



DISCURSIVE INFLUENCE IN THE DIALECTAL GEOGRAPHY OF SPANISH IN THE UNITED STATES: ANALYSIS AND PHRASEOLOGICAL STUDY OF IDIOMS IN CALIFORNIA AND NEW YORK

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ABSTRACT: Language is the main means of human expression and, as such, is an essential component of culture that evolves in parallel with societies. It is in this context that our study was born, in which we propose to analyse the discourse in Spanish used by Spanish speakers in the United States, specifically in the states of California and New York, from a phraseological perspective. In this way, through the Hispanic press, we explore the linguistic diversity, the influence of English and the situation of diglossia that characterises Spanish in North America today. Given the vastness of the phraseological field, the analysis focuses on a specific set of phraseological units: verbal idioms. In addition, the present study incorporates perspectives from sociology of language and sociolinguistics to consider the relationship between discourse and social structure, and from cognition to analyse the pragmatic component that is fundamental to linguistic evolution within a given society. This research provides a comprehensive understanding of how Spanish discourse adapts and transforms in a bilingual and multicultural context, reflecting the underlying socio-cultural dynamics.

KEYWORDS: Dialect geography, phraseology, discursive influence, social culture, sociolinguistics.

INFLUENCIA DISCURSIVA EN LA GEOGRAFÍA DIALECTAL DEL ESPAÑOL EN ESTADOS UNIDOS: ANÁLISIS Y ESTUDIO FRASEOLÓGICO DE LOCUCIONES EN CALIFORNIA Y NUEVA YORK

RESUMEN: La lengua constituye el principal medio de expresión de los seres humanos y, como tal, es un componente esencial de la cultura, evolucionando en

paralelo con las sociedades. En este contexto nace nuestro estudio en el que se propone analizar el discurso en español empleado por los hispanohablantes en Estados Unidos, específicamente en los estados de California y Nueva York, desde una perspectiva fraseológica. De este modo, a través de la prensa hispana, se explora la diversidad lingüística, la influencia del inglés y la situación de diglosia que caracteriza al español en Norteamérica en la actualidad. Dada la vasta extensión del campo fraseológico, el análisis se enfoca en un conjunto específico de unidades fraseológicas: las locuciones verbales. Asimismo, el presente estudio incorpora perspectivas de la sociología del lenguaje y la sociolingüística para dar cuenta de la relación entre el discurso y la estructura social, así como de la cognición para analizar el componente pragmático, fundamental en la evolución lingüística dentro de una sociedad específica. Esta investigación proporciona una comprensión integral de cómo el discurso en español se adapta y transforma en un contexto bilingüe y multicultural, reflejando las dinámicas socioculturales subyacentes.

PALABRAS CLAVE: geografía dialectal, fraseología, influencia discursiva, cultura social, sociolingüística.

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L'ESPAGNOL AUX ÉTATS-UNIS : ANALYSE ET ETUDE
PHRASEOLOGIQUE DES LOCUTIONS EN CALIFORNIE ET A NEW YORK**

RESUME : La langue constitue le principal moyen d'expression des êtres humains et, à ce titre, elle est un composant essentiel de la culture, évoluant parallèlement aux sociétés. C'est dans ce contexte que naît notre étude, où nous proposons d'analyser le discours en espagnol employé par les hispanophones aux États-Unis, en particulier dans les États de Californie et de New York, sous une perspective phraséologique. Ainsi, à travers la presse hispanophone, nous explorons la diversité linguistique, l'influence de l'anglais, et la situation de diglossie qui caractérise l'espagnol en Amérique du Nord aujourd'hui. Étant donné l'étendue vaste du domaine phraséologique, l'analyse se concentre sur un ensemble spécifique d'unités phraséologiques : les locutions verbales. De plus, cette étude intègre des perspectives de la sociologie du langage et de la sociolinguistique pour rendre compte de la relation entre le discours et la structure sociale, ainsi que de la cognition afin d'analyser la composante pragmatique, fondamentale dans l'évolution linguistique au sein d'une société spécifique. Cette recherche offre une compréhension intégrale de la manière dont le discours en espagnol s'adapte et se transforme dans un contexte bilingue et multiculturel, reflétant les dynamiques socioculturelles sous-jacentes.

MOTS-CLES : géographie dialectale, phraséologie, influence discursive, culture sociale, sociolinguistique.

Recibido: 21/05/2024. Aceptado: 01/10/2024

1. Introduction

Studies in the field of speech communication have shown that the study of language in discourse as an object of research has gained considerable importance in recent decades (Barbeta-Viñas, 2021; Rizo García, 2022). This increase is partly due to communication as an interdisciplinary phenomenon, encompassing several interrelated fields of study (García and Borja, 2021). As a result, language analysis has moved beyond the traditional linguistic perspective to include diverse approaches such as sociolinguistics and psycholinguistics.

The study of discourse and its relationship to society is fundamental to understanding how linguistic and social structures interact and evolve (Yalta and Lovón, 2023). Sociolinguistics explores how linguistic variation reflects and influences social dynamics, while computational linguistics applies algorithmic models to process and understand natural language, facilitating advances in language technology and data processing. Psycholinguistics, on the other hand, studies the mental processes involved in language production and comprehension, providing insights into how language is acquired and individual differences in language use. These multidisciplinary approaches allow a broader and deeper understanding of language as a dynamic and complex phenomenon, essential for human communication and social development (Rodríguez-Iglesias, 2023). The integration of these perspectives provides a holistic framework for analysing how discourse adapts and transforms in different socio-cultural contexts, reflecting the changing dynamics of Spanish-speaking communities.

