

DICTIONARY OF AMERICANISMS AS A REFLECTION OF THE SPANISH-SPEAKING WORLD LANGUAGE PICTURE IN LATIN AMERICA

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Abstract

One of the urgent tasks for the Spanish studies modern development stage is a systematic study of the variability of the Spanish language. Linguistic variability refers to the use of language in various geographical, sociocultural, contextual or historical conditions. At present, the concept of “Spanish language” acts as a kind of abstraction, as a set of national options, the formation of which is determined, first of all, by various extralinguistic factors: historical, geographical, social, cultural, economic, etc. They, in turn, will inevitably affect the identity of the national version of each individual Latin American country. This work was carried out within the framework of the concept concerning national variants of the Spanish language the author of which is the domestic scientist and academician G.V. Stepanova. Linguistic features and the national-cultural identity of Latin American Spanish are revealed at the level of vocabulary, namely, on the material of Americanisms - a complex concept that has not yet received an exact definition among domestic and foreign Hispanists. The authors describe the evolution of this concept in linguistics, describe the approaches and views of various scholars on the definition of the term “Americanism”, analyse the criteria used in compiling the “Dictionary of Americanisms”, the publication of which in 2010 changed the angle of view on the design and compilation of academic dictionaries, and also meant the end of a multi-year project that became a natural reaction to the establishment of Latin American Spanish academies in the 19th century. The theoretical provisions of the study are accompanied by relevant examples and linguistic commentary of the authors.

Keywords: variability, Spanish, Americanism, Latin America, Dictionary.

1. INTRODUCTION

Exploring Latin American Spanish, G.V. Stepanov spoke of its “national features”: “The American version of the Spanish language has its own history for more than four centuries; the Latin America countries have their own linguistic tradition, their own linguistic policy, their aesthetic understanding of the norms of popular speech” [1: 8]. National kinds (or variants thereof) are specific forms of adaptation to the conditions of

a single language, the needs of social development and traditions of the nations (speakers of the language) and is a special form of functioning of a common language. This is exactly what happened with the Spanish language in Latin American countries: in the conditions of the separate use of the single Spanish language in the proper territorial, historical and social space, its own characteristic features have been developed in each case, according to which the language is differentiated in different national communities.

An important fact in the differentiation of the Spanish language is the situation of multilingualism, prevailing in most Latin American countries, where there are substrate influences of local Indian languages on the official state Spanish language. Native languages have become the main source of penetration of Americanisms into the Spanish language, the selection and fixing of which in lexicographic sources is one of the main prerogatives of modern Spanish studies in general, and interviant dialectology in particular [2].

2. METHODS

The material of the study was the Dictionary of Americanisms developed by the Association of Academies of Spanish and published in 2010, which, in a certain sense, changed the angle of view on the design and compilation of academic dictionaries. Descriptive, comparative and inductive methods, the method of content analysis and linguistic interpretation were used in the interpretation of the lexemes.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Before proceeding to a detailed analysis concerning the compilation of the dictionary of Americanisms, we will try to understand the meaning of the word "Americanism" - a controversial phenomenon, the existence of which many linguists deny: "If we could not establish the specific distinguishing features of American Spanish, it would be better not to talk about "Americanisms"" [4: 148]. We also cite the words of M. Unamuno regarding the excessive discourse of linguists on the lexical originality of American Spanish: "I will not tire of repeating, not a thousand, but two hundred thousand times, that most of the alleged originality of the Castilian language in Latin America is not, and this error is explained by minimal knowledge of truly conversational and lively Castilian" [5]. Thus, certain lexical and semantic elements reflecting the originality of the language in Latin America, or penetrating the language from one of the autochthonous languages of the continent, are considered to be Americanisms.

Since the 16th century, Americanisms have undergone a natural process of evolution and selection. For the first conquerors, it was difficult to explain with the words of their language the realities of a new civilization that more resembled mysterious eastern lands than the Old World. The language of the conquerors constantly expanded their capabilities for designating and nominating related tribal realities (*venado* - deer, *liebre* - hare, *nogales* - nuts, *piña* - pineapple, etc.), the meanings of which did not fully correspond to what they knew on the peninsula, however, showed a certain similarity. Thus, there was a process that in 1982 Alvar Lopez called crealization (*acriollamiento*): the full adaptation of Spanish lexical items to the New World [6].

