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THE PRESENT AND THE FUTURE OF THE *ATLAS LINGÜÍSTICO DE LA PENÍNSULA IBÉRICA* (ALPI)

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Abstract

We briefly introduce the papers in this special issue of *Dialectologia* devoted to the *Atlas Lingüístico de la Península Ibérica* (ALPI) and the new CSIC project to develop and publish the ALPI materials. The papers focus on several lexical, phonetic and morphological issues examined from synchronic and diachronic perspectives and represent a sample of the many results that can be obtained by consulting ALPI data.

EL PRESENTE Y EL FUTURO DEL *ATLAS LINGÜÍSTICO DE LA PENÍNSULA IBÉRICA* (ALPI)

Resumen

He aquí una breve presentación de las contribuciones de este número especial de *Dialectologia* dedicado al *Atlas Lingüístico de la Península Ibérica* (ALPI) así como el nuevo proyecto del CSIC para elaborar y editar los materiales del ALPI. Los artículos examinan diversos aspectos léxicos, fonéticos y morfológicos tanto desde una perspectiva sincrónica como diacrónica y constituyen una muestra de los muchos resultados que se pueden obtener mediante la consulta de los datos del ALPI.

This third special issue of *Dialectologia* is devoted to an almost hundred-year-old project, which, today, thanks to modern technology, will have a large presence on the

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Internet: the *Atlas Lingüístico de la Península Ibérica* (ALPI). Conceived in 1914, the first surveys were begun in 1931, but they were interrupted in 1936 by the Spanish Civil War, with the few remaining surveys to be completed in the 1950s after materials exiled with Navarro Tomás after the war returned to Spain (Navarro Tomás 1975, see also Cortés & Garcia Perales 2009) and the Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas (CSIC), the body which succeeded the Junta de Ampliación de Estudios (JAE), took responsibility for funding the project. The atlas survey includes data from 527 survey points, which can provide a rich overview of the status of dialects of that time in the Iberian Peninsula, the Balearic Islands and Roussillon, with the exclusion of the Canary Islands, Azores and Madeira.

Ramón Menéndez Pidal devised this ambitious project at the JAE's Centro de Estudios Históricos, which was directed and developed subsequently by Tomás Navarro Tomás. From the beginning, its broad scope linked together researchers in various parts of the peninsula. Lorenzo Rodríguez Castellano and Aurelio M. Espinosa Jr., with the cooperation of Aníbal Otero and Manuel Sanchis Guarner, surveyed the Castilian speaking territories; Aníbal Otero and Luis F. Lindley Cintra, with a previous help of Nobre de Gusmão and Armando Sa Rodrigo Nogueira, were responsible of the Galician-Portuguese area; while Francesc de B. Moll and Manuel Sanchis Guarner surveyed the localities of the Catalan speaking territories.

The ALPI project experienced many difficulties and obstacles throughout its history, including during the editing process, and yet, in 1962, the first volume (of what should have been ten) appeared, funded by the CSIC. This single volume (ALPI 1962), a landmark at that time, followed the model of the traditional dialect atlas, but unfortunately remained without continuation.

The recovery of the notebook materials (cf. Heap 2002, also this volume), a renewed interest in Navarro Tomás and his work (Salaberría 2007, Torrens Álvarez 2008), and the centenary of the *Junta de Ampliación de Estudios* (García Mouton 2007), all contributed bringing greater attention to the ALPI materials. Funding for the publication of the ALPI was secured through an internal project (*Elaboración y edición de los materiales del Atlas Lingüístico de la Península Ibérica* (ALPI), 200410E604), sponsored by the Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas, with the objectives of developing and publishing the data using among other things the resources of technologies based on current Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and Spatial Data

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Infrastructure (SDI) (cf. García Mouton 2010). This project also has institutional collaboration from the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid (UAM), the Universitat de Barcelona (UB), the Instituto da Lingua Galega de la Universidade de Santiago de Compostela (ILGA-USC), the Centro de Linguistica de la Universidade de Lisboa (CLUL), the Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRCC) and the Institut d'Estudis Catalans (IEC). Coordinated by Pilar García Mouton (CSIC), a specialist in geolinguistics, the team includes specialists working on the various areas surveyed: Inés Fernández Ordóñez (UAM), David Heap (UWO), Maria-Pilar Perea (UB), João Saramago (CLUL) and Xulio Sousa (ILGA-USC).