As the primary means of human expression, language is deeply intertwined with social structure and communication mechanisms (Blommaert, 2021; Koselleck, 2023). However, it is widely recognised that language is not uniform. In the case of Spanish, there is a considerable diversity of speech and dialects in both Latin America and Spain, which gives rise to a multiplicity of varieties within the same language (Jenkins and Decker, 2024). These dialects, known as diatopic variants, are spread throughout Latin America, and in each region, they have specific phonetic, lexical, and grammatical characteristics (Klee and de la Fuente Iglesias, 2022). In addition, the language

undergoes variations influenced by social and contextual factors. These include diastatic variety, which refers to linguistic differences related to social factors such as class, education, and socio-economic group; diaphasic variety, which considers stylistic and register variations according to communicative context; and diachronic variety, which analyses linguistic changes over time. There are also varieties resulting from specialisation in particular disciplines, known as technolects, which include technical terminology and professional jargon (Mogorrón Huerta, 2014).

Given the current linguistic context, we are faced with the challenge of receiving and understanding information from different geographical areas (Szyndler, 2012). Although the different varieties of Spanish make communication possible, it is important to recognise that each region has its own idioms and colloquial expressions, especially around phraseology (Pamies Bertrán, 2017). It is also important to remember that geographical boundaries do not always reflect the boundaries of the language (Cuadrado Rey, 2018). Even within a single country, as in the case of Spain, several language varieties may coexist, and in other countries the use of an additional language may arise from linguistic and social contact between speakers, as is the case with Spanish in the United States.

The study of language in discourse can be divided into different areas or levels of analysis, depending on the particular interest of each linguistic aspect (Van Dijk, 2013). Within these, the semantic and pragmatic levels appear to be the most relevant for this work. This level focuses on the meaning of words and their relationships, as well as on dynamics such as polysemy and the borrowing of meanings, considering both linguistic and extra-linguistic elements that influence their interpretation (Narvaja de Arnoux and Del Valle, 2010). In the context of this research, an applied linguistic perspective is adopted, given that the object of study is a Spanish-speaking society established in a predominantly English-speaking environment. It also adopts a comparative linguistic approach, contrasting two varieties of contemporary Spanish, New York, and Californian, with Peninsular Spanish. The research also presents a diachronic approach, tracing back past linguistic processes to understand current changes. It also takes a psycholinguistic or cognitive approach, analysing aspects such as phraseology and semantic change, including the acquisition of figurative meaning. In other words, this study highlights the importance of understanding these linguistic variations for a deeper understanding of how Spanish discourse adapts and transforms in different sociocultural contexts, reflecting the dynamics and changes of Spanish-speaking communities in the United States.

This work attempts to answer the phraseological question about the Spanish spoken in the United States, specifically in the states of California and New York, to be able to contrast it with the Spanish phraseology of the Iberian Peninsula. To this

end, the idioms were analysed in terms of their pragmatics and idiomaticity, and an ad hoc corpus was created by the author of this work from Hispanic newspapers from the Spanish press in both states. A total of four online Hispanic newspapers were used, located in the four most populated cities of these states, such as San Diego, Los Angeles and San Francisco in California, and New York City in New York. Therefore, the research is oriented towards a multidisciplinary perspective that includes aspects of sociolinguistics, pragmatics, and cognition, thus providing a comprehensive analysis of the interaction between discourse and society (Ramírez Rodríguez, 2023).

2. Theoretical framework

2.1. The influence of discourse and the sociology of language on social structure

Human language, as a constantly evolving social construct, enables the expression of ideas, information, and emotions (Burr, 2015; Dor, 2017). Society plays a crucial role in defining the norms and use of language, both in its spoken and written forms. In other words, language is fundamental to the construction of culture and thought (Romaine, 2000; Trudgill, 2000). Registers in languages of different societies arise from the need to communicate, to transmit values and to express feelings. The social context in which a community develops influences its language and thus its mentality. Each language reflects the socio-communicative rules, values, and ways of perceiving the world of the group that speaks it (Bonvillain, 2019). Language and society are therefore interdependent concepts, and as societies change, so do the ways in which their members express themselves.

Discourse and the sociology of language play a fundamental role in shaping social structure. Discourse, understood as the way in which ideas, beliefs and values are communicated, reflects and shapes social dynamics (Van Dijk, 2005). It is through language that power relations, cultural norms and collective identities are established and maintained. The sociology of language, on the other hand, examines how different languages and language varieties influence social organisation, stratification, and interactions between social groups (Van Dijk, 2011). In this context, discourse acts not only as a means of communication, but also as an instrument of control and resistance. Dominant discourses can legitimise and maintain power structures, while alternative discourses can challenge and transform these structures (Bilá and Ivanova, 2020).

In this line, the sociology of language allows us to understand how linguistic practices reflect and affect issues such as access to resources, social mobility and the inclusion or exclusion of groups. Discourse analysis in different social contexts also reveals how identities and power relations are negotiated in everyday life. For example, bilingual communities develop specific discursive practices that reflect their

dual cultural and social belonging. Code-switching and the use of language varieties in different communicative situations show how discourse adapts and transforms according to the social context.

