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Preface

Milton Azevedo, Albert Bastardas, Emili Boix, and Paul E. O'Donnell

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PREFACE

MILTON AZEVEDO, ALBERT BASTARDAS, EMILI BOIX
AND PAUL O'DONNELL

This issue of *Catalan Review* features papers on Catalan sociolinguistics by from the Catalan language area and North America. The themes covered range from the complex process of linguistic normalization in the sense the term *normalització lingüística* is used in southern Europe and language standardization to research about intergroup contact phenomena and topics framed more specifically by the interactional and variationist perspectives.

The first five articles are headed by Joan A. Argente's theoretically oriented ("Language Shift: An Overview") analyzing the scope of Uriel Weinreich's work on language shift, critically describing how Catalan and international researchers have explained the articulation of political economy and language. Four frames of analysis are presented: macro-sociological, political-institutional, social-psychological, and ethnographic. Argente states that the main intervening variable in language use is communication and its immediate conditioning factors, and calls for further research on language socialization and for preservation of language diversity.

In the next article ("Language Management and Language Behavior Change: Policies and Social Persistence,") Albert Bastardas explores the theoretical implications of the relationship between policy changes and their influence on language behavior, a topic central to all processes of language management, policy, and planning. On the basis of recent experience in Spain, and more specifically in Catalonia, Bastardas suggests some theoretical principles about the ecological dynamics of that relationship, in order to clarify the processes of social behavior that result from changes in institutionalized policies. Bastardas submits that the evolution of that ecologic dynamics, and especially the overcoming of factors such as persistence of certain linguistic attitudes and resistance to change may play a crucial role in deciding the success or failure of a process of language normalization.

Francesc Vallverdú ("Linguistic Normalization and the Extension of the Use of Catalan (1975-1995)") analyzes the degree to which knowledge and use of Catalan has changed in the last twenty years as a result of developments in the political situation in the last two decades. After outlining the sociolinguistic situation in Catalonia, Valencia, and the Balearic Islands and identifying areas of language use

in which Catalan is either absent or úscarcely present, Vallverdú concludes that "full linguistic normalization of Catalan will only be possible when the new generations currently in school become a majority in Catalan society."

The development and the present situation of the standardization of Catalan are analyzed by Isidor Marí ("L'estandardització del català, als deu anys del Segon Congrés Internacional de la Llengua Catalana") on the basis of the conclusions drawn from the social linguistics section of the Congress on the Catalan Language held in 1986. Marí proposes several lines of action in which government agencies and academic institutions should cooperate to ensure the attainment of language standardization goals.

Difficulties in the standardization process encountered in the southern region of the Catalan language area are studied by Juan A. Sempere ("The Valencian Linguistic Heterodoxy,") who compares an array of languages in which dialectal differences correlate with and are impacted by clashing political views. A survey of the causes and manifestations of linguistic nativism in Valencia leads Sempere to conclude that success ful language planning aiming at developing a common standard must "find ways to allay regional fears of political and cultural assimilation, while maintaining cohesiveness."

The next set of articles is related to intergroup or language contacts from a perspective based more on individuals than on institutions. Anthony P. Espósito ("Bilingualism, Philology, and the Cultural Nation") provides textual evidence of the coexistence of "various languages native to pre-modern Catalonia," thus making an argument for a historical bilingualism predating the process of Castilianization of the fifteenth century, and critically examining a body of sociolinguistic ideas that support the "monolingual origins of the Catalan cultural nation."

Contemporary contacts between Catalonia's autochthonous population and Spanish-speaking immigrants are analyzed by Joan Pujolar ("Immigration in Catalonia: The Politics of Sociolinguistic Research,") who summarizes Catalan research on immigration through a perspective of sociopolitical history, taking into account research on immigration proper as well as studies on language use that deal with issues of linguistic integration. Pujolar reviews quantitative and qualitative research extensively and focuses on new immigration processes originating from Africa, a circumstance that shifts the focus of public interest away from the traditional Catalan vs. Spanish dichotomy.

Paul E. O'Donnell ("It Depends Who I Marry: Linguistic Recruitment and Defection in Barcelona") considers the motivations

that condition Spanish speakers' decision to adopt Catalan as their habitual language. O'Donnell takes into account four factors, namely preference/prejudice, social or employment pressures, language prestige, and sentimental/romantic reasons. Interviews with informants "who managed, at least partially, to enter Catalan-speaking society" yield a mixed picture, leading to the conjecture that while "thousands of less committed catalanoparlants may be" shifting away from Catalan, linguistic recruitment remains very active as a means for increasing the pool of people who adopt Catalan not only for themselves but also as a family language.

