FY06 Innovations in Teaching with Technology Awards: An Audiovisual Library of Spoken Spanish

Proposal Title: An Audiovisual Library of Spoken Spanish

Investigators: Carlos-Eduardo Piñeros

Org Unit: College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Department(s): Spanish and Portuguese

Funding Awarded: $22,095

What do you intend to do?

The goal of this project is to develop an audiovisual library, which uses speech samples from a wide variety of native speakers, to document the most representative patterns in the pronunciation of modern spoken Spanish. For all countries where Spanish is largely spoken (24 in total), there will be a description of the features that characterize the pronunciation of the dialects spoken in that country, maps that locate the country and identify its dialectal sub-regions, as well as brief interviews with native speakers. These interviews illustrate formal speech (reading of a passage, which will be the same for all speakers) and spontaneous speech on various topics of cultural interest. There will be a transcription of the text in Spanish orthography followed by a phonetic transcription using the IPA (International Phonetic Alphabet). Users will be able to choose between viewing the interviews without the text, and viewing them together with the orthographic or phonetic transcription. Additionally, there will be an interactive component consisting of exercises in which users listen to excerpts from the interviews and determine what country that speaker is from and what pronunciation features are characteristic of his/her speech.

The contributions that this tool will make to Spanish language instruction are manifold and applicable at various academic levels. The prescriptive tone in which language textbooks are written often leads undergraduate students to think of Spanish as a homogeneous language, when in reality, the Spanish language is a massive cohort of dialects that, despite their relatedness, have quite distinct pronunciation patterns. The Audiovisual Library of Spoken Spanish is an optimal way to expose students to the diversity of Spanish pronunciation. The tool can complement the instruction given in elemental Spanish language courses and also be used in more advanced courses on Spanish linguistics, particularly in the areas of Spanish phonetics, phonology, and dialectology. At the elemental levels, it can be used for classroom activities that range from listening comprehension exercises to discussions of various cultural topics. At the upper undergraduate and graduate levels, it will serve to present and practice phonological concepts through problem solving activities and as a corpus to analyze...
### How will it improve student learning?

The wide spectrum of phonological phenomena that occur in the Spanish sound system.

The main courses where the program will be used are the following.

**Undergraduate:**
- 35:121 Introduction to Hispanic Linguistics
- 35:122 Spanish Sound Structure

**Advanced Undergraduate and Graduate:**
- 35:187 Spanish-American Dialectology
- 35:189 Introduction to Spanish Phonology

**Graduate:**
- 35:204 Graduate Spanish Linguistics
- 35:209 Spanish Phonology

### What resources will you need?

The implementation of the project will require the technical support of a staff member from Academic Technologies in order to conduct the following tasks.

- Recording and editing of the audiovisual interviews
- Design of the Flash interface
- Development of the Flash interface
- Supervision and training of an undergraduate student who will assist the AT staff

Additionally, the following items will be needed.
- Compensation for the informants
- Map software (Map Resources World Collection, Illustrator vector maps)
- Media
- Studio rental

### Rough estimate of costs

A rough budget for this project is $22,095, of which $18,600 go to staff, $2,295 to software and studio rental, and $1,200 to the 46 informants that will be interviewed.

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