In the case of Spanish in the United States, this phenomenon is particularly evident in Spanish-speaking communities in states such as California and New York, where the daily interaction between English and Spanish gives rise to a rich repertoire of linguistic practices. (Lipski, 2016). Moreover, the constant contact between the two languages encourages the creation of new expressions and hybrid terms that are not found in the Spanish of other Spanish-speaking countries or in standard English (Moreno Fernández, 2017). These neologisms and linguistic borrowings are evidence of how Hispanic communities in the United States innovate and adapt their discourse to address unique realities and needs (Lipski, 2007; Lacorte, 2016). In this case, the sociolinguistics of Spanish in the United States also shows how power structures and social attitudes influence language use. One prominent example of linguistic innovation is the use of "Spanglish," a fluid mixture of Spanish and English that reflects the bilingual reality of many Hispanic speakers in the U.S. Words like *troca* (from the English "truck") and *lonche* (from "lunch") are often used in informal settings. Another instance is code-switching, where speakers alternate between Spanish and English within a single conversation, demonstrating both linguistic flexibility and identity negotiation.

Diglossia refers to the coexistence of two distinct varieties of the same language within a single speech community, where each variety serves a different social function. Typically, one variety, referred to as the "high" variety (H), is used in formal contexts such as education, government, literature, and religious ceremonies, while the other, known as the "low" variety (L), is reserved for every day, informal communication (Ferguson, 2003). The "high" variety is often associated with greater prestige and is learned through formal education, whereas the "low" variety is acquired naturally in casual, family, or community settings. This sociolinguistic phenomenon reveals how language reflects power dynamics, social stratification, and cultural identity (Fishman, 2020).

Spanish is now the second most widely spoken language in the United States, after English. This makes the United States, the country with the second largest number of Spanish speakers in the world, after Mexico, and the fifth country with the most native speakers of this language (Escobar and Potowski, 2015; Moreno Fernández, 2013). According to the 2022 US census data, the Hispanic population reached 60 million, representing 18.4% of the country's total population. In the ten most populated cities, the percentages are significant: 24.3% in New York and 42.5% in Los Angeles (Hernández-Nieto and Moreno Fernández, 2018). In absolute terms,

the cities with the highest presence of the Spanish language are New York, with around 2.5 million speakers, Los Angeles, with around 1.5 million, and Houston, with almost 1 million. There is also a high concentration of Spanish speakers in cities such as Los Angeles, where they account for 50% of the population. This demographic context motivates the present research to focus on the analysis and comparison of current Spanish variety in the states and cities with the highest presence of Spanish speakers, such as California and New York (Herrera Lima, 2012).

From a sociolinguistic perspective, this paper examines the concepts of language community and social stratification of languages, focusing on the Hispanic communities of California and New York (Galassi, 2020). Basic sociolinguistic models, including the variational model, the sociology of language, and the ethnography of communication, provide a foundational framework for understanding how language use varies across different social contexts and groups. These models are crucial in sustaining the analysis of linguistic adaptation and innovation within Hispanic communities in the United States, as they offer tools to examine the impact of social factors such as class, ethnicity, and power dynamics on language practices (Labov, 1972).

It also examines social bilingualism, the characterisation of bilingual communities and diglossia as an extreme form of linguistic stratification (Cruz, 2021). Phraseological differences, multilingualism, language contact and code-switching are also considered. This empirical analysis makes it possible to identify, evaluate and reveal the linguistic changes taking place in Spanish, with the aim of understanding the linguistic beliefs and attitudes, as well as the linguistic awareness of the group (Gandarillas, 2023; Ramírez Rodríguez, 2024b). This research reveals how discourse and society are intertwined, reflecting the social and cultural dynamics that influence language use and development in bilingual and multilingual contexts, with a particular focus on phraseological units, specifically verbal idioms, which are fixed combinations of words whose idiomatic meanings cannot be inferred from the meanings of their individual components (Penadés Martínez, 2023).

From a cognitive perspective, many of these idioms are motivated by metaphors and conceptual metonymies. This highlights how the discourse is shaped and interpreted in the social context, reflecting the cultural and cognitive dynamics of the community that uses it. Furthermore, this study falls within the field of sociolinguistics, which examines how linguistic variation is related to social and cultural factors, and pragmatics, which examines how context influences the interpretation of meaning (Labov, 1972). Verbal idioms are thus not only linguistic expressions, but also indicators of the social and cultural interactions that generate and transform them.

2.2. The transformation of Spanish in the United States from a socio-discursive perspective

Throughout history, people have migrated from one place to another for various reasons, such as seeking better economic opportunities, fleeing armed conflict or political persecution, among others. This movement has resulted in languages moving to different regions of the world, where they have interacted with other languages and adapted their expression to new linguistic situations.

The use of Spanish in specific social and discursive contexts has evolved, reflecting the interactions between language and society (Duff, 2010). From the political to the cultural, economic, and educational spheres, Spanish in the United States has adapted its forms of expression to meet the needs and demands of the diverse Spanish-speaking communities (Placencia and Garcia-Fernandez, 2017). Moreover, the interaction between Spanish and English has given rise to unique socio-discursive phenomena, such as code-switching and linguistic borrowing, which reflect the bilingual and multicultural reality of many regions of the United States. These processes not only enrich the country's linguistic diversity, but also reflect the complexity of identity and communication in a context of linguistic plurality.

The transformation of Spanish in the United States from a socio-discursive perspective is a fascinating and complex phenomenon. Historically, Spanish was established in regions like California, Nevada, Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas long before English became dominant, as these areas were originally part of Spanish and later Mexican territories (Lipski, 2008). While migration from Spanish-speaking countries has contributed to the expansion and diversification of Spanish in the U.S., it is important to recognize that Spanish was not merely introduced through recent migration but has deep historical roots in these regions. Over time, Spanish has undergone significant changes influenced by socio-cultural and discursive factors, creating dynamic and diverse linguistic communities (Muñoz-Basols and Hernández Muñoz, 2019).

