

FROM SYNTHETIC TO ANALYTIC MODALITY: CONTACT-INDUCED EVOLUTION OF POTENTIAL MOOD IN SOUTHERN QUECHUA

Gregory Haimovich

University of Warsaw

grhaimovich@al.uw.edu.pl

Since the conquest of the Inca Empire, Quechua, the greatest of Andean language families by geographical extension and number of speakers, has been exposed to a permanent influence of the Spanish language, which resulted in the gradual loss of the internal diversity of Quechua languages and substantial changes in their lexicon, phonology and grammar. Before the arrival of Europeans Quechua did not have written history, while the early colonial period (16th c. – 1st half of 17 c.) puts a limited number of Quechua texts at our disposal, most of which are related to ecclesiastical literature, as well as grammars and dictionaries of Quechua compiled by Spanish-speaking priests. Although these sources represent a type of corpus already influenced by contact with Spanish to a certain extent, they can bring us most closely to the pre-contact stage of Quechua grammar and give a starting point in diachronic study of many of its features.

One of these features, which have undergone a remarkable change throughout the documented history of Quechua, is potential mood, expressed in Spanish by an auxiliary verb *poder* ("can" or "may" in English). Today the potential mood in Quechua is largely manifested by an auxiliary verb *atiy*, according to the Spanish pattern. However, early Quechua sources demonstrate a synthetic realization of potential mood, expressed by the suffix *man*, which is hardly distinguishable from a conditional mood.

The presentation will show how, by analyzing a comprehensive corpus of Quechua texts, starting from the middle 16th century up to modern times, it is possible to trace the evolution of Quechua modality patterns under the influence of contact with Spanish, with focus on the gradual split between conditional and potential moods, the formation and spread of analytic potential mood, accompanied by semantic change in the verb *atiy* and paronymous terms. The reference corpus will include grammars and ecclesiastical texts from the early colonial period, the Huarochiri manuscript (ca. 1598), theatrical plays dated by 18th – 19th centuries, an

autobiographical Quechua narrative from 20th century and samples of spoken Quechua collected by field researchers in recent years.

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