Code Switching in Spoken Spanish in Florida
Through Chat

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Abstract: In this paper, code switching, or code change, as natural language phenomena, which results due to bilingualism and through chat conversations carried out by speakers of Spanish in Florida, is analyzed. These discussions formed the body of research and were recorded over a period of six (6) months. Under a sociolinguistic perspective, the writings collected are detailed prior to psycholinguistic and historical considerations that define both the phenomenon being studied as well as Spanish entry into the mentioned context. Among the most important findings stands out the fact that, of all the linguistic processes experienced in chat by existing dialects in the area, the most frequent were code changes. These changes occur through lexical borrowing (loanwords), calques, and
semantic extensions, which is called Spanglish by some authors given the pressure exerted by Spanish onto English.

**Keywords:** Code Switching, Spoken English, Bilingualism, Chat

**Resumen:** Este artículo se ocupa de analizar los marcadores lexicales y etiquetas de expresividad discursivas, utilizadas por los hablantes del español en Florida a través del chat. Se parte de un corpus por los hablantes del español en Florida a través del chat y de un corpus recogido sobre conversaciones grabadas en un periodo de seis meses que no han sido alteradas, lo que ha permitido corroborar la situación de bilingüismo (inglés-español) que sucede dentro de este contexto lingüístico. Los préstamos y los calcos lexicales y sintácticos que surgen de la alternancia de las dos lenguas de contacto se manifiestan en este medio electrónico como prácticas discursivas normales para obtener una comunicación efectiva. Los hallazgos más relevantes, generados del análisis lingüístico del corpus recolectado, conducen a concluir que le léxico utilizado en el chat, específicamente los marcadores lexicales, y etiquetas de expresividad discursivas, se aparta de la norma estándar de la escritura y de los contextos orales formales produciéndose así un fenómeno paradójico de entendimiento a pesar de la profusa utilización de anglicismos y acortamientos léxicos que refuerzan una de las señas de identidad del grupo social.

**Palabras Clave:** Marcadores Lexicales, Etiquetas de Expresividad, Bilingüismo, Chat.
INTRODUCTION

Code switching in two or more languages can be defined as a natural linguistic phenomenon that occurs between bilinguals, thanks to its pragmatic-discursive competence. This change consists of code switching within the same speech that the individual, often subconsciously, uses to meet a wide range of communicative functions in many circumstances. The study of code switching was initiated mainly in the era of the 1970s, from various perspectives. Among them; the psycholinguistic perspective that addresses the bilingual individual; the historical perspective that focuses on the diachronic evolution of language contact; and the sociolinguistic perspective which analyzes the speech community in terms of the choice of one code or another. This depends on situational factors such as the interlocutor, the communicative state, and the theme or purpose of the interaction.

The aforementioned perspectives and their main object of study provided the theoretical background for this research which took as its aim to analyze code switching that occurs when Spanish and English come into contact in Florida, specifically in conversations produced via the Internet through the use of chat. According to Yus (2001), this conversational human interaction between users of cyberspace "is an oral conversation in a written foundation, a new form of communication with its own codes of operation in order to be fun, conducive, and entertaining."

Based on this concept, and given the bilingual state that occurs in the aforementioned context, the development of this study is

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2 See Yus (2001: pag. 24)
justified considering that it tries to report what the speaker performs with spoken language in print media. This communicative state is ideal for analyzing how the bilingual speaker shifts naturally and from one language to another, not only linguistic phenomena associated with switching, but also other embodiments derived from these code changes such as their own loanwords, calques, and phonic adaptations of oral language.

In order to fulfill the scheduled target, the background of previous research is included in this work that allude to: the state of bilingualism in Florida; the influence of English in Spanish that is discussed in this context; the characteristics of the language used in chat, and the definition of code change from a linguistic point of view. All this aims to describe, in some way, the current status of this issue and, in turn, serves to support the analysis of the collected work. Subsequently, the results and conclusions generated are presented during this study, under psycholinguistic, historical, and sociolinguistic perspectives.

STATUS OF BILINGUALISM IN FLORIDA

The bilingual state in Florida is studied by Lynch (1999, 2003, 2005, 2009, 2013), Otheguy et al. (2000) and is also referred to by Silva-Corvalan (2007, 2008, 2009) as a bilingual continuum. Lynch believes that Miami is a bilingual city where English and Spanish compete equally with respect to its use in the social, economic, and political spheres. This author concludes that the Miami Spanish is constantly renewed and cyclical, which will ensure that it is maintained in the coming decades

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Considering Miami as a bilingual context is supported by the fact that this region represents one of the financial capitals of the world and that a third of the companies located there belong to Cuban entrepreneurs. From there arises the importance of the use and maintenance of Spanish in this city. Additionally, Miami is a city of Latin American entertainment, culture, music, and art, causing a significant influx of immigrants (visitors, tourists, legal or illegal immigrants) to this city, keeping the Spanish language ever alive.