The next stage was characterized by the establishment of a strong connection between the Spanish and Native American languages: the interpenetration and

interchange of lexical items as they became acquainted with new objects, plants and animals. Thus, Americanisms of Amerindian origin penetrated into the Spanish language, for the most part denoting natural phenomena. Thus, there was an expansion of the semantic meaning of patrimonial lexemes, or an adaptation of new ones originating from native languages - hence the understanding of "Americanisms" as a special feature of the Spanish language of Latin America.

For the first time, the word "Americanism" was defined in 1853: "proper and familiar words for use by the Latin American peoples" [7]. But only in 1928 Costa Alvarez put forward the need to specify the significance of Americanisms [8]. Starting from this moment, many linguists in prologues to dictionaries or from the pages of scientific papers and specialized works have theorized and argued about this term and its involvement in linguistic disciplines in general. For example, Marcos A. Morinigo in the prologue of his dictionary "Diccionario de Americanismos" in 1985 understands by Americanisms: 1) Native American lexical items firmly incorporated into the general or regional Spanish language, retaining their etymological form, or undergoing certain phonetic and morphological changes; at the same time, the average speaker does not know about their Latin American roots (*tabaco - tobacco, butaca - chair, cigarro - cigar, huracán - hurricane, hamaca - hammock, maíz - corn, etc.*); 2) words that originated in Latin America or descended from Spanish roots to refer to creatures, objects and phenomena of nature, culture and life of Latin American peoples (*armadillo - armadillo, churrasco - charcoal meat, barbecue, chapetón - European, quebracho - quebracho, etc.*); 3) Spanish words, the meaning of which has changed to some extent in Latin America: the use of the Spanish nomination to denote a similar (sometimes metaphorically) Latin American reality (*león - lion, laurel - laurel, lagarto - lizard, etc.*) or the process of semantic variability (*estancia - stay, hacienda - estate, playa 'explantada' - 'flattened' beach, etc.*); 4) archaisms, marinisms and Spanish regionalisms unknown today in the Spanish language of the peninsula, but actively used in Latin America in their original or changed meaning (*garúa - drizzle, durazno - peach, carozo - corncob, etc.*); 5) Latinisms, Hellenisms, Anglicisms, Africanisms, etc., which became part of the American Spanish language under the influence of trade, sports, technical, geographical, and other factors.

It is curious that if, as early as 1953, A. Rabanales considered their etymological origin as the starting criterion for distinguishing Americanisms, then already in 1969 X.P. Rona talked about the difficulties of highlighting linguistic reality which could be called "American Spanish", and, as a result, the impossibility of accepting the existence of Americanisms. Jose de Montes believed that the following criteria could be taken into account: 1) the original source of the lexical item (indigenism, words of foreign origin or internal development); 2) the expansion of meaning, having a different nature (international, pan-Spanish, pan-American, zonal, national, regional or local); 3) stylistic changes; 4) sociocultural levels; 5) semantic fields, etc. [9].

Diccionario de Americanismos is the first lexicographic work that, independently of the generally recognized vocabulary Diccionario de la Real Academia Española (DRAE), selects words that are characteristic of Latin America. The dictionary, with 70,000 lexical items and 120,000 meanings, offers a set of words, phrases, and expressions that function in the Spanish language of Latin America.

The creators of the dictionary make it clear that the purpose of this lexicographic work is not to create a normative corpus of the language, but to describe the formal and semantic features of the various varieties of Spanish in Latin America: "as detailed as possible detailing the geographical, social and cultural characteristics of the use of each

presented lexical item "[11]. Sampling is from all Latin American areas, including US Spanish. The decision to include a lexical item in the dictionary is determined, according to the director of the Association, H. Lopez Morales, by the frequency of its use among Hispanic citizens (and not the total population) of each Latin American country.

Let us illustrate the difference between the DA and DRAE dictionaries by the example of Americanism *chancho* and indigenism *chocolate*.

chancho - DRAE (De sancho).