This CSIC project involves an online transcription tool that allows for data entry by teams at each of the institutions involved, with a virtual keyboard which displays a full phonetic symbol set for transcriptions on screen. The highly-detailed *Revista de Filología Española* (RFE 1915) phonetic alphabet originally adapted by Navarro Tomás for the ALPI project has been simplified to a transcription system based on the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA), with a number of equivalences to ensure that the same simplifications from the original transcriptions are performed at the different centres by the different research teams.

Retranscribing the ALPI data is of course a vast undertaking involving many coordinated efforts by different teams with specially trained research assistants working on the different linguistic zones of the Iberian Peninsula. Nonetheless, the advantages of a fully transcribed ALPI corpus will be immense. One of them will be the ability to search the whole corpus for specific linguistic variables in many ways such as searching by phonetic transcription, by orthographic form or by semantic fields. In addition, all the comments noted by the fieldworkers during the surveys will be available, thus ensuring the preservation of all the original information. The original images of the questionnaires will be also accessible to users the in PDF format, so that anyone will be able to consult the original transcriptions made in the RFE phonetic alphabet. The results of any search can be displayed cartographically using a Geographic Information System (GIS) platform, so that the computerized ALPI will be a powerful tool for understanding the dynamics of language variation across Iberian Romance. Unlike a traditional atlas which has a finite number of fixed maps, the future ALPI will include the potential to generate not only display maps of the individual variables included in the original questionnaire, but also interpretative maps which include correlations

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between different variables and statistical summaries of different items, leading to analyses which extend well beyond the realm of the static maps of the linguistic atlases of the last century.

The papers

The papers published in this issue represent a sample of the many results that can be obtained by consulting ALPI data and their possibilities, and also an invitation for future studies. Some of these papers focus on lexical issues, as is the case with Saramago's lexico-botanical contribution, which surveys names of leguminous plants in varieties of the Western Peninsula. Perea's article traces indirect uses of data from the ALPI surveys to enrich the dialect vocabulary in Catalan-Valencian-Balearic lexicography. Lexical variation is also the focus of Mouzo Villar's study which examines both local variations and semantic motivations in expressions designating children born out of wedlock in Galician varieties, as well as Negro Romero's study of terms for the uvula across Western Iberian Romance varieties.

Phonetic evolution is the focus of Estrada Arráez' contribution dealing with the loss of /d/ in intervocalic and final positions across the Peninsula. ALPI data (for the most part from the 1930s) can also be used as a baseline to study features which may have changed (or not) in later dialect surveys which employ similar, if not identical, methodologies. In García Mouton and Molina Martos' study we see a phonetic variable which has phonological impact (*yeísmo*), with a great advantage that the ALPI data now allow for a diachronic study of the /ʎ/-/ʝ/ merger by contrasting the earlier dialect surveys from the 1930s with more recent regional surveys conducted in the 1980-1990s and in 2002-2003.

Sousa's contribution also exploits the real-time diachronic potential of the ALPI data by contrasting phonetic and lexical variables between the surveys from the 1930s with more recent atlas data, The same real-time diachronic approach is adopted in Rodríguez Lorenzo's study of three variables (one phonetic, one morphological and one lexical) in Galicia, using the ALPI data from the 1930s, Galician atlas data from the 1970s and recent dialect survey data from 2008. Rosés Labrada's article is similarly diachronic in perspective, focusing on morphological features (third person pronoun

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usage: *leísmo*, *laísmo*, *loísmo*) in Zamora, using ALPI survey data from the 1930s to show that the regional unity noted for these features is in fact a not a recent phenomenon. While it does not contrast ALPI data with other dialect surveys, Lara Bermejo's study looks at morphological changes, specifically the use of third person plural for second person plural pronouns of address, in Andalusian Spanish and in Portuguese dialects, from a historical perspective. Heap's contribution traces the early years of the online ALPI, before the current CSIC project.

The first results of the computerization of the *Atlas Lingüístico de la Península Ibérica* (ALPI) will soon be available on the Internet from the future geoportal of the Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas, www.alpi.csic.es). The passage of time will allow what was intended to be a conventional linguistic atlas on paper to become instead a free-access interactive atlas, with extensive possibilities of simple and complex queries and with the inclusion of ethnographic and folklore materials in the form of images. The recovery of the past and the ability to compare data with current results opens a rich field of action for potential research.

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