

Contact phenomena between Aymara and Spanish: the grammatical replication of the Spanish prepositional direct object.

In the Andean Plateau, people from different cultures and languages have been coexisting for centuries. This long-term coexistence has determined a wide range of contact phenomena in the languages of the region. This study investigates the language contact between La Paz Aymara (La Paz-Bolivia) and Spanish. It specifically focuses on the grammatical replication (Heine & Kuteva 2005) of the prepositional DO from Spanish to Aymara.

Spanish displays a formal distinction between two types of DO: (i) the prepositional DO (1) with the preposition *a* ‘to’ for objects with the semantic traits [+ defined] and [+ animated]; and (ii) the unmarked DO (2) for all the other cases.

(1) *Vi a Beatriz* (RAE 2009: 4124)
‘I met Beatriz’

(2) *Compraba el periódico todas las mañanas* (RAE 2009: 4065)
‘Every morning, s/he bought the newspaper’

According to grammars (Hardman *et al.* 2001), Aymara expresses DO through the deletion of the vowel final-root.

(3) *Mä jisk’a jamp’at uywatänax* (AILLA:4_AY_MIS)
mä jisk’a jamp’at(u)-cØ uywa-täna-x(a)
one small frog-ACC raise-3>3.PNOE-TOP
‘S/he raised a small frog’

The present study aims to show that a replication process is underway. In oral speech, Spanish-La Paz Aymara bilinguals replicate the Spanish semantic difference between DOs by attaching the allative suffix *-ru* to the [+ defined], [+ animated] direct object.

(4) *Jaqirus jwayxañani* (AILLA:1_AY_TASK)
jaqi-**ru**-s(a) jiwa-y(a)-xa-ñani
person-ALL-ADD die-CAUS-COMPL-1INCL.FUT
‘And we will kill the people’

The data used for the present investigation were collected during the fieldworks of Geraldine Quartararo who collected the data in the department of La Paz between 2014 and 2015. All data were collected with Aymara-Spanish bilingual speakers.

References

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