Spanish loanwords in Galician. A quantitative analysis across the territory

Francisco Dubert García (francisco.dubert@usc.es)
Xulio Sousa Fernández (xulio.sousa@usc.es)
Instituto da Lingua Galega (Universidade de Santiago de Compostela)
The genetic relations of Galician

Latin

Iberian Romance

Galician-Portuguese  Leonese  Castilian  Aragonese  Catalan

Portuguese  Galician
Geographic situation of Galician

Some shared features by Spanish and Galician:

a) Devoicing of voiced fricatives
b) Development of dental fricatives
c) Delateralization of lateral palatals
• Galician and Spanish ("Castilian") have been in contact since their origins, around the 9th century.

• After the 15th century, historical development raised Spanish to the prestige language position, used in high functions: teaching, religion, political administration.

• Galician became a family language, used for private matters.

• Spanish spread out across the Galician population, even as a mother tongue, in towns and villages.

• Unequal contact led to hundreds of Spanish loanwords (known as "castilianisms") penetrating Galician.
The sociolinguistic setting

Before 1981
Roofing language (Muljačić): Spanish
Covered languages: Galician and Galician Spanish

Since 1981
Roofing languages: Castilian and Galician
Covered languages: Galician and Galician Spanish
• Galician acquired official status in 1981.
• Since 1981 Galician is taught (and used to teach other subjects) in primary and secondary schools.
• Since 1982, the RAG has been developing an official standard variety spread by teaching and used by some mass media (press, TV and radio broadcasts, internet).
• The Standard variety proposes a unified spelling and morphology, and eliminates many “castilianisms” (Spanish loanwords) from the lexicon.
• Neither Spanish nor Galician linguistics has paid much attention to Spanish loanwords in Galician.

• From the Galician point of view, “castilianisms” were perceived as threats to linguistic identity.

• Most studies of “castilianisms” only attempted to list and classify them.

• However, it is interesting to know if some part of the Galician domain is more “castilianized” than others or if “castilianisms” have a dialectal distribution.
The aim of this study is to analyse the geography of Spanish loanwords in order to find out if there exist patterns of geographical distribution and discover which areas are the most castilianized.
It is difficult to establish which words are to be considered “castilianisms”.

- Galician and Spanish undergo convergent developments: should such cases be considered “castilianisms”?
- Galician uses calques on Spanish words: are they to be considered “castilianisms”? 
Data source

Data is from the *Atlas Lingüístico Galego* (ALGa):

- Traditional *Atlas*, classical geolinguistics
- The informants are NORMs
- The data were obtained in a dialect survey performed in 1974-1977, before the Autonomy
- The *Atlas* includes 167 locations: 152 in Galicia, 7 in Asturias, 5 in León and 3 in Zamora
- 2711 questions were asked at each location (phonetics, morphology and lexicon)
- Many of the answers are Spanish loanwords.
Quantitative study:

- Software: VDM

- 72 working maps were created.

- The raw data were grouped into taxates.
  
  a) Galician form, 1
  
  b) Spanish form, 2
  
  c) No response, 0

- In the locations with two answers (Galician and Spanish), the loanword was preferred and marked as 2.

- We wanted to know where Spanish forms have arrived.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>morcego, moricego, mouricego, murucego, morcengo</th>
<th>1 (Galician forms)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>murciégano murciégalo murciégalo</td>
<td>2 (Spanish forms)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Responses for bat

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>pedraza, pedrazo, pedras, sarabia, saraiba escarabana</th>
<th>1 (Galician forms)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>granizo</td>
<td>2 (Spanish forms)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Responses for hail

miércoles 3 de agosto de 2011
Each loanword has its own history

'cradle'
green: Galician forms (berce)
blue: Spanish forms (cuna)

'palate'
green: Galician forms (ceo da boca)
blue: Spanish forms (paladar)
Density map: indices for taxate 2 (Spanish forms)

Red: higher indices of Spanish loanwords

miércoles 3 de agosto de 2011
Density map: indices for taxate 2 (Spanish forms)

Red and orange: higher indices of Spanish loanwords
Maxima similarity between locations (loanwords)
Conclusions

• Our results are provisional because we have only worked with 72 maps.

• There appear to be two routes for the penetration of Spanish loanwords in Galician: geographically, by the east; and vertically, affecting the whole domain.

• The method seems to be useful and workable because merges geolinguistics with contact linguistics.