- 1. m.Am. cerdo (|| mamífero artiodáctilo).
- 2. m.Am. puerco (|| hombre sucio). Ut c. adj.

chancho - DA

- I. 1. m.Ni, CR, Ch, Ar, Ur. Carne de cerdo.
- 2. Ch. Embutido de carne de cerdo.
- II. 1. m.Ch, Ar, NO, Ur. En el juego del domino, ficha de número doble. pop + cult espon.
- III. 1. m.Pe ; Ch, obsol. pop + cult -> espon; m.pl.CR. Conjunto de ambas nalgas. fest.
- IV. 1. m.Pe, Ch, Bo. Eructo. pop + cult -> espon.
- V. 1. m.Ar. En un transporte público, inspector encargado de controlar que los viajeros están provistos de billete.
- VI. 1. m.Ni, Bo, Ch, Py. Recipiente con una ranura para guardar dinero, generalmente de barro y con forma de cerdito.
- VII. 1. m.Bo. Cerdo lechón adobado con ají, limón, pimienta negra, cominos y sal, que se cuece al horno y se sirve acompañado de papas, plátanos, camotes, ensalada y llajua.
- VIII. 1. m. Utensilio de limpieza que sirve para abrillantar suelos, compuesto por un palo largo sujeto a un eje situado en la parte superior de un armazón en el que va acoplado un cepillo de cerdas.
- 2. Ch. Enceradora eléctrica. pu
- IX. 1. m.Ch. Cigarro grueso de marihuana. drog.

The lexical item *chancho* was first mentioned in the explanatory dictionary in 1914 with common meanings ("puerco", "hombre sucio") identical to DRAE. In turn, the *chocolate* lexeme is mentioned in the first lexicographic work of the Royal Academy of Spanish "Diccionario de Autoridades" with the general meaning ("Bebida que se hace de la planta llamada también chocolate ...").

chocolate - DRAE (Etim. disc. ; cf. náhuatl *xocoatl*, de *xoro*, amargo, y *atl*, agua).

- 1. m. Pasta hecha con cacao y azúcar molidos, a la que generalmente se añade canela o vainilla.
- 2. m. Bebida que se hace de esta pasta desleída y cocida en agua o en leche.
- 3. m. coloq. Hachís.

el ~ del loro.

- 1. m. coloq. Ahorro insignificante en relación con la economía que se busca.

chocolate - DA (Del náhuatl *xocoatl*; de *xococ*, ácido, y *atl*, agua).

- I. 1. adj. Mx ilegal. pop.
 - II. 1. m. Ec, Ch, Ur. Sangre, especialmente la que fluye por hemorragia nasal. pop.
 - III. 1. m. Bo. En ejército, ejercicio físico de castigo que consiste en flexionar repetidamente las piernas manteniendo recto el cuerpo.
- ~ aireado. m. Ar, Ur. Tableteado de chocolate en cuya preparación se introduce aire antes de que se haya sofisticado.

¡~ Por la noticia! fr.prov.Ar. Ur.Indica que lo dicho por alguien como novedad ya es conocido por todos. pop.

Before the dictionary of Americanisms was published, Lopez Morales explained in detail which lexemes would be considered Americanisms and based on what criteria they would be selected in the dictionary [12: 16-19]. We list them briefly:

1)lexical items originating from the native languages of Latin America and their derivatives:

quinua.(Del quech.*Kinúwaokínua*).I.1. f. Co, Ec, Pe, Bo, ar. Planta de hasta 2 m de altura, de tallo con estrías, hojas rómbicas y flores blanquecinas, pequeñas, dispuestas en racimos con hojas tiernas; sus semillas son muy abundantes, menudas y comestibles.(Chenopodiaceae; *Chenopodium quinoa*).

milpa.(Del nahuamilli, sembradío, y pan, en, sobre).I. 1. F. Mx, Gu, Ho, ES, Ni, CR;Pe, rur.Terreno plantado de maíz ya veces de otras semillas. 2. Gu, Ho, ES, Ni. Conjunto de matas de maíz de un cultivo. 3. CR. Maizal.