Spanglish is a linguistic variety that combines elements of Spanish and English, a phenomenon that has emerged in the United States and other regions with significant Spanish-speaking populations (Fairclough, 2003). In the United States in particular, migration has been a determining force in the development of Spanish (Lipski, 2003). Although the presence of Spanish speakers in the United States dates to Spanish colonisation in the 16th century, it is in the 20th and 21st centuries that Spanish-speaking migration to the United States has increased significantly (Huerta Córdova et al., 2019).

The United States has a rich history of Hispanic migration that has profoundly influenced the development of the Spanish language in the country. From the arrival of the Spanish conquistadors in the 16th century to the present day, Spanish has undergone significant changes because of interaction with different linguistic communities. In the 20th century, the arrival of immigrants from various Hispanic countries—such as Mexico, Puerto Rico, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, and more recently, Central and South American nations like El Salvador, Guatemala, and Colombia—significantly altered the linguistic landscape of the United States. This migration led to the emergence of a rich variety of dialects and variants of Spanish, each influenced by the distinct linguistic and cultural backgrounds of these communities (Otheguy and Zentella, 2007).

Spanish is currently the second most widely spoken language in the United States, after English. It is spoken by many people, both as a first language and as a second language (Portes, 2006). It is estimated that more than 41 million people in the country speak Spanish, representing approximately 13% of the total population. Moreover, the number of Spanish speakers in the United States is expected to continue growing in the coming years due to immigration and the increasing influence of Hispanic culture in American society (Hernández and Moreno-Fernández, 2018). This phenomenon has made Spanish a language of great importance in the politics, economy, and culture of the United States. Its presence is manifested in various social and discursive spheres, and its importance is expected to continue to grow in the future (Muñoz-Basols and Hernández Muñoz, 2019).

The migratory history of the United States has been characterised by the arrival of different groups of immigrants, with the Hispanic population being one of the most numerous and culturally diverse (Moreno Fernández, 2008). Although Spanish colonisation was limited in territorial terms, its influence was significant, as evidenced by the presence of borrowings in the English lexicon of the United States. However, the annexation of Mexican territories after the Mexican American War of 1848 significantly increased the presence of Spanish speakers in the country. This annexation included California, New Mexico, Arizona, Texas and parts of Colorado, Utah, Nevada, and Wyoming (Moreno Fernández, 2013). As a result, many Spanish speakers found themselves in a new country and continued to use Spanish as a way of preserving their Mexican identity and culture in the United States. Since then, the migration of Spanish speakers to the United States has been constant, driven by factors such as the search for better economic opportunities and family reunification. In addition, Spanish has gained global relevance in business, politics, and entertainment, increasing its use in the United States (Herrera Lima, 2012; Moreno Fernández, 2017).

The linguistic diversity within the Hispanic population in the United States is a crucial factor to consider. The dialectal variation in Spanish is due to the mixing of different varieties of the language from both Spain and Latin America, as well as the influence of English (Lipski, 2007). This regional variation in the Spanish spoken in different regions of the United States reflects the different migration patterns and cultural diversity in each area, such as the predominance of Mexican Spanish in the Southwest, Cuban Spanish in Florida, and Puerto Rican Spanish in the Northeast, as well as the growing presence of Venezuelan and Central American Spanish in recent decades (Escobar and Potowski, 2015). This linguistic and cultural diversity has resulted in the evolution of Spanish in the United States, with unique linguistic characteristics, such as code-switching, lexical borrowings, regional variations, simplification of verb forms, innovations in vocabulary or influence of English syntax. Therefore, understanding how migration has influenced the evolution of Spanish in the United States is essential to understanding the cultural and linguistic identity of Spanish speakers in the country (Cameron and Potowski, 2016). For instance, large waves of Mexican migration, particularly during the 20th century, have contributed to the dominance of Mexican Spanish in regions such as California and Texas. Similarly, Cuban immigration in the mid-20th century reshaped the linguistic landscape of Miami, where Cuban Spanish became the predominant variety. More recently, the arrival of Central American migrants, especially from El Salvador and Guatemala, has introduced new dialectal features into cities like Los Angeles and Houston, further diversifying the varieties of Spanish spoken in the U.S. These migrations have not only introduced new dialects but have also contributed to the formation of bilingual communities where code-switching and linguistic borrowing from English are commonplace.

The impact of migration on the evolution of Spanish in the United States has been studied from different disciplines, such as sociolinguistics, applied linguistics, cognitive linguistics, and linguistic anthropology (Gandarillas, 2023). These studies have shown that migration has generated significant diatopic and diastratic variations in the Spanish spoken in the United States, influenced by the presence of other languages in this environment. In regions like California and Texas, Spanish interacts with indigenous languages from Mexico and Central America, such as Nahuatl and K'iche'. In Miami, the Spanish spoken is shaped by its proximity to Haitian Creole, Brazilian Portuguese, and English. Meanwhile, in New York, the Spanish of Puerto Rican and Dominican communities coexists with a variety of languages including Yiddish, Italian, and West African languages, which contribute to the complex sociolinguistic environment. These interactions, combined with the diverse regional varieties from Latin America, have led to a dynamic and evolving form of U.S. Spanish, distinct from the varieties spoken in

other parts of the Spanish-speaking world, such as Spain or Latin American countries (Lipski, 2008; Otheguy and Zentella, 2012).

Within this general framework, the present study focuses on analysing the phraseological diatopic variation of Spanish in two key states: California and New York. These states are known for their large Spanish-speaking populations and the considerable influence of other languages, especially English. In addition to English, indigenous languages such as Navajo in Arizona and New Mexico, Mixtec and Zapotec in California, and Mayan languages like K'iche' and Q'eqchi' in Texas and Florida play a significant role. Furthermore, regions like Miami experience the influence of Haitian Creole and Portuguese, while urban centers like New York and Chicago see a mix of languages, including Polish, Arabic, and various African languages, which interact with both English and Spanish in shaping the local linguistic landscape (Ramírez Rodríguez, 2024a).

