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Analysis of Linguistic Features of Two Argentinean Cities

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Oral Presentation 05.1

ANALYSIS OF LINGUISTIC FEATURES OF TWO
ARGENTINEAN CITIES

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Throughout the centuries the Spanish language has evolved to include many dialects that slightly differ from the “standard” language as described by the Real Academia (Royal Academy of the Spanish Language). Each of these dialects distinguishes itself from others due to linguistic differences pertaining to phonology, phonetics, morphology, syntax, semantics, and/or pragmatics. The Argentinean Spanish dialect distinguishes itself from other Hispanic dialects and, like other languages, even contains its own regional styles, or variants. The two Argentinean variants to be studied here are those of San Francisco, Córdoba and Buenos Aires. Specifically, I will focus on the tendencies of the use of the: (a) periphrastic future, *voy a comer* ‘I will eat,’ and (b) the more archaic morphological future, *comeré* ‘I will eat,’ a preference that varies among the Spanish-speaking dialects. The purpose of this study is to examine the linguistic features in the oral production of native speakers and determine the extent that the production of verbs pertaining to the future is influenced by the gender, age, and regional situation of the speaker.

The subjects of this study are native Argentinean citizens between the ages of 10 and 75. The subjects were chosen to equally represent gender and three age groups. Data was collected and analyzed from middle or middle-upper class speakers that did not have significant linguistic influences from other languages. Additionally, subjects were examined from the two aforementioned cities to test for variances pertaining to regional situation or idiosyncratic tendencies. Buenos Aires is Argentina’s capital, with many international influences, while San Francisco, in the province of Córdoba, is a remote agricultural and industrial town. The comparison of data from both towns will demonstrate to which extent the aforementioned linguistic tendencies vary on a sub national level.

The subjects participated in an audio tape-recorded half an hour session with the investigator, which included a series of informal open-ended questions that aimed to elicit responses in the future tense. Upon my return to the United States, the recordings were transcribed and analyzed for instances of concurrence of different future tenses.

The findings show that the future and near (morphological and periphrastic) future tenses are used interchangeably with a bias toward the use of the periphrastic future tense. Furthermore, preliminary findings indicate that although there may exist some minor differences in verb usage based on gender and age, there are no substantial differences that can be attributed to the regional situation of the speaker.