

PLURICENTRIC LANGUAGES WORLDWIDE  
SERIES 2: RESEARCHING PLURICENTRIC LANGUAGES

Rudolf Muhr, Eugênia L. Duarte,  
Cilene Rodrigues, Juan Thomas (eds.)

# Pluricentric languages in the Americas



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VOLUME 1

Edited by  
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## Preface

This is the first of two volumes that present part of the outcome 9<sup>th</sup> World Conference on Pluricentric Languages that took place from August 26-28 2021. The volume contains fourteen contributions. The conference was organised by the “Working Group on Non-Dominant Varieties of Pluricentric Languages” (WGNDV), this time hosted by the Austrian German Research Centre in Graz. Due to the pandemic and the complications for travelling and health connected with it, the conference was held online via ZOOM much to the satisfaction of all participants. The conference had three main topics: (1) Pluricentric languages in the Americas; (2) The localisation of global audiovisual and print media in pluricentric language areas. (3) Pluricentric languages worldwide. The papers of this volume refer to topic (1) while the papers of theme (3) are published in volume (2).

All articles of this volume deal with pluricentric languages that exist in the Americas. It is the first volume of this kind that has been ever published on this topic. Section (1) contains two papers that concern the indigenous language Quechua and the Guarani-Tupi language family. Cilene Rodriguez deals in her paper with the Guarani languages, which might be classified as pluricentric languages. She presents an overview of some phonemic and grammatical aspects of these languages. Liliana Sanchez deals with Quechua that is present in three South-American countries. She provides a brief introduction to the complexity of the language family and an overview of current legislation and policies in the three Andean countries with the largest Quechua-speaking populations.

Section (2) contains five papers about the pluricentricity of Spanish in the Americas. Sebastian Greusslich gives an overview about Spanish in the Americas and shows that there is a dominance hierarchy among these varieties. And there are specific social conditions as well as political aims relevant for standardization efforts in different Hispanic Latin American countries. The author points to the impact of mass media on these processes. Benjamin Meisnitzer and Dennis Schmechel discuss whether or not there is a Central American standard variety of Spanish – or several – based on the analysis of a feature catalogue for Central American phonetics and morphosyntax that was compiled and investigated by Quesada Pacheco (2010/2013). Juan Thomas describes fourteen Anglicisms that are homonyms with a taboo word in Spanish or that give a taboo meaning from English to another word present in U.S. Spanish. His study wishes to shed light on how and why these taboo expressions can enter Spanish if they truly are unique to the Spanish of the U.S. Soledad Chávez Fajardo discusses various ideologising instances present in Spanish-American lexicography such as some aspects related to the question of Eurocen-

trism, which results in a certain Spanish lexicographical ignorance of the Latin American reality. Meredith Church's research concerns the phonetic phenomenon of unstressed vowel devoicing in Andean Spanish assessing the patterning of this phenomenon as a characteristic of a non-dominant variety of Spanish.

In section three about Portuguese in the Americas and worldwide there are five papers. Augusto Soares da Silva explores the status of the Brazilian variety of Portuguese within the pluricentricity of Portuguese and argues that the great influence of Brazilian culture, resulting from the proliferation of Brazilian audiovisual cultural products, is gradually leading to a reverted asymmetry. Four papers deal with specific linguistic features of Brazilian Portuguese often compared to other varieties of Portuguese. The paper of Eugenia Duarte et al. compares four different varieties of Portuguese that in relation to EP have developed convergent linguistic patterns; but differ from BP in relation to the other features like referential pronominal subjects. Dinah Callou et al. deal with the phonetic development of Brazilian Portuguese in respect to R-deletion in final coda position which shows considerable regional diversity in Brazil. Christina Gomes and Marcelo L. Melo researched the social patterns of sound variation in two regional varieties of European and Brazilian Portuguese which turned out to be related to the adoption of an exogenous pattern that was introduced by the royal family at the beginning of the 19th century. Raquel Meister Ko. Freitag explores the hypothesis that a trigger for the further development of Brazilian Portuguese is the effect of the changes in higher education on linguistic patterns which is due to a strong enlargement of the Brazilian educational system that has changed the profile of students. In the last section of the volume Karine Gauvin explores the question why an endogenous norm has not developed of French in Acadia (Canada). Eric Mijts gives an overview about the complex language situation of Dutch in Aruba, where a non-dominant variety of Dutch has developed, which is strongly influenced by the iterative migration of large groups of Dutch Caribbean citizens to the Netherlands.

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