Migration has played a crucial role in the evolution of Spanish in these states, giving rise to unique linguistic features around phraseology (Lacorte, 2016). In areas with significant Mexican American populations, such as Texas and California, phrases like "echarle ganas" (to make an effort) and "mala leche" (bad luck or bad attitude) have become common. These expressions reflect regional adaptations and blending of Mexican Spanish with local English influences.

3. Methodology

The originality of this work lies in its phraseological approach, specifically the analysis of the phraseological diatopic variation of Spanish in California and New York through the study of verbal idioms used in each state. Although there have been previous studies of the diatopic variation of Spanish in the United States (Escobar and Potowski, 2015; Lacorte, 2016; Lipski, 2016; Moreno Fernández, 2017), few have focused specifically on phraseology. Verbal idioms, as complex lexical units with idiomatic meaning, are widely used in everyday discourse, making them valuable tools for understanding linguistic variation in different social contexts. In this sense, the aim of this study is to analyse the diatopic variation of Spanish in terms of phraseology through the Spanish press in these two states, comparing verbal idioms with peninsular Spanish. It also seeks to identify the linguistic influences of other languages present in each region, especially English, as well as other Hispanic variants. In addition, the possible causes of differences and similarities in phraseological diatopic variation will be explored, considering the migratory history and sociolinguistic characteristics of each region. This is addressing the sociolinguistic dimension of phraseological variation by focusing on how the social

use of language, influenced by factors such as migration and contact with other languages, shapes phraseology in specific regions. It aims to explore the following key sociolinguistic aspects, such as linguistic influences of other languages, influence of other Hispanic variants, migratory history, and the social factors, such as age, gender, education, and socioeconomic status.

The study of Spanish diatopic variation in Californian and New York can be approached from various perspectives and disciplines, one of the most prominent being phraseology. This discipline focuses on idiomatic phraseological units, which are fixed combinations of two or more words used in a language whose specific meaning cannot be deduced simply from the meaning of their components (Lacorte, 2016). Within this field, verbal idioms are particularly common in colloquial speech and informal situations, and their form and meaning can vary considerably according to geographical region.

The analysis of differences in the use of idioms between different regions allows a better understanding of how people from different places use language to communicate and express their ideas. Furthermore, the study of diatopic variation in verbal idioms provides valuable information about the history and development of Spanish in different areas, as well as the processes of language contact and the influence of other languages on the Spanish spoken in these regions. For this reason, this paper combines the concepts of phraseology and linguistic variation as essential methodologies for analysing diatopic variation in Californian and New York. This combination allows for a detailed examination of how regional differences in the use of idioms reflect and influence the discursive practices and social dynamics of Spanish-speaking communities in the United States.

The present research adopts both a quantitative and qualitative approach, carrying out a statistical analysis of the selected verbal idioms and a semantic-pragmatic analysis of them. Throughout the research, the most studied phraseological units in the field of phraseology, such as verbal idioms, are analysed using a pragmatic-discursive corpus methodology. This methodology allows an exhaustive analysis of these units, paying particular attention to their formal limitations, phraseological productivity, and creativity through geographical variation. In addition, a variety of natural language processing applications will be used, including online corpora, web corpus management systems and databases.

The pragmatic approach to phraseology adopted in this study is based on the analysis of real data. To this end, a database of 362 verbal idioms has been extracted from the University of Granada's lexicographic corpus, specifically from the University of Granada's 'collection of expressions of figurative language' (<http://www.ugr.es/~jmpazos/asperger/page/coleccion.php>). This approach allows

not only a detailed analysis of verbal idioms, but also a deeper understanding of how discursive practices and social dynamics influence phraseological variation in migratory contexts. Further, this approach identifies and classifies verbal idioms, and understands how these linguistic units reflect and adapt to the social and discursive dynamics of Hispanic communities in California and New York. The analysis of idiomatic expressions in the press provides an in-depth insight into how discursive practices develop and evolve in specific social contexts, offering a comprehensive perspective on the interaction between language and society in the field of migration.

The inclusion criteria for the selection of the verbal idioms in this study were based on their frequency of use in written Spanish, as well as their fixity and idiomaticity. In this sense, idioms were also selected based on their degree of fixity, meaning they must be stable and consistently used in the same form, without significant variations in their structure. This criterion ensures that only widely recognized and standardized idioms were included in the study. Finally, the selected verbal idioms needed to exhibit a high level of idiomaticity, meaning their overall meaning cannot be deduced from the literal meanings of the individual words. This criterion helps to focus on expressions that are inherently figurative and characteristic of idiomatic language use.

To ensure the relevance and pertinence of the phraseological units analysed, those verbal idioms that were considered archaic and non-idiomatic were excluded, since the metaphorical load of these units is fundamental to the contrastive phraseology of this work. The studies on Zuluaga (2001), Corpas Pastor (2003) and Ruiz Gurillo (2001) provided a solid basis for the identification and classification of verbal idioms, allowing a precise and well-founded approach to this area of linguistics. To develop the object of study, a textual corpus of verbal idioms was first created by reviewing newspaper articles from the Spanish press in California and New York. This approach allows us to develop a phraseological typology of Spanish in both regions, to determine its sociolinguistic status, and to identify the social factors that influence the use of verbal idioms in these regional variants of Spanish. Within the framework of the sociology of language, a comparative analysis of the verbal idioms collected in our database was carried out. For this purpose, a phraseological analysis of the Spanish press in California and New York was carried out, comparing the expressions used by the Hispanic communities in both regions. The data collection was based on a selection of popular electronic newspapers in each region. The detailed amount of data available and collected is presented in Table 1 below.

