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Introduction

Jose Esteban Hernandez
University of Texas-Pan American

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INTRODUCTION

The idea for a compilation dedicated exclusively to issues of Spanish dialect contact in the Americas stems from the growing interest in the emergent diversity in Latino communities in the United States and in the migratory tendencies that have diversified most major urban centers in Latin America. Such diversity has been transformed into fertile ground for investigations on the linguistic, social, and psychological consequences verified in situations of dialects in contact. Thus, the selected topics of interest in this compilation hope to appeal to the researcher concerned with contact. More specifically, this special issue on *Spanish Dialect Contact in the Americas* is devoted to the study of dialects that convene geographically, bringing together scholars currently producing work on past and present dialects of Spanish in contact from the wide-ranging perspectives currently represented in the field.

The initial call for a special issue focusing on Spanish-speaking communities coming in contact responded to the burgeoning line of research that has focused on the systemic modifications and on the evaluations that arise and that in due course target these contact varieties. The effects of contact on dialect have been measured qualitatively (e.g. Potowski 2008; Toribio 2000, 2006) and quantitatively (Bayley et al 2012; Martín Butragueño 2004; Hernández 2002, 2009; Hernández and Maldonado 2012; Otheguy and Zentella 2012; Otheguy et al 2007) by U.S. and Latin American scholars. As it turns out, the papers in this issue are a representative cross-section of contemporary research on dialect contact in the Americas. Büdenbender is concerned with the linguistic perceptions, speaker identifications, and speaker attitudes that emerge in the dialect contact situation that occurs in Puerto Rico between Dominicans and Puerto Ricans. Klee, Tight, and Caravedo utilize the interface between language and dialect contact to analyze patterns of direct object/verb word order among speakers of Andean indigenous languages and rural Andean Spanish coming in close contact with speakers of *limeño* Spanish. Lipski explores a relatively underrepresented facet of Latin American Spanish, namely dialect contact along national borders. Sanz-Sánchez examines the interaction of language-internal and language-external triggers in the persistence of non-standard imperfections of the 2nd- and 3rd-conjugation in Latin American varieties. The papers included in the volume investigate the contact of the dialects of Spanish in the Americas from a wide variety of methodologies and theoretical frameworks.

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JOSÉ ESTEBAN HERNÁNDEZ
University of Texas-Pan American

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