How Do Paisas Sound?: A Look into Colombian Spanish Intonation Phonology
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According to Montes Giraldo (2000), the Paisa variation of Colombian Spanish, PCS henceforth, is local to various departments, such as Antioquia, Risaralda, and Quindío, to name a few. PCS has been studied in contexts including utterance types (Muñoz Builes 2016; Velásquez Upegui 2016a; Velásquez Upegui 2015; Velásquez Upegui 2014) and prosody and intonation (Osorio and Muñoz Builes 2011; Velásquez Upegui 2016b). However, in the known studies available more focus is often placed on other variations of Colombian Spanish and PCS is often glossed over, though it was included in the same work. That said, there is room in the field for more to be said about PCS by bringing it to the forefront of the conversation. For these reasons this study will focus predominately on the analyses of six native speakers of PCS that are university students from Antioquia University, as well as four adult natives of Bogotano Spanish. The purpose of the Bogotano data is to act, in brief, as a point of comparison as well as a control for Colombian Spanish.

Data was collected from the six PCS participants separately, three males and three females, utilizing a soundproof booth at Antioquia University. The booth was outfitted with two Shure microphones and mono WAV recordings were captured using Adobe Audition on a Mac computer. Each participant was recorded reading a Paisa story called El conejo de carguera for Task 1, and for Task 2 another Paisa story called El sapo y el venado. The same two tasks were repeated for the Bogotano Spanish speakers, and this data was obtained at the Instituto Caro y Cuervo in a quiet room directly onto a laptop. All participants were instructed to respond to the questions using SVO word order.

Upon preliminary transcription of the data for three of the PCS speakers, declarative SVO sentences containing an average of 409 prosodic word tokens per participant for Task 1 and an average of 337 prosodic word tokens per participant Task 2 were organized in separate Excel spreadsheets. The remaining three PCS speakers and the four participants for the Bogotano data are expected to average the same token count. These data will be coded via the anchor points in which the F0 changes for each participant using Praat (Boersma and Weenink 2018). The hypothesis is that the participants will either reach a high peak, or the change in F0 will be more neutral. This hypothesis is based on preliminary results in the form of observations about the difference in intonation between the two regions of the participants. This study hopes to find variation of this hypothesis among the participants, especially due to regional differences.

Future research should include a more extensive participant base from multiple generations, economic standing, and gender. Additionally, all studies cited have worked in the most urbanized areas. Therefore, work should be done to obtain participants from rural settings as well.
References:


Montes Giraldo, José Joaquín. (2000). Otros estudios sobre el español de Colombia. Santafé de Bogotá: Publicaciones del Instituto Caro y Cuervo CI.


