

Abstract

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This thesis examines selected phonetic phenomena of the Spanish spoken in Cuba, providing a theoretical overview of them in current literature and, consequently, giving some evidence of their presence in Cuba with factors that are likely to affect them, based on recordings of native Cuban speakers. The paper is divided into two parts: in the theoretical part, important phonetic changes relevant to consonants and vowels are described, including how, where and under what circumstances they occur. In the experimental part, the paper deals with five particular phenomena (seseo, aspiration and elision of /s/, aspiration of /x/, yeísmo, lambdacism), that have a great impact on the realization of Spanish consonants, in light of three variables (type of discourse, geographical classification, education). This part with the results of the research shows that the selected features are vivid components of Cuban Spanish, with all possible phonetic and non-phonetic factors, that might be of importance in their implementation, being presented as well. The work also includes statistical data related to the occurrence of these phenomena in individual speakers and their mutual comparisons with respect to the variables that proved to be significant (mainly type of discourse).

Key words

Phonetics; Cuba; Linguistics; Contemporary Cuban Spanish