Typological and social constraints on language contact: Amerindian languages in contact with Spanish


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PART II

THE LANGUAGES

The second part of the book focuses on the sociolinguistic, historical and typological aspects of the languages of this investigation. I pay attention therefore not only to the recipient languages (Guaraní, Otomí and Quichua) but also to the source language (Spanish).

Chapter 5 presents a general overview of Spanish in the Americas and individual descriptions of the regional varieties in contact with Guaraní, Otomí and Quichua. The first section deals with: the variation and unity of Spanish, its sociolinguistic status, its origin in the expansion of the Spanish Empire, the process of dialectal leveling in the first century of colonization, the classification of dialectal areas, and the contact between Spanish and Amerindian languages. The next three sections focus on Ecuadorian Spanish, Paraguayan Spanish and Mexican Spanish, respectively. For each variety I discuss the number of speakers, identify dialectal and sociolectal differences in the areas of research, describe contact varieties, and list the main features at phonetic, morphosyntactic and lexical levels. The fifth section deals with the typological classification of Spanish according to several features relevant for the analysis of linguistic borrowing, in particular the classification of parts of speech in the terms of Hengeveld (1992) and Hengeveld et al (2004).

Chapters 6, 7 and 8 concentrate on Quichua, Paraguayan Guaraní, and Otomí, respectively. For the sake of comparison the structure of the three chapters is uniform and includes the following information. The first section deals with the geographical distribution of the language, the number of speakers, the vitality of the language and other sociolinguistic information. The second section addresses the history of the language. The third section describes the dialectal distribution, with a focus on the varieties selected for this study. The final section discusses the typological classification of the language according to the parameters considered for the classification of Spanish. It includes the language-specific predictions of borrowing according to the typological classification of each language.

Chapter 9 discusses the borrowing hypothesis in comparative perspective on the basis of the general hypothesis of Chapter 4 and the language-specific predictions of the previous chapters.