From a sociolinguistic perspective and focused on the context, spoken Spanish in the United States must be described, which is a difficult task for several reasons. Among these are: a) the different dialects that exist in the country; b) the changing demographics of immigrants, and c) the absence of a process of normalization of Spanish in the United States, where Spanish has no official status, making it impossible to provide a homogeneous linguistic description (Silva-Corvalan, 1992, 2002).

The state of Spanish in the United States reflects both maintaining as well as shifting towards English. With regard to maintaining Spanish, Silva-Corvalan (1992: 80) argues that it depends largely on the density of contact with new groups of immigrants or temporary workers from Spanish-speaking backgrounds. Roca et al. (1993), who describe the status of bilingualism in Florida as a phenomenon where Spanish and English appear to compete in use.

4 Fernández-Shaw (1792: 181)
5 In regard to this difficulty, Roca (2000:194) mentions that variants should be discussed when referring to Spanish in the US since, a huge variety of Spanish language is observed in the country, reflected in the distinct voices of Hispanic nationalities of different generations. Additionally, Amastae et al. (1982) and Garrido (2008) affirm US Spanish forms part of the widest variety of dialects –Mexican, Cuban or Puerto Rican- which makes it necessary to analyze this Spanish which is in contact with English.
countries. We must also recognize the great importance of: continuing migration, which allows Spanish speakers to be in constant contact with their "source" language; the media, and globalization regarding the use of Spanish.

In terms of adaptation, until recently the tendency of Hispanics in America was to abandon Spanish as part of a process of adapting to a new culture, something that has now ended, whether due to an unwillingness to give up the bond of the identity of the immigrant or for economic and employment reasons. Being Hispanic in the United States, according to Garrido (2008: 29), does not amount to being a Spanish speaker for two reasons. First, because the use of this language only occurs at home, that is, an informal, and especially oral language for exclusive use with the family.

Second, because Spanish in the US is only spoken by newcomers; the third generation now does not usually speak the language of their grandparents, instead replacing Spanish with English. Whether for these reasons or not, the maintenance of Spanish is evident, which according to groups of generations - first, second, third generations - ranges from a better use of Spanish to a more limited one. The importance of continuing migration should be emphasized, as this phenomenon creates a kind of recycling of the language and acts as an important entity in the communicative continuum. In any case, the role of Spanish in the United States, as part of local and international

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6 On the other hand, Garrido (2008:28) describes the status of maintenance as an adaptative Hispano-Anglo bilingualism, defining it as a sociolect phenomenon characteristic of speakers in a social position s immigrants that adapt to the English-speaking state; in this way, speakers continually change their Spanish while they integrate into English-speaking society.
communicative cohesion and economic utility, has been studied by the authors listed in Table 1 below.

**State of spoken Spanish in the United States**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AuthorS</th>
<th>PROPOSALS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lipski (1996)</td>
<td>The dialectological profile of Spanish in America is a mosaic that shows the original Hispanic presence and its later migration routes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lipski (2003)</td>
<td>Spanish in the United States advances at the same time it moves backwards.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vilar (2003)</td>
<td>The state of Spanish in this country is magnificent.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gimeno y Gimeno (2003)</td>
<td>Spanish is currently booming.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wherrity y García (1989)</td>
<td>Spanish in the United States is basically a first generation phenomenon, which is limited to a restricted public life and which prospers primarily in rural and poor sectors.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bills (2005)</td>
<td>Spanish in this country is being lost as its speakers change to English.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moreno Fernández (2009)</td>
<td>Spanish is like a linguistic soup, with a Hispanic color and seasoned by its continuous migrations.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1

Despite mixed reviews, reported in Table 2, Roca (2000) states that the status of Spanish in the United States is still in progress due to being in contact with itself (through its varieties of speakers) and due to the direct influence of English\(^7\). In the event of predicting the future of Spanish on American soil, if it depended on the attitudes of Hispanics toward the language of

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\(^7\) This is how Mexican-American are put into contact with Salvadorans y Guatemalans, for example; Nicaraguans in contact with Cuban-American; Dominicans in contact with Puerto Ricans y Cubans-Americans; which induces a nonhomogeneous linguistic variety.
their ancestors, the continuation of Spanish could easily be predicted, despite the influences being made by English on this language. These influences are described below.

**INFLUENCES OF ENGLISH ON FLORIDIAN SPANISH**

The influences that Spanish spoken in Florida has received from English can be grouped and described from a phonetic, morphosyntactical, and lexical point of view. These influences, which are evident nearly all over the US, are summarized below.

