

VENEZUELAN SPANISH: FEATURES, HISTORY, IDENTITY

M. Tuychieva

UzSWLU, Tashkent, Uzbekistan

Abstract: the article discusses features of suffixation in the Venezuelan national variant of Spanish. The review of the most significant works on this topic is carried out, classification and major meanings of word-formation suffixes are presented, and also examples of their functioning in the Venezuelan variant are given.

Key words: suffixation, Spanish, national variant, Venezuela, intonation, lexical structure, processes.

Language as a whole has mechanisms that allow it to develop new possibilities of a signifying and expressive nature. Within these mechanisms, the dominant role belongs to word formation - a set of morphological and lexical-semantic operations through which new symbols are formed. The formation of new units makes it possible to correct and update the lexical structure, adapting it to new conditions determined by social development and linguistic changes.

Venezuelan Spanish, a Caribbean dialect known for its fast pace, soft intonation, and dropped's', was established in the 16th century by Spanish colonists, with a primary, foundational influence from the Canary Islands. It evolved through heavy Andalusian influence, indigenous language contributions, African vocabulary, and later Italian and German immigration.

The last has been the most fundamental influence on modern Venezuelan Spanish, and Canarian and Venezuelan accents may even be indistinguishable to other Spanish-speakers.

Italian and Portuguese immigrants from the late 19th and the early 20th century have also had an influence; they influenced vocabulary and its accent, given its slight sing-songy intonation, like Rioplatense Spanish. German settlers also left an influence when Venezuela was contracted as a concession by the King of Spain to the German Welser banking family (Klein-Venedig, 1528–1546).

Word formation mechanisms not only enrich the lexical layer of the language, but also give a unique appearance to each region.

In this regard, it can be argued that suffixation and prefixation act as the main mechanisms of dialect characteristics and differentiation. In the case of the Venezuelan national variant,

most of the derivatives carry a meaning common to the Spanish language as a whole, while demonstrating idiosyncratic forms and uses.

A. Rosenbla writes about this: “Language is a system of forms with unlimited possibilities. Regarding suffixation, the Venezuelan variant has a rich range of lexical shades”.

They also contribute to the fact that forms traditionally used in written language begin to actively function in spoken language. This happened with the prefix re-: refundar - to refund, repotenciar - to re-strengthen, reformatear - to reformat and the suffix -il: efectivo bomberil - fire department employee, agente reporteril - newspaper reporter (hereinafter our examples are from “Diccionario de venezolanismos.” - A. N.).

It should be understood that during word formation, the speaker’s choice of one or another morpheme from among many others is not free; on the contrary, it is motivated by significative and communicative precision, and in some cases, by linguistic economy.

Numerous works on semantics have proven that a derivative is always semantically conditioned. In this case, suffixes actively participate in the semantic and lexical change of the generating word.

Thus, qualitative changes occur (chamo - boy, chamito - little boy, chamín - little boy), which sometimes lead to a change in the grammatical category of the producing word (gobernar - to rule, gobernante - ruler, gobernero - ruling, gubernativo - ruling, gobernabilidad - rule).

Various works concerning the Venezuelan Spanish language indicate a large and varied composition of productive suffixes involved in the formation of new lexical units necessary to express situations and experiences experienced by society.

In addition, there are cases when derived words themselves become a productive basis and give metaphorical meaning to new units, thereby enriching the lexical layer of the language and increasing the possibility of expressiveness.

All authors who have studied this topic in one way or another agreed on the important role played by suffixes in characterizing the uniqueness of the Venezuelan variant when compared with other national varieties and the Spanish language of the peninsula.

The processes of suffixation in the Venezuelan version for the most part obey the morphological and semantic laws of the Spanish language.

The different uses of derivational suffixes in the Venezuelan version manifest themselves in the following forms:

1. Suffixes that, in their morphological structure, can be considered typically Venezuelan, uncharacteristic for other dialect groups.

