

Purdue University  
**Purdue e-Pubs**

---

School of Languages and Cultures Faculty  
Publications

School of Languages and Cultures

---

2017

## Inquiries in Hispanic Linguistics: Introduction

Alejandro Cuza  
*Purdue University*, [acuza@purdue.edu](mailto:acuza@purdue.edu)

Lori Czerwionka  
*Purdue University*

Daniel J. Olson  
*Purdue University*, [danielolson@purdue.edu](mailto:danielolson@purdue.edu)

Follow this and additional works at: <https://docs.lib.purdue.edu/lcpubs>

---

### Recommended Citation

Cuza, A., Czerwionka, L., & Olson, D. (2016). Introduction. In A. Cuza, L. Czerwionka, & D. Olson (Eds.), *Inquiries in Hispanic Linguistics* (ix-xii). Amsterdam: John Benjamins Publishing Company.

This document has been made available through Purdue e-Pubs, a service of the Purdue University Libraries.  
Please contact [epubs@purdue.edu](mailto:epubs@purdue.edu) for additional information.

**Introduction to *Inquiries in Hispanic linguistics: From empirical evidence to linguistic theory***

**Alejandro Cuza, Lori Czerwionka, & Daniel J. Olson**

*Purdue University*  
640 Oval Dr., West Lafayette, IN 47907, USA



This collection of peer-reviewed research papers originated from the 18<sup>th</sup> *Hispanic Linguistics Symposium*, hosted by the Department of Spanish and Portuguese, in the School of Languages and Cultures at Purdue University in November of 2014. The *Hispanic Linguistics Symposium* has emerged as the foremost international conference for the study of Spanish and Portuguese linguistics. It has brought together researchers from all over the world and has been at the forefront of innovation and development in the field. We are honored to have been elected by the membership to host this symposium in 2014.

Four international experts participated as keynote speakers: José Camacho, Juana Liceras, Laura Colantoni, and Anna María Escobar. José Camacho (Rutgers University), focusing primarily on issues of syntax and assertion structure, argued for a bi-clausal analysis of clefts, owing to a structure with both a presupposition and assertion. Juana Liceras (University of Ottawa), drawing on data from null and overt subjects and bilingual gender representation, called for a balance between formal and empirical approaches. Laura Colantoni (University of Ottawa) discussed the conceptual framework of *mestizaje* and advocated for consideration of a variety of multilingual identities and the role of literacy in research on bilingualism and second language learning. Finally, Ana Maria Escobar (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign) addressed Peruvian Spanish attributive constructions. Informed by a fine-grained linguistic analysis of Peruvian colonial documents, she argued for contact-induced change and highlighted the importance of tracing contact influences.

In addition to these four esteemed speakers, we welcomed over 150 delegates from Canada, Spain, Puerto Rico, the UK, Norway and the United States. There were 80 oral and 63 poster presentations. Topics discussed at the symposium represented current research in theoretical syntax and semantics, phonetics and phonology, pragmatics, second language acquisition, bilingualism, and language contact and variation. These presentations provided new and interesting research frameworks, prompting future work and collaborations for researchers.

This conference would not have been possible without the collaboration of many colleagues who volunteered their time and expertise to serve as reviewers, including Jessi Aaron, Gabriela Alfaraz, Patricia Amaral, Mark Amengual, Grant Armstrong, Meghan Armstrong, Brandon Baird, Hilary Barnes, Sarah Blackwell, Barbara E. Bullock, Joyce Bruhn de Garavito, Jennifer Cabrelli-Amaro, José Camacho, Richard Cameron, Pilar Chamorro, Laura Colantoni, Sonia Colina, Olga Cruz Moya, María C. Cuervo, Ana de Prada Pérez, Manuel Díaz-Campos, Olga Dmitrieva, Laura Domínguez, Paola Dussias, Anna María Escobar, Bruno Estigarribia, César Félix-Brasdefer, Maria Fionda, Kimberly Geeslin, Verónica González López, Pedro Guijarro-Fuentes, Tim Gupton, Javier Gutiérrez-Rexach, Nick Henriksen, José Ignacio Hualde, Jill Jegerski, Mary Johnson, Tiffany Judy, Paula Kempchinsky, Dale Koike, Ryan LaBrozzi, Delano Lamy, Patxi Lascurain, John Lipski, Gillian Lord, Andrew Lynch, Jonathan MacDonald, Jim Michnowicz, Karen Miller, Silvina Montrul, Terrell Morgan, Kara Morgan-Short, Francisco Ordóñez, Luis Ortiz-López, Ivan Ortega Santos, Diego Pascual y Cabo, Ana T. Pérez-Leroux, Silvia Perpiñán, Yasaman Rafat, Alma Ramirez-Trujillo, Rajiv Rao,

