A comparison between the Galician dialects and the standard variety

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A comparison between the Galician dialects and the standard variety

- Standard Galician
- Geolinguistic data
- Method: quantitative dialectology
- Conclusions
A short history of the (written) Galician language

- **Middle Ages, literary and legal, public use.** Galician was developing a written language, partially different from that of the Portuguese.

- **Séculos Escuros** (‘Dark Centuries’): 16th to 18th centuries. Galician disappeared from the written texts and cultured, public usages. The language of the scarce texts preserved is basically inspired in the spoken varieties.


- **20th/21st centuries.** Public and cultured usages. From the 1970s on, the language is used in the Administration, schooling, university, mass media (radio, tv) etc.
Fernández Salgado & Monteagudo (1995): Phases of development of contemporary written Galician

- **Galego Popular**, 19th century: morphological interdialectalism, Spanish loanwords.

- **Galego Diferencialista**, from 1910s to 1930s: morphological interdialectalism, purism, hypercorrection, Portuguese loanwords, avoiding similarities with Spanish.

- **Galego Proto-estándar**, from 1940s to 1970s: simpler spelling.

- **Galego estándar**, from 1980s onwards. Two tendencies: autonomous vs. Portuguese inspired cultivation (*Reintegracionismo*).
Key dates

• 1906: Founding of the Royal Galician Academy. “Today is the formal language management agency” (Ramallo & Rei-Doval 2015: 63)

• 1978: The Spanish Constitution establishes Galician and Spanish as co-official languages in Galicia.

• 1979: Galician, an obligatory subject at schooling.


• 1982: NOMIG, legally declared the “official” variety.
Standard Galician

Normative Galician must be a common vehicle of expression that is valid for all the Galician people [todo o pobo galego], as an apt and accessible voice for their written and oral, artistic and everyday manifestations alike. Consequently, common Galician cannot be based on a single dialect, but must give preferential consideration to the geographic and demographic scope of forms when choosing those that are standard. Hence it is to be supradialectal and should aim to achieve acceptance of the solutions adopted by the greatest possible number of Galicians.

Normas ortográficas e morfolóxicas do idioma galego, 1982, p. 11
One feature that characterizes the type of Galician in question is that, as in other languages codified through a great deal of conscientious intervention in the last century and the present one, it does not mainly represent the speech of one city or one region. The criteria for deciding on the choice were linguistic, demographic, literary, historical, aesthetic, etc. Bearing in mind that the most authentic or archaic forms, or those supported by the broadest literary tradition, are to be found sometimes in one dialect, sometimes in another, it follows that the character of the standard cannot be pinpointed geographically in a particular area. (Santamarina 1995)
Two challenges for its designers: dialectal variation and contact with Spanish
Geographical varieties of Galician

APÉNDICE DE MAPAS

Bloque Central

Bloque Oriental

Bloque Occidental

Figura 1

Fernández Rei 1990

Análise de agrupamentos
Corte: 3 agrupamentos
Número de puntos 167
Número de mapas analizados: 189
Matriz: índice relativo de identidade
Algoritmo aglomerativo: método de Ward
Programa informático: Visual Dialectometry (H. Goebel / E. Haimerl - Universidade de Salzburgo)
324 working maps (questions).
—The dialectal data were gathered between 1974-1976.
—The NOMIG were published in 1982.
324 working maps about 168 points (167 locations + 1 fictitious point, Standard Galician)
# Tables, 324 tables

