

Research Project

Dialect contacts in contexts of migration. The case of the Equatoguinean immigrants in Madrid, Spain

Project funded by own resources

Project title Dialect contacts in contexts of migration. The case of the Equatoguinean immigrants in Madrid, Spain

Principal Investigator(s) [Schlumpf-Thurnherr, Sandra](#) ;

Organisation / Research unit

Departement Sprach- und Literaturwissenschaften / Iberoromanische und Allgemeine Sprachwissenschaft (Schlumpf-Thurnherr)

Fakultär assoziierte Institutionen / Zentrum für Afrikastudien Basel

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The studies about language and migration constitute a recent approach in the field of linguistics and aim to analyse language contacts resulting from human migrations. Such contacts activate sociolinguistic accommodation processes, which shape the language use of the immigrants and their linguistic attitudes towards the involved languages and dialects. The sociolinguistic integration of the immigrants is considered a fundamental part of their integration in the receiving society.

In Spain, Madrid is one of the areas with the highest immigration rate in the last decades. Spanish-speaking immigrants as well as immigrants with different linguistic backgrounds enter in contact with the Madrilenian society, and their languages and dialects play an important role in the overall integration process. Most of the Spanish-speaking immigrants, who have to adapt to a society in which dominates another variety of Spanish, come from Latin American countries (e.g. Ecuador, Colombia, Dominican Republic, etc.). Another Spanish-speaking group, which so far has not yet been considered in studies about the immigrant population in the Autonomous Community of Madrid, are the immigrants from Equatorial Guinea. Despite the fact that Equatorial Guinea is the only Spanish-speaking country in Central Africa — and constitutes, therefore, a singular case in the Spanish-speaking world —, it has very little visibility in studies about the Spanish language. In a similar way, the Equatoguinean immigrants have never been subject of any research on language and migration.

This research project aims to study the sociolinguistic situation of the Equatoguineans in Madrid, with a special focus on language attitudes, language ideologies and some selected dialectal features of Equatoguinean Spanish. The primary research methodology are semi-directed interviews composed of life stories that include the following topics: the arrival of the immigrants to Spain, the past in their country of origin, the adaptation to the life in Madrid and differences to their country of origin, their labour situation, their family and their expectations for the future.

Keywords Spanish, Equatorial Guinea, Madrid, Migration, Postcolonial context, Sociolinguistics, Glot-topolitics, Visibility, Language contacts, Language attitudes, Language ideologies

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Published results

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