Honorifics in Peninsular and New-World Spanish

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**Topic:** The kinds of speech acts or situations in which the different forms of the second person pronoun (*tu-vosotros, usted-ustedes*) are used in different varieties of Spanish.

**Question:** What is the difference in the use of honorifics between Peninsular and New-World Spanish, and what attests of this difference?

**Example:**

New-World Spanish:
Quieren ir al cine?
Want-2nd person plural to go to the movies?
Do you want to go to the movies?

Vs. Peninsular Spanish:
Queréis ir al cine?
Want-2nd person plural to go to the movies?
Do you want to go to the movies?

**Methodology:** I plan to record interactions I, as a Peninsular Spanish speaker, have with New World Spanish speakers to see the different uses of the pronouns. I also plan to use data from corpora such as CORLEC, which contains conversational data; Corpus del Español, a good source for both Peninsular and New World Spanish, and, RAE (Corpus de la Real Academia), which gives a classification based on geographic locations and themes. I will search for pronouns and their context of use. I will focus on spoken data. I will look for person and social deixis that specifically point to participants of the speech act, but also at the verbs’ inflections showing which pronoun was indeed implied by the speaker. Finally, I will look at sociolinguistic factors concerning the social status, education and gender of the speaker to see if those factors play a role in the use of such or such pronoun.

Honorifics are used differently cross-linguistically, reflecting the relationship between speaker and hearer. It is interesting that dialects of a same language, Spanish, use some of the second person pronouns differently. Moreover, this raises a question about whether, in addition to a difference in their form, there is a difference in their meaning.

**Bibliography:**


