fall in questions in Quechua is maintained, while the final rise in questions in Spanish is produced by all three language groups in Cuzco. This research then demonstrates the importance of examining several intonation features for possible contact, since not all features may undergo the same change. The thesis leaves open several key issues for future research, including which intonation features are more susceptible to change, and what sociolinguistic factors may contribute to the evolution of different intonation features in both Spanish and in other languages in contact.