This happens with the suffix -mentazón in the words: palamentazón - excessive drinking, carramentazón - a large accumulation of cars and tiramentazón - prolonged shooting, shootout.

2. Suffixes of a general nature, which in the Venezuelan version have undergone certain changes: expansion or change in meaning. Examples of this type: -azo (bazarazo - reduction in prices in a store), -era (loquera - madness) and -ero (corotero - many, a bunch of objects).

3. Suffixes which, by their origin and evolution, belong to Perinean Spanish and are therefore documented in the Castilian language. Some of these suffixes, which do not function in other national variants, have been preserved or reborn in the Venezuelan variant.

Examples are the suffixes -il and -menta, which in general Spanish are found only in archaisms. In Venezuela, on the contrary, these suffixes demonstrate quite active productivity. With the suffix -il the following words are formed: efectivo bomberil - an employee of a fire department, equipo peloteril - a baseball team and grupo reporteril - a group of reporters for a newspaper.

With the suffix -menta: palamenta - a large amount of alcoholic drinks and tierramenta - a large plot of land.

4. Suffixes that function in several national varieties of the Spanish language, but in the Venezuelan version show the highest degree of productivity and consistency in word formation.

Examples are: -azón (aguazón - a large amount of water (usually rain), pelazón - a bad economic situation) and -al (aderal - a member of the Democratic Action Party (Acción Democrática), candidatural - a member of the headquarters of a presidential candidate).

5. General suffixes that have increased their productivity in Venezuelan Spanish under the influence of other languages.

This is the case with the suffixes -ivo and -ción, which have recently become increasingly involved in the process of word formation under the influence of the English language: -ivo (sobre contentivo - keeper, operativo policial - police special operation), -ción (carnetización de los estudiantes - issuing student cards, domici-liación de las cuentas - automatic debt repayment).

Let's take a closer look at the suffixes that are most characteristic of the Venezuelan Spanish language.

al. The generating base is nouns, the derivative is nouns and adjectives. We are talking about a common Spanish suffix, which in the Venezuelan version demonstrates the greatest productivity and expresses the following meanings:

1) “quality” or “connection with something”: labor candidatural - the work of a member of the headquarters to support a presidential candidate, solución habitacional - a habitual decision, campeonato invitacional - an invitational championship; derived adjectives are of the nature of recently appeared words and are more often used in the language of the media than in colloquial speech;

2) “place” or “plantation, planting”: cambural - banana plantation, cacaotal - cocoa plantation, gamelotal - plantation of grass harvested for the winter for livestock feed; this value is also found in other national variants, but in the Venezuelan variant it demonstrates the greatest productivity;

3) “collective” or “community of beings of the same breed”: barrial - people of the lower class, residents of poor areas, billetal/platal - a large amount of money; this meaning is not typical for the Spanish morphology of America.

-azo/a. This is one of the most productive suffixes in the modern Spanish language of Venezuela. This is evidenced by numerous nouns formed using this suffix. However, the magnifying meaning, typical of the Spanish language as a whole, is little used in the Venezuelan version.

The suffix demonstrates its productivity by expressing the meaning of “increasing some quality,” hence examples like: amigazo - friend, criollazo - cute, hermanazo - brother, tipazo - true friend, “your” guy. Another common meaning of this suffix is “blow” (literally and figuratively), for example: guamazo - a slap, a blow with a hand, matra-cazo - a blow to the head with a mace, perolazo - a blow with a stone, totumazo - a blow to the head. Metaphorical meaning leads to the formation of new lexical units that can mean:

1) “unexpected actions that influence feelings and psyche”: derivatives of this type often express unexpected actions and events in terms of politics, journalism and advertising: madrugonazo - surprise, tubazo - news, pitazo - denunciation, batacazo - unexpected action or deed;

2) “concentration of people for a specific purpose (most often political or electoral)”: poliedrazo - political party in Poliedro de Caracas, calde-razo - political party of President Caldera (Rafael Caldera), teodorazo - political party of presidential candidate Teodoro Petkoff, alfarazo - political party of presidential candidate Luis Alfaro Usero (Luis Alfaro Uce-ro);