**Phonetic Changes**

- Gliding of middle, unstressed, in hiatus vowels, affecting only high vowels /i/, /u/ in popular speech, gliding reaches all vowels but the most open one /a/.
- Loss of the final /a/ of a word in front of the initial vowel of the next word. (e.g. la casa vs el espalda)
- Elision of the final /e/ of a word before a vowel
- Shift of word stress in the sentence
- Loss of the voiced palatal fricative /y/ when it continues or follows a preceding vowel (/i/, /e/)
- Maintaining pharyngeal breathing /h/ (e.g.: jígado en vez de hígado, jervir por hervir, juir por huir)
- Alternating labial and velar articulations before semi-consonants /w/
- Weakness with fricatives

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8 To read more about these changes, see Craddock (1992)
Morphosyntactical characteristics

Total absence of “vosotros”, “seseo”, and “yeísmo” (Paddock, 1992). “Voseo” is only observed in the speech of Salvadorans, however, Moreno Fernández (2009) indicates that Salvadorans born and raised in the US prefer the use of “tu” over “vos”.

The phenomena of simplification, generalization, and loss in the verbal system of Spanish in the United States are easily observed. The different varieties are represented by a standard verbal system where only the infinitive and the gerund, together with the present, preterit, and imperfect indicative are maintained.

Lipski (1993) mentions that it is common to observe in second and third generation speakers problems with: a) instability in the nominal and adjectival agreement (i.e. mi blusa es blanco); b) extensive use of the indicative mood (i.e. yo tiene cuarenta años); c) improper use of the definite and indefinite articles (i.e. [el] español es muy bonita [o]); d) errors in the use of prepositions (i.e. ¿qué son tus planes del futuro?); e) redundant usage of the personal pronoun (i.e. yo se las palabras, pero cuando yo tengo que encontrar las palabras es cuando yo tengo problemas); f) elisions, in an anaphoric way, of personal pronouns.

Subcategorization of some verbs, for example the verb “gustar” (e.g.: nadie le gusta a ella, yo gusto eso).

Lexical aspects

Evidence of greater lending of content words as opposed to function words. Moreover, it should be mentioned that the loan of

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10 In regards to these aspects see Silva-Corvalán (1994, 2009); Garrido (2008) and Roca (2000).
the conjunction "so" -así- is widespread in US Spanish and other monolingual countries. This loan acts more as a discourse marker.

Extensive lexical borrowing from English to Spanish, to lighten the cognitive weight.

Garrido (2008) mentions that in the lexical aspect, Hispanics in the United States perform a communicative saving by using correlative pairs in Spanish and English. For example, "facilidades" for "edificios" ("facilities" and "buildings" respectively in English).

First generation immigrants make loanwords: mapear (to mop), sinke (sink), troca (truck), obertain (overtime), bil (bill).

Second generation immigrants perform calques of words: moverse (mudarse), atender (asistir), aplicación (solicitud), colectar (coleccionar), carpeta (alfombra), grados (calificaciones).

Use of complex calques such as: máquina de contestar (answering machine), máquina lavadora (washing machine), escuela alta (high school).

Use of lexical-syntactic calques such as: tiempo (e.g.: es un modo de tener un buen tiempo, instead of, es un modo de pasar un buen tiempo), para atrás, meaning “in response to” or “back” (ej: llamar para atrás, ir para atrás, traer a alguien para atrás), poor use of the interrogative “cómo” in conjunction with the verb "gustar" or “to like" (e.g.: ¿cómo te gusta la sopa? = How do you like the soup?)

Use of “en” instead of “a” (e.g.: para llegar allá en tiempo)

Loanwords or calques with a form of reflexification that feature syntactical structures which do not exist in Spanish. The “that’s 11 First generation immigrants are those which are born in a foreign country and immigrate to United States. Second and third generation immigrants are descendants of first generation immigrants and born in America.
why” case is documented (e.g.: *eso es porque yo quiero un hijo*, instead of, *por eso es que yo quiero un hijo*).

From all these influences, it is inferred that if there is an abstract reality of Hispanic dialectology and having to describe this variety, we can clearly see different areas of the United States on the map marked by Hispanic Americans with dialectal varieties: Cuban, Central American, Mexican, Colombian and others. Unfortunately, the dialectal reality is not abstract, but human beings -more in ethnolinguistic communities- show their flags in speech, to the point of resorting to *Spanglish*. Use of this *Spanglish* constitutes the mark of a heterogeneous group with a common cultural background of Hispanic origin, who does not want leave behind its own identity and even idiosyncrasies. It is precisely on this aspect where there have been numerous studies expressing the sociolinguistic characteristics of Spanish in America by region.