Joel Rini, Jason Rothman, Nuria Sagarra, Alfonso Sánchez, Liliana Sánchez, Cristina Sánchez López, Scott Schwenter, Sandro Sessarego, Miquel Simonet, Sarah Sinnot, Eva María Suárez-Büendender, Jacqueline A. Toribio, Elena Valenzuela, Bill Van Patten, Julio Villa-García, Ricard Viñas-de-Puig, Erik Willis, Maria Luisa Zubizareta, and Iker Zulaica. To all of them, we would like to extend our deepest gratitude.

We are especially grateful to our graduate students in Hispanic linguistics for their dedication and hard work as members of the organizing committee: Tatiana Artamonova, Mara Barbosa, César Gutiérrez, Ana J. Hernández Morales, Eric Follett, Norma Garrido, Fernando Llanos, Julio César López Otero, Daniela Marinho Ribeiro, Antonio Martín Gómez, Cezar Medeiros, Lauren Miller, Carmen Octavio, Heather Offerman, Jorge Peña, Miguel Rincón, Maria Yakushkina, and Boris Yelin. Many thanks as well to Purdue Conference Services, and especially to LaTayna Green for her fantastic work and assistance with the organization of the event. Finally, we would like to thank the College of Liberal Arts at Purdue University for their generous financial support. Without the effort, dedication, and support of all of these people, the *18<sup>th</sup> Hispanic Linguistics Symposium* would not have been such a success.

Title: Introduction

Running Head: Introduction

Authors: Alejandro Cuza, Lori Czerwionka, and Daniel J. Olson

Affiliation: Purdue University

In this volume, we showcase a total of eighteen peer-reviewed articles, driven by both formal and empirical approaches, which illustrate the quality of the papers presented at the 18<sup>th</sup> *Hispanic Linguistics Symposium* and the scope of the research being currently conducted in Hispanic linguistics. This volume is divided into three over-arching sections: Syntactic and Semantic Approaches, Phonetic and Phonological Perspectives, and Language Contact and Variation.

The first part of the volume (Part I), comprised of seven chapters, focuses on research in the areas of Spanish syntax and semantics. In Chapter 1, Camacho draws on evidence from focalizing copulas and demonstrative-like elements in Colombian Spanish to argue for a bi-clausal analysis of cleft constructions. Armstrong (Chapter 2) proposes a unified account of three types of constructions where the clitic pronoun SE appears (e.g., *quejarse*, *zamparse*). He argues that these types of verbs represent verb classes that are specified to select a “defective” head in their predicate-argument structure. In Chapter 3, Frank provides an analysis of secondary complementizer structures in Spanish, addressing the extent to which these structures are associated with a decrement in acceptability judgment. He offers a processing-based account in an attempt to provide a unifying analysis of the status of this structure in both English and Spanish. In Chapter 4, Domínguez and Hicks investigate the status of null and postverbal subjects in the grammar of long-term Cuban and Peninsular Spanish native speakers residing in Miami and the UK. The authors argue that the differences observed (attributed to adult L1 attrition) can be best accounted for in terms of grammatical reconfiguration and changes in the lexical feature specifications of functional categories, much like cases of intra-speaker variation in monolingual grammars. Steuck follows a variationist view in Chapter 5 to examine finite clausal complementation with respect to the prosodic integration of matrix clauses (MC)



and complement clauses (CC). He shows that various factors, including the amount of intervening material between the MC verb and CC, as well as the MC subject, serve to condition potential integration of the MC and CC into a single intonation unit. In Chapter 6, Padilla-Reyes, Gutiérrez-Rexach, and González explore extremeness in Spanish, using examples from Puerto Rican Spanish. They provide a unified semantic account as to how extremeness is encoded in adjectival, nominal, and verbal elements. Gielau (Chapter 7) investigates the use of the subjunctive in negation-triggered-clauses and demonstrates that negated epistemic predicates share properties in common with other negated predicates including emotives and perception verbs.

