

The Perfect Variation.

Paz González, Margarita Jara Yupanqui, and Carmen Kleinherenbrink.

Several studies account for the variability in the use of the Present Perfect (PP) in Spanish and report its infiltration in the territory of the Preterit (P) in the narrative discourse (Hernández 2004, 2006). The present study investigates the use of these verb forms among speakers of three different varieties: the Peninsular, the Peruvian and the Argentinian. Specifically, it analyzes the effect of certain linguistic factors on the selection of the PP or the P, such as the type of context and the temporal adverbs.

With regard to research on the variation of PP in these varieties, some research shows that in peninsular varieties this form expresses PP temporal frameworks but can also appear in pre-hodiernal frames (Schwenter 1994). In Argentinian Spanish it has been attested that the PP extends its deictic value to highlight a situation and can refer to events far from the speech situation (Jonge 1999). It is pointed out, on the other hand, that the Peruvian PP erodes its typical semantic features and extends the notion of relevance in the present, so that it can be used both for events close to the moment of speech and to temporally remote events (Howe 2006, 2013).

The corpus has been obtained through questionnaires administered via Qualtrics (Qualtrics software allows its users to collect data online) to participants from Peru, Argentina and Spain. The questionnaire comprises a total of thirty-two exercises that evaluate the use of the two verb forms in the following contexts: continuative, relevance of present, life experience, prehodiernal context and without temporal adverbs.

The objective of this study is threefold: a) to examine which contexts favor the use of PP, b) to explore to what extent temporary adverbs affect the selection of the PP and c) to identify the differences between the selected dialectal varieties. The results of this research seek to contribute to the description of dialectal differences with respect to the use of PP and P from both a quantitative and qualitative perspective.