Although these studies have been devoted to determining particulars by US regions, only some of them have left behind the writings of those who chat in order to identify causalities that the process of simplification, the relaxation in the encoding process, and the need for quick response originate. That is why this study becomes relevant, since it is meant precisely to uncover phenomena, such as code switching, used by speakers of Spanish in Florida through the use of chat. The general

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12In New York, for example, the colors of the Puerto Rican flag, whose markings could show consonantal weaknesses, would be appreciated or the changes in the spheres of the verb. In the same way, we could observe in Florida distinct Cuban flags raised high demonstrating identity and could see as drawings the processes of lambdacism and rhotacism, among others.

13This is due to big urban centers of the US, such as Los Angeles, New York, Miami and Chicago introduce their own variety of Spanish, with its own phonetic, morphological, lexical, and syntactical peculiarities (Silva-Corvalán, 1992).
characteristics of the use of language that occurs through this electronic means is outlined below.

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE LANGUAGE USED IN THE CHAT

Overall, conversational human interactions between users of cyberspace "is an oral conversation in a written medium, a new form of communication with its own codes of operation in order to make it fun and conducive for entertainment." With regard to the speech delivered via chat, Sanmartin (2007: 11) defines it as a technological conversation, "speech with some planning on the fly, more typical of spoken language than written, an informal tone, and spontaneous alternations and turn-taking. In addition, a graphical colloquial conversation which constitutes a new genre when compared to phonic conversational speeches". Similarly, Azcona (2000: 43) considers chats as connecting channels between different computers that enable collective dialogue between subjects that are separated into different physical spaces. This language is characterized as being dynamic and presenting a simultaneity of immediate emission-reception. According to Salvador (1989) it is clear that the simultaneity of communicative production, reception, or immediacy leads to poor planning in which the speaker is individualized and separates oral and written speech since the receiver must "wait for" messages in order to be able to respond. Moreover, the speed of message development becomes a requirement in order to participate in chat, and it is also important in order to gain "presence".

14 Yus (2001: pág. 24)
Consequently and in accordance with Martí and Castellon (1999: 211), this new written register is "quick, spontaneous, informal, uncontrollable, and extremely interactive communication primarily featuring ordinary, common, and general topics of conversation, easy for individuals of the chat, and that encourage the participation of partners in the dialogue and an informal tone, as well as the relationship of equality among participants.\textsuperscript{15} Please note that the most striking aspect of this variety of communication is the printing of oral text, namely “the spoken word”\textsuperscript{16}.

All in all, chat is a variety of electronic communication that reflects oralization of text, that is, the feeling that users type what they would like to be saying, and read what they would like to be hearing. Communication in chat is described, then, as a verbal activity and also as a social activity, for social interaction.

The above refers to considering the difference between orality and writing in general and how this difference is manifested in chat users. Here, Barrera and Fracca (1999: 25) describe the differences between these two language skills, in various fields, and summarizes them in the six aspects mentioned below:

The text receiver-transmitter relationship varies between oral speeches and writings, mainly because of the physical absence of the transmitter in the reading stage, which gives, among other things, autonomy to the reader who does not have the listener. The producer of a written text can carefully plan its construction, an advantage that those who produce oral texts do not have.

The process of acquisition and development of oral language is subject to a number of factors in the maturation of the individual, or cognitive development, requiring the consolidation of

\textsuperscript{15} Martí and I. Castellón express that in this communicative state the language of Internet users escapes the control of whatever kind of regulation authority.

\textsuperscript{16} W. Oesterreicher (1996)
all stages of the process within a restricted period of human life. Written language seems limited only by the fact of having reached a specific neuro-linguistic state, between the ages of four and six, which remains open for a long period of time. If orality is specific to the human race, writing seems to be an artificial system created by man to represent the former.

There are a number of physical formal differences between the two coding modes, which are based on the fact that the minimum of both segmental units are different. The oral text is perceived through sounds that operate as specific instances of a system of abstract units, the phonemes. The phoneme /s/ is updated in the allophones [s], [h] and [ø], while the distinctive smallest unit of written language is the <A> grapheme which is updated in variants, or letters <A>, <a>, <ą>.

In oral language, strategies with suprasegmental features are present, which are not provided in written language, except in the explicit description of the writer. In contrast, writing neutralizes dialectal differences.

With regard to contextual differences, authors note increased speed of perception of written text, but loss of its situational context of origin.