Demilpa, por ejemplo, se incluyen además sus derivados*milpal, milpear, milperíoymilpero*.

2)word formation by adding:

ñacurutú.(De or. onomat.). I. 1. M. Bo, Py, Ar, Ur. Ave rapaz nocturna de hasta 50 cm de longitud, de color pardo oscuro, moteado de blanco en el dorso, garganta blanca y penachos auriculares pronunciados. (*Strigide; Bubo virginianus*).

sifrino, -a.I.1. adj/sust.Ve. Referido a persona, lechuguina, de gustos sofisticados o fatuos, y con cierto aire despectivo frente a lo que considera socialmente inferior. pop.

3)morphological creolism:

tortilla.I. 1.f. EU, Mx, Gu, Ho, ES, Ni, CR, Pa, RD, Pe, Bo, Ch, Ar. Alimento en forma de torta circular y aplanada, elaborado con masa de maíz o trigo, que se cuece generalmente sobre un comal o rescoldo.

quinua de Castilla.F. Ec. Moco de pavo, planta.

4)lexical items of Spanish origin that have changed their meaning:

¡Águila!interj. Mx Expresa el hecho de que alguien esté prevenido, atento o vigilante a algo oa alguien.

chote.I. 1. m. Pe. Rechazo o desdén hacia una persona. (choteo). II. 1. m. Ni. Capullo de una flor.

estancia.I.1. f. EU, Ni, Pa, PR, Ve, Ec, Pe, Bo, Ch, Py, Ar, Ur. Finca agrícola o ganadera de gran extensión. 2. Cu, RD, Ve. Casa de campo situada cerca de una ciudad. 3. Bo. Terreno, generalmente de gran extensión, cercado con alambre, donde pasta el ganado vacuno. pop. II. one. F. Bo. Aldea en la altiplanicie andina, con viviendas rústicas y población estable. pop.

5)Spanish archaisms used in Latin America:

vidriera.I.1. f. Ni, Cu, Ve, Ch, Ar, Ur. Escaparate de un comercio.

botar (se). I. 1. Tr. Mx, Gu, Ho, ES, Ni, Pa, Cu, RD, PR, Co, Ve, Ec, Pe, Bo, Ch, Ar. Despedir a alguien de un empleo. 2.Mx, Ho, ES, Ni, Pe, Ch, Ar. Abandonar o dejar sin cuidado a alguien o algo.

6)Lexical items originating from other languages (including Africanisms):

carro.(Del ingl.*Car*).I. 1. m. EU, Mx, Gu, Ho, ES, Ni, Pa, Cu, RD, PR, Co, Ve, Pe. Automóvil. 2. Mx, Ni, CR, Cu, Co, Ve, Ec, Pe, Bo, Ch. Vehículo automotor, generalmente de cuatro ruedas, destinado al transporte de personas o carga. 3. Ve. Carreta. 4. Ch. pu Vehículo pequeño de tracción utilizado para la venta ambulante de comidas o bebidas.

ñinga.(De la familia bantú). I. 1. F. Pa, cu, RD, PR. Excremento. vulg; pop + cult. -> espon.2. Cu, RD. Cosa fea y mala. pop + cult. -> espon.

Note that the dictionary has indicators for the use of the lexical item in a particular country, sociolinguistic markers, links todialectal features and the degree of frequency of use. All this allows the use of lexical items in the right context and meaning.

4. SUMMARY

Obviously, the above material indicates that Americanisms are lexical items with a pronounced national-cultural specificity, which serve as a peculiar reflection of the history, traditions, culture and lifestyle of each of the Latin American countries [13; 14; 15; 16]. Thus, we can conclude that in each national version of the Spanish language, a stable common Spanish core organically co-exists and variant features due to the identity of the culture, mentality and national character.

5. CONCLUSIONS

The results of the study clearly demonstrate that the Spanish language in the territory of Latin America is an independent and self-consistent linguistic entity with linguistic and cultural features and its own set of distinctive features that make it possible to distinguish it from the common Spanish language continuum. Thus, each national variant has linguistic features and speech norms that reflect the interaction of language and culture.

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