Table 1. Newspapers by city and number of publications.

State	City	Electronic Newspaper	Number of publications		Verbal idioms (362)	
			Total	Of which verbal idioms	Found	Not found
California	Los Ángeles	Laopinion	759 000	4 355	194 (54%)	168 (46%)
	San Diego	Sandiegotribune	1 950 000	2 000	173 (48%)	189 (52%)
	San Francisco	Elreporterosf	5 770	37	20 (6%)	342 (94%)
		Elcolote	9 110	55	28 (8%)	334 (92%)
New York	New York	Eldiariony	829 000	3 216	187 (51%)	175 (49%)

Moreover, in order to counterbalance the influence of the Mexican linguistic variant in California and the Puerto Rican variant in New York on those idioms that were not recorded in the Spanish press of either region, a corpus analysis was carried out using the Sketchengine tool, using the Spanish variant of Latin America for Mexico (MEX) and for Puerto Rico (PR). Table 2 shows the verbal idioms found and not found in the Spanish press of both regions.

Table 2. Verbal idioms in the Spanish press.

City	Verbal idioms not found	
	Number of verbal idioms	Sketchengine MEX/PR
Los Ángeles	145	72
San Diego		
New York	175	167

From a cognitive approach, taking into account the verbal idioms in the Spanish press in California and New York, and paying attention to their classification according to their figurative motivation, 15 expressive states have been obtained that reveal common knowledge through experience. Among them are the following: sospecha (*estar en el ajo*), sorpresa (*no dar crédito*), reproche (*irse de la lengua*), reflexión (*pensar en las musarañas*), rechazo (*dar calabazas*), promesa (*ser una tumba*), piropo (*chuparse los dedos*), insinuación (*tirar los trastos*), engaño (*dar gato por liebre*), enfado (*perder los estribos*), desconfianza (*apagar fuegos*), desagrado

(*dar la lata*), amenaza (*buscar las cosquillas*), afirmación (*perder el hilo*) y advertencia (*enterrar el hacha de guerra*). Furthermore, given the lexical field of the different idioms that make up our database, the different expressions analysed were grouped into 7 modules according to their lexical belonging: elementos abstractos (*comerse un marrón*), animal (*pelar la pava*), comida (*dar las uvas*), cuerpo (*costar un riñón*), lugar (*meterse en un jardín*), elementos concretos (*verse el plumero*) y ropa (*ponerse las botas*).

4. Results and Discussion

According to the data obtained, there is a notable difference when comparing the number of idioms found in Los Angeles and San Diego. In the local San Diego newspaper, the number of idioms not found exceeds the number of idioms found. Moreover, the number of idioms found in the San Diego newspaper is half that of Los Angeles, even though the number of idioms in San Diego is almost three times higher. The fact that San Diego has more verbal idioms in the Spanish press than other cities in California could be influenced by several sociolinguistic and migratory factors. San Diego has a large Spanish-speaking population, which creates constant linguistic contact between Spanish and English. This contact may encourage greater integration and blending of the two languages in everyday discourse and in the media, such as the Spanish press. In addition, the significant presence of a Spanish-speaking community, mostly of Mexican origin, in San Diego may encourage the media to adapt to the language preferences of its audience. Spanish speakers in San Diego may prefer to read news stories in Spanish that use familiar language structures and phrases, such as verbal idioms.

The sociolinguistic context of San Diego, characterised by its proximity to the Mexican border and its high concentration of Mexican immigrants, could explain the prevalence and variation of verbal idioms in the local press. This phenomenon is consistent with studies that point to the influence of the social and cultural environment on linguistic variation. Daily interaction with English may also lead to an increased use of idioms as a way of preserving linguistic and cultural identity within the Hispanic community. The media play a crucial role in shaping and reflecting the discursive practices of a community. The use of verbal idioms in the Spanish press in San Diego can be seen as a strategy for maintaining cultural and linguistic relevance in a bilingual context. Research in sociolinguistics and communication has shown that media language not only reflects but also shapes the linguistic norms and expectations of its audience (Otheguy and Zentella, 2007).

The phraseological analysis of verbal idioms in four Californian electronic newspapers shows that the dialectal geography of Spanish has a significant influence on the linguistic variants present in this region. It is observed that in Northern California the frequency of use of verbal idioms is very low, in some cases practically zero. This can be explained by the lower Spanish-speaking influence in this area, which results in a lower adoption of idiomatic expressions in Spanish. On the other hand, Los Angeles, the largest and most populous city in California, shows a higher frequency of use of verbal idioms. Its international character and its role as a centre for the convergence of different cultures and languages mean that Spanish and its idiomatic expressions have a greater presence. This cultural diversity is reflected in everyday speech, where idioms are more common. San Diego presents a different scenario. The influence of Mexican Spanish is notable, given its geographical proximity and significant Mexican population. However, despite the large number of publications in local electronic newspapers, the number of verbal idioms found is lower than those not found. This suggests a possible adaptation or variation in the use of idioms, which could be influenced by socio-cultural and linguistic factors specific to the region. Furthermore, it is observed that the lexicon and verbal idioms differ between Peninsular Spanish and Mexican Spanish, as well as between other Hispanic varieties. These differences in phraseology reflect the adaptation of discourse to local socio-cultural contexts. Previous research has pointed out that linguistic variation reflects the social and cultural dynamics of a community.

