

Spanish in Four Continents: Studies in Language Contact and Bilingualism (Georgetown Studies in Romance Linguistics)

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This collection is the first to examine the effects of bilingualism and multilingualism on the development of dialectal varieties of Spanish in Africa, America, Asia and Europe. Nineteen essays investigate a variety of complex situations of contact between Spanish and typologically different languages, including Basque, Bantu languages, English, and Quechua. The overall picture that evolves clearly indicates that although influence from the contact languages may lead to different dialects, the core grammar of Spanish remains intact.

Silva-Corvalán's volume makes an important contribution both to sociolinguistics in general, and to Spanish linguistics in particular. The contributors address theoretical and empirical issues that advance our knowledge of what is a possible linguistic change, how languages change, and how changes spread in society in situations of intensive bilingualism and language contact, a situation that appears to be the norm rather than the exception in the world.

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Language Notes

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About the Author

Carmen Silva-Corvalán is a professor of Spanish Linguistics at the University of Southern California. She is the author of *Sociolingüística: Teoría y análisis* (Alhambra, 1989) and *Language Contact and Change: Spanish in Los Angeles* (Oxford University Press, 1994).

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