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>VARIABLES</th>
<th>Plural of nouns ending in -n</th>
<th>variable</th>
<th>variable</th>
<th>variable</th>
<th>variable</th>
<th>ningunha ‘none.f.sg’</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>catro</td>
<td>‘four’</td>
<td>ti</td>
<td>‘you.sg’</td>
<td>sei</td>
<td>ter</td>
<td>‘I know’ ‘to have’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tu</td>
<td>‘you.sg’</td>
<td>sei</td>
<td>‘I know’</td>
<td>ter</td>
<td>ningunha</td>
<td>‘you.sg’ ‘I know’ ‘to have’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ningunha</td>
<td>‘none.f.sg’</td>
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<td>‘none.f.sg’</td>
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<td>ningunha</td>
<td>‘none.f.sg’</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POINTS</th>
<th>Plural – n+s</th>
<th>Reference number</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td>Ga1</td>
<td>pantalóns</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C1</td>
<td>pantalós</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C43</td>
<td>pantalóns</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A1</td>
<td>pantalòis</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
We need to calculate the indices of similarity (100% absolute similarity)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Point</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Indices of similarity to Ga1 (Standad Galician)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>C-01</td>
<td>C1 O Barqueiro</td>
<td>76,76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-02</td>
<td>C2 Chímparra</td>
<td>76,52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-03</td>
<td>C3 San Claudio</td>
<td>75,54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-04</td>
<td>C4 A Carreira</td>
<td>76,22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-05</td>
<td>C5 San Ramón</td>
<td>74,77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-06</td>
<td>C6 Espiñaredo</td>
<td>77,81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-07</td>
<td>C7 San Cristovo</td>
<td>73,31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-08</td>
<td>C8 A Queira</td>
<td>77,06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-09</td>
<td>C9 Pontedeume</td>
<td>78,96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-10</td>
<td>C10 Carnoedo</td>
<td>81,04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-11</td>
<td>C11 Mesoiro</td>
<td>79,51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-12</td>
<td>C12 Barizo</td>
<td>77,3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-13</td>
<td>C13 Xermaña</td>
<td>83,89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-14</td>
<td>C14 O Xestal</td>
<td>75,76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-15</td>
<td>C15 Betanzos</td>
<td>78,29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-16</td>
<td>C16 Ponteceso</td>
<td>78,53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-17</td>
<td>C17 Cuíña</td>
<td>74,15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-18</td>
<td>C18 O Outeiro</td>
<td>79,57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-19</td>
<td>C19 Carral</td>
<td>84,5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-20</td>
<td>C20 Ponte Aranga</td>
<td>82,07</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Array of indices of similarity between each point of the ALGa and the Standard variety.
167 indices of similarity
Some statistical values

Number of points: 168
Number of questions (working maps): 324
Number of answers: 54 432
Highest similarity index: 89,02%, P17-A Lama
Lowest similarity index: 34,29%, Le5-Pombriego (a Leonese speaking point)
46,11%, A2-Coaña (a Galician speaking point in Asturias)
Mean of all the indices of similarity: 74,53%
Standard deviation: 9,69
Median: 76,07
The standard variety in the Galician language domain: analysis of the indices of similarity between each one of the 167 points of the ALGa and the Standard Galician [Ga1].
Red: points above the mean (periphery)
Blue: points below the mean (center)

102 points out of 167 have values above the mean (74.53%)
The ten dialects with highest indices of similarity with Standard Galician are generally spoken at rural points.

1\textsuperscript{st}. P17 (A Lama): 89,02%
2\textsuperscript{nd}. L22 (Santa Comba): 87,23%
3\textsuperscript{rd}. P23 (A Cañiza): 85,89%
4\textsuperscript{th}. C31 (Deixebre): 84,76%
5\textsuperscript{th}. C44 (Ribadulla): 84,76%
6\textsuperscript{th}. P19 (Lourido): 84,76%
7\textsuperscript{th}. P14 (A Chan): 84,71%
8\textsuperscript{th}. C19 (Carral): 84,5%
9\textsuperscript{th}. C30 (Bembibre): 84,4%
10\textsuperscript{th}. L24 (Guntín): 84,15%
Standard Galician and the three main dialects (cluster analysis)

Map 5: Standard Galician and the three dialect areas
Dendrogram: Standard Galician among the dialects
Conclusions

- High degree of similarity between the standard variety and the different geographical varieties.

- If the standard variety were one of the regional varieties it would form part of the traditional western area.
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