

Morphological contact in complex Quechua verbs in Central Andean Oral Stories

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In this talk, I demonstrate that Aymara verbal suffixes can transfer and integrate into Quechua complex verbforms. The methodology of this study is supported with documented data of Central Andean Oral Stories. Particularly, I analyze four Quechua Oral Stories documented from storytellers who are balanced bilingual in Quechua and Aymara. Quechua and Aymara are two morphologically complex languages with similar structures typologically.

The results show that a variety of Aymara verbal suffixes are observed in Quechua verbs. These suffixes bear grammatical functions that are not displayed morphologically in Quechua. Aymara verbal suffixes are of two types: those suffixes that trigger vowel deletion of the final vowel before the suffix and those that do not (see Hardman et al., 2001). The Quechua verbal wordforms of the storytelling data exhibit both types of Aymara suffixes.

Overall, this study explains language contact between two morphologically complex languages i.e., Quechua and Aymara, a topic that has received less attention in the current literature.