3) “reduced prices, advantageous offers”: bazarazo - reduced prices, cortinazo - reduced prices on curtains, cauchazo - reduced prices on car tires, ofertazo - advantageous offer;

4) “coup d'etat”, “military invasion” or “popular rebellion”: Caracazo (from Caracaz), Capuranazo (from Capúrano), Porteñazo (from Puerto Cabello); Apparently, this meaning originates from the general Americanism cuartelazo - military uprising or invasion;

5) “excessive consumption of alcoholic beverages”: guarapazo - excessive consumption of cane vodka, ronazo - excessive consumption of rum, cervezazo - excessive consumption of beer; Perhaps this meaning was motivated by the metaphorical meaning of “strong blow, impact” that alcoholic drinks have on the human body.

-ear. This suffix, in addition to its high degree of productivity in the Spanish language of America, takes an active part in the colloquial speech of the Venezuelan national variant, forming verbal derivatives, the productive basis of which is most often native nouns. The main meanings of the suffix are as follows:

1) “repetition” or “frequency”: jamonear - to passionately kiss or caress someone, matraquear - to give bribes, tarjetear - to use credit cards;

2) “any action”: cachifear - the work of a housekeeper, cobear - to lie, deceive, ruletear - to drive a taxi without official permission;

3) “causality of the generating word”: ningunear - to neglect the opinions of others, not to take into account, negrear

- do not invite anyone to the celebration. The most complete analysis of this suffix, its productivity, phonetic and semantic features was carried out by Chela-Flores.

-eo. Derivative verbs ending in -ear contribute to the emergence of derived nouns ending in -eo. This suffix is quite productive and characteristic of informal speech; it forms nouns with the meaning of “action” or “state”: guabineo - doubt, indecision, hesitation, manguareo - idleness, idleness, matraqueo - crackling, pantalleo - fanning.

-era. This suffix, characteristic of the Spanish language of America, demonstrates a high degree of productivity in the Venezuelan version. With its help, numerous nouns are formed that can mean:

1) “repeated action or effect”: balacera - shooting, skirmish, bebedera - drinking large quantities of alcohol, jaladera - constant flattery;

2) “repeatedly recurring physical or mental disorder”: loquera - madness, lloradera - crying, wailing, lloriquera - loud crying, moridera - mortal fatigue, apathy, mariquera - stupidity, pepera - insanity, obsession.

-menta/-mentazón. The suffix -menta has lost its word-forming power in the general Spanish language and is found only in words that are regarded as archaisms: cornamenta - horns of killed animals, herramienta - tools, vestimenta - vestments.

In the Venezuelan version, on the contrary, the suffix demonstrates a fairly high degree of productivity and forms nouns with the meaning “a set of objects or creatures of the same color”: carramenta - many cars, libramenta - many books, perramenta - many dogs, palamenta - many sticks.

On the basis of derivative words with -menta, new derivatives were formed with the complex suffix -mentazón, which also expresses a collective meaning, but adds an emphatic connotation: negramenta/negramentazón - many dark-skinned people, platamenta/platamentazón - a large amount of money.

LITERATURES

1. Kany C. Sintaxis hispanoamericano. – Madrid: Gre-dos, 1976. - 550 p.
2. Adames J. Consideraciones sobre el uso enfático de -ero y -erío en el español coloquial de Venezuela. Letras 36. - Caracas: IUPC, 1980. - P. 187-192.
3. Chumaceiro I. Algunos aspectos de la sufijación en el español de Venezuela. Una muestra de la diferenciación dialectal. Tesis de Maestría. - Caracas: UCV, 1983.
4. Tejera M. J. Golpes, balazos, explosiones, impactos físicos y sentidos metafóricos de los sufijos -ada, -azo y -on en el español de Venezuela. Boletín de Lingüística 11. - Caracas UCV, 1996. - P. 47-75.