In operational terms, writing has become support for memory, while in order to ensure the permanence of orality, one must rely on mnemonic devices that guarantee restricted significance. Through these six aspects, it can be inferred that both orality and writing are two forms of language production that are deeply distinguished from one another. Writing is a secondary system in the sense that speaking exists without writing, but the second is not without the first, hence the profound difference that,
according to Ong (1987), is derived from the formularity\textsuperscript{17} of one and the lack of it in the other.

REGARDING CODE SWITCHING OR CODE CHANGE

As mentioned in the introduction of this work, code switching consists of using alternatively two (or more) languages or dialects in a speech. In order to define such alternation, terms such as matrix language and embedded language are applied in order to refer to the two languages or dialects that alternate in the interaction. According to Muysken (2000)\textsuperscript{18}, the choice of a specific language over another as a base can be explained by both psycholinguistic reasons as well as sociolinguistic ones and according to this author, the main formal features are:

It affects both the lexical and the grammatical level.

It does not generally alter the morphosyntactical structure of languages in contact.

It is common to code change in midsentence when the order of the elements in both languages coincides; when the languages in contact are typologically different, the change is more problematic, but not impossible.

In the middle of a word, it is not common to switch from one code to another.

The order of morphemes usually determines the matrix language.

\textsuperscript{17} Formularity implies the unimportance of originality, a concept that began to be cultivated during the Romanticism period. Previously, orality had cultivated the use of formulas that were in order to give rhythm to singing and also to help memory. Homeric Greece "cultivated, as a poetic and intellectual virtue, what we have considered a vice" (Ong 1987:32).

The productive morphemes are generally from the matrix language.

The transition between one code and another is often fluid, that is without breaks, keeping the rhythm and intonation. Code switching, as mentioned, is motivated by many circumstances and meets a wide range of functions in communication. Among these, Sankoff, D., Poplack, S. and Vanniarajan, S. (1991)\textsuperscript{19} include the following:

- indicate a change of subject or activity;
- select a recipient from a group of listeners;
- imitate, introduce a touch of humor;
- create a pun;
- quote (direct or indirect speech);
- make a marginal comment;
- clarify or emphasize;
- keep a secret with one (or some) of the listeners;
- practice a particular language;
- brag about a good level in the language in question.

Sometimes code change occurs simply because a term, an expression, or an equivalent saying does not exist (or is not known) in the matrix language.

For these authors, code switching is not always the case whenever several languages appear in speech since there exist other phenomena related to this change. For example, when only one term in another language is incorporated in monolingual speech, this distinct phenomenon is known as a loanword. There is also a third phenomenon called code mixing; which is involuntary or subconscious and reveals language deficiencies by

the speaker: in only one speech, two codes are applied, combined in such a way that it is not possible to discern a matrix language.

To summarize, all these phenomena were observed in the collected corpus of conversations recorded over a period of six (6) months and were not altered, allowing not only confirmation of the status of bilingualism (English-Spanish) that occurs within this linguistic context but also the existence of such phenomena. This corpus is presented below.

ANALYSIS OF GATHERED CORPUS

Within the corpus collected, data related to lexical influence of English on Spanish in words ending in -tion were collected. Also, various types of loanwords, calques, and code switching were found. Such linguistic phenomena were used by speakers via chat as presented below.

Tendency to use words ending in –tion

Example 01: <monicaaa_> estoy de un bravation hoy!!!!!!!!!
Example 02: <EL_VIEJO52> Estoy mamation…
Example 03: <Lizzzz_25> Todo esta muy caration ultimamente lol
Example 04: marialejandra Siii, la escasation mio :D :D :D

20 The investigator assumes that the creation of words with this ending is principally based on a wide range of nouns in English that include this ending. This ending is well-known, and the sound - in English classes- is one of the most difficult to pronounce for students, due to the fact that in Spanish the closest sound is the [ch]. It is alarming that in this body of work, the use of this creation with -tion was observed, but overall by women. It seems that women tend to deal more with the creation of new words.
Lexical borrowing

Loanwords with phonic adaptation

Example 01: Luis490 es que carlos se cree en líder\textsuperscript{21} del chat! es un dictador hahaha lo vamos a vanear
Example 02: <NiNiO_WaPo_22> no he visto el archibo con la canción que me enviastes, dejame checar\textsuperscript{22} otra vez
Example 03: chikalatina en mi trabajo no tenemos mucho tiempo para el lonch\textsuperscript{23}, esos chinos con los que yo trabajo son unos bravucones si uno se tarda comiendo
Example 04: xionela ella es nuestra guía fachoooon\textsuperscript{24} hahaha a que si martá!
Example 05: <bryan_diaz> yo siempre elijo un sanduchito\textsuperscript{25} de torque\textsuperscript{26} para mi lonche
Example 06: Lady_rosalie3_princesa me pase una luz amarilla esta mañana y me pusieron un tiquet\textsuperscript{27} adivina de 300 pesos!!!; Juan_Almeida_Dosantos es que uds las mujeres manejan malísimo, no se como les dan la carta, ni parquear\textsuperscript{28} saben :&
Example 07: princess yo pedí el asilo para estar aquí legal pero no me ha salido debo aplicar\textsuperscript{29} de nuevo a ver si tengo suerte; juyt bueno yo soy cubano casate conmigo y te doy la grin car\textsuperscript{30};D y tu me pagas los biles\textsuperscript{31} :D