Relationships between language and cultural identity are studied by Hope N. Doyle ("Attitudes toward Bilingualism among Youths in Barcelona"), who concludes, on the basis of field data, that a growing identification with both Catalan and Spanish cultures leads subjects "to feel that they pertain to both cultures, and that both languages are necessary for their identity."

The next set of three articles share an interactional view of language use. From a qualitative perspective, Luci Nussbaum and Amparo Tuson ("The Ins and Outs of Conversation in Catalonia") examine the validity and variation of formerly proposed norms of language use in present-day Catalonia. After arguing that the concept of diglossia does not explain the distribution of language use, because power relations are actualized in each individual communicative situation, they propose for the analysis of language contact phenomena a model that includes a unilingual-bilingual axis and an endolingual-exolingual axis. Nussbaum and Tuson suggest new areas of research on language contact in significant fields such as health, justice, education, the media, communication between sociocultural groups, and different types of language exchange according to the linguistic identity of participants.

The role of code-switching as a humor element is analyzed by Kathryn A. Woolard ("Changing Forms of Codeswitching in Catalan Comedy,") who shows how the Catalan/Spanish codeswitching strategies used by comedians such as Eugenio (1979-1980) and Pere Bernal (1987) differ in extent, frequency, linguistic forms, discourse functions, and symbolic value. Such professional practices reflect popular usage and the tension between the two languages by means of a stylized "commentary on contemporary linguistic practices and policies." A significant conclusion is that increased normalization of use of Catalan has strengthened its security, thus making it available for a kind of humor that only apparently compromises its integrity.

Robert E. Vann ("Constructing Catalanism: Motion Verbs, Demonstratives, and Locatives in the Spanish of Barcelona") takes up

the relatively little-studied topic of the influence of Catalan on the Spanish spoken by bilinguals. On the basis of field work conducted in Barcelona in 1995, Vann analyzes how Catalan speakers symbolically express their ethnicity by means of pragmatic transfers of Catalan deictic forms into Spanish, thus reflecting "an emergent ethnolinguistic identity and ideology."

The next two articles use the variationist perspective. Maria Teresa Turell ("The 'Variationist' Viewpoint of Variation: Evidence from Catalan-speaking Communities") considers the scope and need of variation studies in the study of language structure and change. She provides evidence from recent research of patterns and directions of diachronic variation, which seem to confirm Labov's principle of language change, according to which awareness of language change is paired with the rejection of change itself. Turell also suggests that insofar as stable variables are concerned, men use more nonstandard varieties than women, and that in processes of change from above, women favor prestige forms more than men do.

The contribution of Brauli Montoya, Manuela R. Hernández, and Francisco Gimeno ("Historical Sociolinguistics: A Current Trend of Research") takes out a complementary perspective in relation to the preceding article. These authors show how historical sociolinguistics has provided new possibilities and levels of analysis for the reconstruction of language in its social context. The main feature of this alternative to traditional historical linguistics is the systematic covariation of linguistic and social data, through a probabilistic processing of a quantitative paradigm. A critical and comprehensive overview is given of reconstruction of past vernacular in the Catalan community. So far this sociohistorical research is restricted primarily to the Southern Valencia area, where a process of language shift towards Spanish occurred either in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, or in the immediate past and in the present day.

The concluding chapter, by Emili Boix and Lluís Payrató (An Overview of Catalan Sociolinguistics and Pragmatics (1989-1995)), is a state-of-the art consideration of recent or in-progress contributions by authors from the Catalan-speaking regions or elsewhere. The bibliography includes over five hundred items from six related areas, namely (1) language planning and sociology of language, (2) social psychology of language, (3) linguistic anthropology and ethnography of communication, (4) variationist sociolinguistics, (5) sociolinguistics of Catalan varieties and language contact phenomena, and (6) pragmatics, discourse analysis, and interactional sociolinguistics.

The four co-editors thank Catalan Review for the invitation to participate in this project, as well as the institutions, listed elsewhere,

which have made it possible. As it was agreed from the outset that this cooperative task would be apportioned along geographic lines, the two U.S.-based co-editors concentrated on securing and editing papers by the contributors currently working at American universities, while the two Barcelona-based co-editors did likewise for the scholars working in the Catalan-speaking regions. Inevitably, the number of papers was subordinated to space limitations, and only a representative number of scholars working on Catalan sociolinguistic topics could be represented. In a sense this situation is regrettable, but in another it gives us cause for celebration: two decades ago it might have been difficult to find fifteen scholars active in this field, and the fact that there are so many more today speaks highly of the progress to date, which augurs well for the future.