Media discourse analysis, particularly of the Spanish press, provides an important window into how these linguistic variations are manifested and perpetuated. The media not only reflect the linguistic practices of the community, but also shape and influence them. Media outlets, such as television, radio, and social media, mirror the everyday language use of the community, including slang, idiomatic expressions, and bilingual practices like code-switching. By broadcasting how people speak in informal and formal settings, the media document and amplify existing linguistic patterns, making them more visible and accessible to a wider audience. Moreover, media actively shape language by introducing new terms, phrases, and speech patterns into the community's linguistic repertoire. For example, media personalities, influencers, or popular TV shows can popularize certain expressions, which can then be adopted by the public. Additionally, exposure to media in different languages or dialects promotes bilingualism and code-switching, especially in multilingual communities. The media can thus spread linguistic trends, reinforce language prestige, and contribute to the normalization of certain linguistic practices, including regionalisms, neologisms, or even the mixing of languages. The presence and use of verbal idioms in California's electronic newspapers demonstrates how discourse

adapts to the needs and characteristics of the Spanish-speaking audience, keeping idiomatic expressions alive in a bilingual context.

Looking at the idioms not found in Sketchengine, the group with the lowest frequency corresponds to idioms referring to Mexico. Of the 145 idioms analysed that were not found, 72 are also not registered in the Mexican version of Sketchengine. However, 15 of these 72 idioms were found in other Latin American countries, such as Argentina, Colombia, and Chile. It is interesting to note that most of the less common idioms have the same lexical or syntactical structure in both English and Spanish, such as 'sudar sangre - sweat blood'. This phenomenon can be interpreted as code-switching, i.e., the alternative use of two or more languages or dialects in speech (Poplack, 1980). Code-switching is natural and common among bilingual communities, such as most Hispanics living in California. The pragmatic competence of Hispanics living in California allows them to subconsciously choose between English and Spanish depending on the speaker, the situation, or the topic of the interaction. It is important to consider the sociolinguistic situation in which they operate, as it seems that Hispanics in California prefer to use English to express those idioms that are identical in structure to Spanish, such as 'to wear the pants' or 'llevar los pantalones'.

In examining the idioms not found in the New York Spanish press (175), a comparative analysis was carried out within the Latin American Sketchengine corpus, focusing on the Puerto Rican Spanish (PR) variant. The results show that of the 175 unrecorded idioms, 167 are also absent in the Puerto Rican version of Sketchengine. It is important to note that 63 of the 175 unrecorded idioms were also identified in other Latin American countries. This finding suggests a certain similarity in the use of idioms between different Latin American regions, despite dialectal and socio-cultural differences. The analysis of the absence of idioms in the New York Spanish press and its comparison with the Puerto Rican variant of Spanish provides valuable information about linguistic variation in multilingual contexts. Moreover, the fact that some idioms not found in New York are present in other Latin American countries highlights the importance of considering the influence of different variants of Spanish in global communication and socio-cultural discourse.

From a cognitive point of view, when examining the cognitive representation in the Spanish press in California, it is noticeable that the most prominent cognitive scenario is warning, followed by insinuation and reproach. However, when analysing the idiomatic expressions that do not appear in the Spanish press, a different classification is observed. Insinuation comes first, followed by reproach and then compliment. This context suggests a tendency for Californian Spanish to use expressions of insinuation, reproach, or compliment less frequently than Peninsular

Spanish. This difference could be due to a greater awareness on the part of the Hispanic community in California of the social and cultural implications of certain expressions. In a multicultural environment, Hispanics in California may be more cautious in their use of these expressions in order to avoid misunderstandings and promote effective communication. In addition, the influence of English and other languages may have contributed to the simplification and reduction of the use of these expressions in the Spanish spoken in California. This phenomenon reflects the complex dynamics between multilingualism, culture, and intercultural communication in sociolinguistically diverse contexts such as California.

Looking at the lexical families, it is noticeable that the category with the greatest presence of recorded idioms is that of abstract elements. These are idioms that revolve around non-tangible concepts, such as emotions, thoughts, time, and interpersonal relationships, rather than concrete objects or physical actions. Idioms often encapsulate complex emotional or psychological experiences, simplifying their expression. Phrases like "estar en las nubes" (to be daydreaming) or "tener la sogá al cuello" (to be in deep trouble) are tied to abstract feelings or mental conditions, such as distraction or distress.

Abstract idioms also frequently describe social dynamics, expressing ideas about trust, conflict, or cooperation. For instance, "dar el brazo a torcer" (to give in) reflects negotiations or compromise in relationships. Idioms like "matar el tiempo" (to kill time) or "darle la vuelta a la tortilla" (to turn the tables) relate to abstract concepts of time management, opportunity, or change of fortune, which are universal but intangible.

Abstract concepts such as love, fear, or hope are common across languages and cultures. Idioms serve to encapsulate these universal human experiences in memorable, often metaphorical phrases. Abstract idioms can be applied across various situations, making them versatile in conversation. They are often more metaphorical, allowing speakers to communicate complex ideas succinctly. Thus, the prominence of idioms in the category of abstract elements underscores how language often leans on figurative expressions to convey nuanced, non-physical concepts that are integral to human experience.

On the other hand, in the case of idioms that do not appear in the Spanish press, the categories that predominate are those related to different parts of the body, followed by the categories of concrete elements and food. These three categories show the greatest differences in comparison with Peninsular Spanish. This finding suggests that in the Spanish press in California there is a tendency to use fewer expressions belonging to these categories. Furthermore, although to a lesser extent, categories such as animal, abstract elements, place, and clothing are also observed, in that order.