\textsuperscript{21} From the English word “leader”
\textsuperscript{22} From the English word “to check” (revisar)
\textsuperscript{23} From the English word “lunch” (almuerzo)
\textsuperscript{24} From the English word “fashion” (a la moda)
\textsuperscript{25} From the English word “sándwich” (emparedado)
\textsuperscript{26} From the English word “turkey” (pavo)
\textsuperscript{27} From the English word “ticket” (multa)
\textsuperscript{28} From the English word “to park” (estacionar)
\textsuperscript{29} From the English word “to apply” (solicitar)
\textsuperscript{30} From the English word “green card” (visa americana)
Example 08: <Anachonsu_mata> no me gustan los hombres que usan las cosas tait, me parecen mariscones
Example 09: bella_9 nooo, erick es el wachiman del chat! hahahahahahaha
Example 10: lucy Pa que me voy a casar? Para mopear todo el dia!!!

Loanwords

Example 01: DisemBowelment hey babyyyyyyyyy hablame…
Example 02: <enamorada> Bye sweety!!!!
Example 03: kittyna honey no te pongas bravito LOL
Example 04: la_gorditasexy ay diositoxxxxxx! Eres un idiot!!!
Example 05: caro-072125 romeo es muy cute!!! yo lo vi en el concierto
Example 06: Kaaren56 damn no!!!!
Example 07: <leo_andres> fuck!!!! Estas viraoo man, yo no soy gay
Example 08: <Marielita es que ella es la chica tipica chica fancy
Example 09: <Manuela1976> Mi novio sempre me dice que esta busy

31 From the English word “bills” (cuentas)
32 From the English word “tight” (ajustado)
33 From the English word “watch man” (vigilante)
34 From the English word “to mop” (lampacear
35 Baby - bebé
36 Sweety – cariño
37 Honey – cariño, amor
38 Idiot- idiota
39 Cute- lindo
40 Damn- maldición
41 Fuck - joder
42 Fancy- elegante clase alta. The English use of this word is understandable, since the majority of dialectal varieties are in Spanish and have their own version to define it.
43 Busy – ocupado/a
Example 10: <leonor> Ya fuiste al bar organico que esta cerca del international mall? Venden unos jugos sugar-free44 buenisimos

Example 11: <Marlb0ro_ligth> yo no manejo de noche, nunca he visto las lights45 LOL
Example 12: <juancito_conganas> Alguna muchacha para privado??? Estoy muy high46
Example 13: <Daniel_fernandez> Tu siempre has sido el amor de mi vida; <ysk_2030> Hahahahaha really47? Y como si nos conocemos desde hoy! Jajaja
Example 14: <jose_bozo> Bro48 el juego!
Example 15: <Oswaldo_elking> Hey man49, viste ayer el juego de la NFL?
Example 16: <carlitos_guerrero> capaz que diga que eso es muy girly50 para el! El es un macho vernaculo hahahahahaha
Example 17: <mariu> En los party city consigues los candies51 para esa ocacion, y creo que por donde tu estas hay uno cerca, chequea con el gps
Example 18: <kari_cubanita> Para conocer NY lo mejor es tomar el subway y caminar, mas que un city52 tour
Example 19: <anita_princess> Tengo el nuevo iphone 5 lo compre en el pembroke hoy estoy happyyyyy53

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44 Sugar-free – libre de azúcar
45 Lights - semáforo
46 High – con deseo sexual, excitado
47 Really – en serio, de verdad. In this case, the speaker used it with a sarcastic tone.
48 Bro: diminutivo de “brother” – hermano. This word was used with a friendly connotation.
49 Man- hombre
50 Girly - afeminado
51 Candies - caramelos
52 City tour – recorrido por la ciudad
53 Happy - feliz
Example 20: <rafito_333> Donde puedo comprar stamps\textsuperscript{54} para cartas????