Collectively, the six chapters in second section of this volume (Part II) focus on phonetics, phonology, and the related interfaces with a variety of other linguistic domains. In the first chapter of this section (Chapter 8), Colantoni reflects on methodological practices in second language speech, and argues for the need to include a variety of, often excluded, multilingual identities in second language research. In addition, she discusses the impact of alphabetic writing systems on second language and bilingualism research. In the following chapter, Chapter 9, Klassen and Patience examine the phonological representation of stressed clitics in Argentine Spanish. Building on previous proposals, and employing acoustic analysis, they suggest that stressed clitics pattern after stressed affixes, as opposed to independent words. Chapter 10 showcases a study on the prosodic inventory of Afro-Bolivian Spanish declarative utterances by Sessarego and Rao. The authors show that Afro-Bolivian Spanish has a reduced inventory of phonological targets, for both pitch accents and boundary tones, relative to many other varieties of Spanish and propose that the Afro-Bolivian prosodic inventory may be considered to be the result of conventionalized advanced second language acquisition processes. In Chapter 11, García

combines acoustic analyses of both segmental and suprasegmental features in his discussion of the intonation of Peruvian Amazonian Spanish. The author found consistent tonal alignment within the stressed vowel, and accounts for the results within the framework of the Segmental Anchoring Hypothesis. Regan (Chapter 12) employs qualitative discourse analysis and quantitative phonetic analysis to provide insights into the use of *hombre* as a discourse marker in Andalusian Spanish. Results show differing prosodic cues for the distinct pragmatic functions of *hombre*, providing further evidence for the usefulness of the interactional prosody approach for the study of multifunctional discourse markers. Delgado-Díaz and Galarza (Chapter 13) examine the contributions of sociolinguistic and phonetic variation on the perception of posterior /r/ in Puerto Rican Spanish. Their analysis revealed that a speaker's age and sex significantly impacted perception of the allophones of /r/ and /h/. Moreover, phonological context (e.g., post-pausal vs. intervocalic) also served to impact perception.

In the final section of the book (Part III), a series of five chapters explores issues in Spanish language contact and variation. Morgan and Schwenter (Chapter 14) explore the subject pronoun system in the Castilian variety of Spanish, demonstrating that the pronoun system is asymmetrical. Specifically, while *tú* and *usted* are singular subject pronouns that differ in terms of formality (*tú*-informal, *usted*-formal), *vosotros* is the only productive second-person plural form for many Spaniards, independent of formality. In Chapter 15, Dauphinais Civitello and Ortiz-López examine the status of Subject-Verb word order in the grammar of Cuban speakers in Havana, Cuba. The authors found evidence of an almost invariable SV word-order with first and second subject pronouns and no correlations between word order and the lexical restrictions of the verb (unaccusative vs. unergative). Gallego (Chapter 17) investigated mood alternation among central Argentine speakers of

Spanish, considering social and semantic predictors. Results indicate differences in the use of the subjunctive by age. Moreover, volitional and directive predicates were subjunctive predictors across groups, but comment and uncertainty prompted indicative use, mainly among younger speakers. Representing a historical approach to language variation, Diadone and Zahler (Chapter 17) contribute an analysis of future-in-the-past constructions spanning six centuries from 1580 to 2004. The authors analyze variation considering the use of the conditional (e.g., *iría* “would go”) and imperfect *go*-periphrasis (e.g., *iba a ir* “was going to go”) for future-in-the-past expressions. They compare the results to prior findings related to diachronic variation of canonical future constructions, indicating a shift from the synthetic future (e.g., *irá* “will go”) to periphrastic future (e.g., *va a ir* “is going to go”). Finally, in Chapter 18, Rodríguez-Mondoñedo and Fafulas investigate the phenomenon of double possession (e.g., *mi nombre de mí*, “my name of me”) in Peruvian Amazonian Spanish. The authors examine whether this type of construction can be accounted for by theories of language contact and change, naturalistic interlanguage development, or parametric restructuring.

Taken as a whole, this volume represents the current scope of the field of Hispanic linguistics, drawing on a variety of formal and empirical methods and addressing a range of relevant linguistic fields. Moreover, the high quality of the research presented here reflects on the standing of the *Hispanic Linguistics Symposium* and the state of the field in general. Moving forward, it is our hope that this volume, in conjunction with the *Hispanic Linguistics Symposium*, will serve as the impetus for future research and collaboration.