This pattern suggests a possible preference for the restricted use of expressions related to these categories in the Californian sociolinguistic context. It is particularly interesting to note that all the idioms found in the category of place are related to the concept of warning. This finding suggests a possible tendency to use idioms referring to specific places in the context of warning in the Spanish press in California. This phenomenon may have broader socio-cultural implications for risk perception and warning communication in this Spanish-speaking community.

Looking at the idioms in the New York Spanish press, the most prominent cognitive representation is reproach, followed by insinuation and warning. However, when analysing the Spanish idioms that were not found, the ranking changes, with insinuation in first place, followed by warning and reproach. These categories carry significant semantic value as they often convey nuanced interpersonal communication strategies. For example, idioms of insinuation imply something indirectly, requiring the listener to infer the intended meaning, while warning idioms serve as cautionary signals, and reproach idioms communicate disapproval or criticism. This shift in ranking suggests a pattern where more subtle, indirect forms of communication are less frequently documented or recorded in certain contexts.

This indicates a clear tendency in New York Spanish to avoid or use fewer expressions that imply insinuation, reproach or warning compared to Peninsular Spanish. As far as the lexical field is concerned, the category in which most idioms were recorded corresponds to parts of the body. However, for the idioms that do not appear in the Spanish press, the body parts category is also predominant, followed by the categories of concrete, abstract and food elements. A comparison of the idioms in the Spanish press in both states shows that although there are similarities in the phraseological preferences, there are significant differences in the order of preference. In California, idioms referring to concrete objects, body parts and abstract objects are more common, while in New York the categories of body parts, abstract objects and concrete objects are most predominant. In addition, in New York the category food precedes the category animal, whereas in California the opposite is true. These differences reflect the sociolinguistic and cultural complexity of each state, as well as the linguistic and migratory influences that shape the Spanish spoken in each region.

In New York, food represents a deep connection to Puerto Rican identity, acting as a symbol of cultural resistance to American influence, while in California the presence of animal-related idioms is linked to the Mexican influence on the language. Since Californian Spanish reflects a greater Mexican influence than Puerto Rican or Peninsular Spanish, its Spanish press tends to contain more animal-related idioms. When analysing the cognitive scenarios in the Californian Spanish press, warning, insinuation, and reproach stand out among the idioms found, while those not found

include insinuation, reproach, and compliment. In New York, the dominant categorisations are similar in the idioms found, showing a preference for these terms when warning, insinuating, or reproaching. However, in New York, the idioms not found include the category of compliment, whereas in California more idioms from this category are used.

These linguistic differences between California and New York reflect their respective migratory and cultural histories. California has received mainly migrants of Mexican origin, while New York has been home to a largely Puerto Rican and Caribbean population. Puerto Rican Spanish has been influenced by English and other languages, as well as local Creole varieties, which may explain lexical and grammatical differences from mainland Spanish. These differences also reflect the linguistic and cultural attitudes of Spanish speakers in Puerto Rico and its diaspora in New York.

5. Conclusions

The phraseology of Spanish in the United States is evident, particularly in the varieties spoken in California and New York. In California, the long-standing presence of Mexican migrants has had a significant influence on the local Spanish, aligning it more closely with Peninsular Spanish in terms of phraseology and other linguistic aspects. Conversely, in New York, the diverse migrant population, especially those from Puerto Rico and the Caribbean, has shaped a more heterogeneous form of Spanish, with stronger lexical and grammatical influences from other languages and cultures. This comparative study of phraseology has revealed notable differences in the use of certain verbal idioms in the Spanish press of California and New York, reflecting the distinct linguistic and cultural perspectives of speakers in each region. Additionally, it underscores the importance of considering sociolinguistic, cognitive, historical, and cultural factors when analysing the similarities and differences between the Spanish variants in these areas, offering a deeper insight into how migration has shaped the evolution of Spanish in the United States.

From a sociolinguistic viewpoint, Spanish phraseology in the United States is understood as a dynamic process of linguistic interaction, where diverse linguistic communities adapt and incorporate various linguistic and cultural elements into their speech. This process is heavily shaped by factors such as migration history, geography, economics, politics, and the linguistic attitudes of the speakers. The study aims to explore how these elements impact the development of Spanish phraseology in the U.S. From a sociohistorical perspective, several key factors are considered to

contextualize the sociolinguistic findings. Differences in migration histories lead to linguistic variations, which are evident in the vocabulary and idioms used by each community. For instance, historical migrations, like the arrival of Puerto Ricans in New York in the 1940s or Mexican immigration to California in the 19th century, play a significant role in shaping present-day linguistic traits. Moreover, demographic shifts, social dynamics, and external influences further contribute to the evolution of Spanish in these communities. The origins and historical trajectories of these communities also impact their language use, influencing phraseology by determining speech patterns, choice of expressions, communication styles, and linguistic identity. Communities with a long history of language contact, such as the interaction between Spanish and English, tend to incorporate linguistic borrowings and develop hybrid forms of language that reflect this interplay.

From a cognitive perspective, Spanish phraseology in the United States is viewed as a process of linguistic evolution that involves the acquisition, use, and interpretation of linguistic forms by speakers. This process entails a reorganization of the speakers' cognitive frameworks and an adaptation to new communicative practices, as reflected in the idioms analyzed in California and New York. Additionally, phraseology is a complex and dynamic phenomenon that arises from the interaction between various linguistic and cultural groups. The comparative analysis of phraseology uncovers both similarities and differences in the idiomatic expressions used by Spanish speakers in these regions, emphasizing the need to consider historical, geographical, social, and linguistic contexts to fully grasp the process of linguistic change. Further investigation into this phenomenon is crucial to gaining deeper insight into the linguistic and cultural dynamics of this continuously evolving community.

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