Calques

Example 01: tetevlc Hoy estas como ruda\textsuperscript{55} conmigo ☺
Example 02: EL\textunderscore CONQUISTADOR Yo soy un santo!!!!!!! Todos los domingos atiendo\textsuperscript{56} a la iglesia LOL
Example 03: <DDVichVodk7>Yo colecto\textsuperscript{57} vasos de Hard Rock cafe, ya tengo 24!!!!!!!!!!!!
Example 04: maiguita Yo se donde queda, esta por la 86 pero la locación\textsuperscript{58} de ese sitio no me gusta esta muy solo… igual Orlando es bonito, pero tampa es mas!!! Beleave me! Cero turistas
Example 05: napio8328 Yo puedo cantar! Pero sin audiencia\textsuperscript{59}! Solo en el baño hahahahaha

Code Switching as a Product of Language Contact

Code change with situational function\textsuperscript{60}

Example 01: Reflexivo_ La vida aqui esta difícil, todo esta muy caro.. vivo escrachao yo; <Nina4> :& y que es eso?????? Depre?; H*** Reflexivo_ aahahahaha no, that i am always

\textsuperscript{54} Stamps- sellos
\textsuperscript{55} Ruda, from the English word “rude” – odiosa, grosera
\textsuperscript{56} From the English word “to attend” - asistir
\textsuperscript{57} From the English word “to collect” - coleccionar
\textsuperscript{58} From the English word “location” – ubicación
\textsuperscript{59} From the English word “audience” – público. Esta oración, sintácticamente, pareciera una traducción
\textsuperscript{60} Vinagre Laranjeira (2005) defines this code switching as one that is motivated by the social context in which the participants of the conversation find themselves. The same author indicates that these changes are produced in subconscious ways, and often speaker don’t recognize having code switched for any particular reason.
broke; <Margi_33> que ansara!!! Hahahahaha; Angel23 ansara??????; <Margi_33> si, pues stupid

Example 02: carlos_armando somos cheros de chat desde hace tiempo ya; Luis490 que es chero??????; carlos_armando vatos, friends, you know
Example 03: ToRoNtOoO en mi pais no hay reales y los politicos corruptos dejan al pueblo pasar hambre porque ellos se roban todo; latina40 reales es peso??; ToRoNtOoO si!
*** latina40 Hahaha que comica forma de decirlo.. no es mas facil decir money??? real suena como a principe real de Disney world o de la realeza de alla lejos hahahahahahaha
Example 04: Mattca En forever 21 los cintos estan como a 1 peso y hay de todos los colores; <luxito> Las cintas del pelo???; Mattca Nooo! Los belts
<luxito> Ah! Y tan baratos???

Intraphrasal code switching

Example 01: dorada chico de verdad! Be serious⁶¹
Example 02: Zildjian~ Hoy tengo la cabeza loca, ayer fue de party all night long⁶²
Example 03: Smokes Yo creo que esa gente tiene los mejores mobile plans⁶³
Example 04: bisex yo si soy pro gay marriage⁶⁴! Alla los mente cerradas ellos que son againts

⁶¹ Code switch at the beginning of verb + adjective. “Be serios” – ponte serio
⁶² Code switch at the beginning of a dependent clause. “party all night long” – de fiesta toda la noche
⁶³ Code switch at the beginning of a dependent clause. “Mobile plans” – planes de celular
Example 05: amanda2 Estrano la comida de mi mama, ya estoy cansada de comer todos los días junk food cause is sooooo greasy.

Example 06: hugo_fuego Lo que quisiera es que pudieras suck my hard dick.

Example 07: <+Alex___> Quiero estar asi bonning all night w/ya

Example 08: AlejandraMrquezG Esa tienda tiene siempre the biggest sales ever.

Example 09: militar2488 Voy a comprar sex toys ya know...para complacerte aun mas

Example 10: nest_25 Andaaa show me your boos

Example 11: crossfit-wapa Yo uso el shampoo for straight effects que ellos venden y me encanta

Example 12: Oh! Ellos siempre dicen eso, I hate that!!!!

Example 13: To full de tank here es muy caro, en cambio en otros lados no pasa de 1 peso

Example 14: Yo puedo ser tu hombre y te aseguro that you wont fake with me.

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64 Code switch at the beginning of a dependent clause. “pro gay marriage” – a favor del matrimonio gay. “Against – en contra

65 Code switch at the beginning of a dependent clause. “junk food cause is sooooo greasy” – comida de la calle ya que es tan grasosa

66 Code switch at the beginning of verb phrase. Phrase with sexual content.

67 Code switch at the beginning of verb phrase. Phrase with sexual content.

68 Code switch at the beginning of nominal phrase. “The biggest sales ever” – las mejores rebajas

69 Code switch at the beginning of nominal phrase. “sex toys, your know” – juegos eróticos, sabes..

70 Code switch at the beginning of verb phrase. “Muéstrame tus senos”

71 Code switch at the beginning of nominal phrase. “shampoo for straight hair” – champu para cabello liso

72 Code switch – tag that expresses an emotive nature

73 Code switch at the beginning of verb phrase. “to full the tank here” – llenar el tanque de gasolina aqui

74 Code switch at the beginning of verb phrase. Phrase with sexual content. “That you won’t fake with me” – no tendrás que fingir conmigo.
Example 15: Los trios no son nuevos para mi, ive done it several times already lol

As can be seen in the collected corpus, spoken Spanish in Florida is characterized by language switching, loans, as well as lexical and syntactic calques differing in stability among English and Spanish. Garrido (2008) mentions that this contact is a case of bilingualism in different degrees or "adaptive bilingualism" which stands out for its cognitive savings without communicative loss of importance, just as was observed in -tion endings. Thus, the conversation partner speaks both English and Spanish so that loans and simplifications are more easily understood. Silva-Corvalan (2007) indicates that the status of social bilingualism in the United States is extremely complex both linguistically and socially.

Overall, it could be argued that a good portion of Hispanics in Florida are bilingual and the use of Spanish is inclined either by: a) reflection of the family language, b) economic prestige in some cities by being bilingual c) mark of Hispanic identity, d) continuous immigration. However, it is indisputable that despite continuing immigration, loyalty to language and, in some cases, family affect the maintenance of Spanish in the country. There is no doubt that spoken Spanish in this area is the product of a varietal overlap, thus creating a Spanish language, within the United States, with unique and mightily distinguishable features.

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75 Code switch at the beginning of verb phrase. Phrase with sexual content. “I’ve done it several times already” - ya lo he hecho varias veces
CONCLUSIONS

Code switching or changing used by bilingual speakers in Florida and reported in this article lead to the following conclusions:

As can be seen, all the examples cited mimic the types of structures used in oral language, confirming the existing fragility between this kind of language and writing.

The results of this study reveal a lot of deviations from standard Spanish at all linguistic levels, confirming the hypothesis that chat language is closer to oral language than to prototypical written language, thus constituting a type of unplanned speech.

The reported linguistic phenomena may be the product of the heterogeneity of the sociolinguistic variations due to sharing geography and a different society from those immigrants' countries of origin with English. From there arises the talk about Cubanisms, Colombianisms, Dominicanisms, Mexicanisms, and other dialects that come into contact through speakers in this area.

These dialects did manage to correspond in the misuse of capitalization, spelling errors, construction of simple sentences, without further syntactic complexity and with little semantic richness, code switching as a result of language contact, and loanwords with phonic adaptation, calques, and the omission of letters in any position within the word. Consequently, these findings may be counted as the most common features identified in the analysis of dialectal varieties examined.

The use of code switching and calques is called by some authors as Spanglish given the pressure exerted by Spanish onto English. Use of this Spanglish becomes a mark of a heterogeneous group with a common cultural background of
Hispanic origin, not wanting to leave behind their own identity and even idiosyncrasies.

The significant number of intraphrasal changes reported in the corpus have been described for other states. What is striking is that, compared with the other changes that occur in California and New York, they seem to be simpler. They were used to freely introduce substantival and verbal syntagms, apparently without an explanation. Although one might think that the changes in the substantival syntagms showed more affinity, affection, surprise, or drama, on the contrary, the changes in verb phrases introduced mostly sexual connotation, which makes sense, because it was an action plan by the speaker to: i) alleviate sexual content using English as a mitigating circumstance, or as a language of "separation" by speaker A and B; or ii) avoid being expelled from the room.

Loans in chat rooms in Florida were twofold: a) loans with phonetic adaptation, and b) loans a single word. This suggests that speakers who logged into the chat rooms were people from the first generation whose Spanish competence is much more developed than English. Similarly, loanwords found were in full: a) to denote affection, for example, sweety; b) categorized as fashion, for example, jeans; c) adjectives, for example, busy; d) food, for example, sugar-free; e) sex.

The creation of new words ending in -tion suggests that the speaker is fully aware of the large number of English words that have this ending. However, this realization produces it by resorting to the playful form of language since, in the opinion of the researcher and in theory, it should not last long over time despite the ending being widely used in English yet unnatural in Spanish. Another reason to think they are transient words is the "length" of spelling, since in the brains of most speakers,
especially the speakers of chat, there is economic use of the language.

Finally, we must add that the features identified by Sankoff, D., Poplack, S. and Vanniarajan, S. (1991), which motivate code switching in multiple circumstances and meet a wide range of functions in communication, were highlighted in the collected corpus. In most cases these discussions agreed to: introduce a touch of humor; create a pun; quote (direct or indirect speech); make a marginal comment; clarify or emphasize; or brag about a good level in the language in question.

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