

Towards an Understanding of the development of *hay*

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The Existential Verb Hay

En la clase, hay cuatro proyectos.

In DEF.f class there are four projects

‘In class, there are four projects’

Hay una manera de resolver el problema.

There is IND.f way of solve-ger. DEF.m problem

‘There is a way to solve the problem’



Usual Verbal Behavior

- Conjugation based on person, number, and tense
 - E.g. hablo/hablas/habla etc.
- Why the difference?
 - It seems that the final -y is blocking the usual conjugation endings.
- A question arises: Where did this come from?

Theories

- Prevailing theories are that it arose from Latin *habere* ‘to have’. (Penny 2002, Lloyd 1987, Molho 1969)
- Usually occurred in a phrase *habet ibi* or *habeo ibi*
 - *Ibi* was an adverb meaning ‘there/over there’
- Corominas 1954 ‘A more probable theory is that the element –y represents the ancient adverb *y < ibi*’ (as quoted in Lloyd 1987:357)



Process of Change

- How do we get from *habet/habeo ibi* to *hay*?
 - Several processes
 - Phonological reduction
 - Semantic shift (bleaching)
 - Grammaticalization (which includes the above processes, a la Hopper and Traugott 1993)
- ‘It is not unknown in Romance for non-verbal elements to be used so frequently with certain verb forms that eventually they become fused with the verb itself and the original non-verbal meaning is completely lost’ (Lloyd 1987:357)



Parallels

- Other Romance Languages:
 - French : *il y a*; Portuguese: *há*
- Other Languages
 - English: there is/are
- So, this type of process from a locative phrase to a existential is reasonable.
 - How exactly did it happen?



Remainder of Talk

- Overview of Reduction and Grammaticalization
 - Habet/habeo ibi > hay
- Corpus Investigations
 - Variants and their diffusion from the 12th through 14th century (Lloyd 1987 states the form was stable after the 13th century)
- Conclusion



Phonological Reductions

- 2 Principal Changes
 - Loss of voiced intervocalic stops
 - Main Stages: merger, spirantization, loss
 - Vowel reduction
 - Tonic reductions
 - Atonic/final reductions
- The following relies heavily on Penny 2002 and Pharies 2007

Voiced Intervocalic Stops

- Merger with /v/
 - Very early change
 - Evidence from the *Appendix Probi*
 - bravium non brabium
- Spirantization
 - Common for intervocalic stops (Ladefoged and Maddieson 1996 among many others)
- Loss
 - Modern reflexes (río > rivus)

habēo > haβēo > *haēo or habēt > haβet > haet > *hae

ibi > iβi > ii

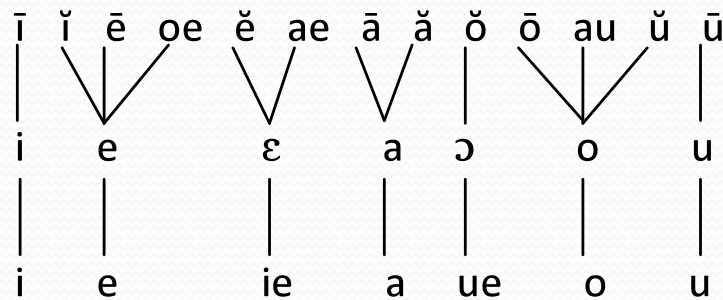
Vowel Mergers

• Tonic Vowels

(1) Early and Classical Latin

Spoken Latin

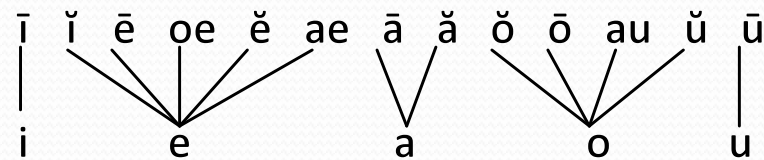
Old and Modern Spanish



• Atonic Vowels

(1) Early and Classical Latin

Spoken Latin and Spanish



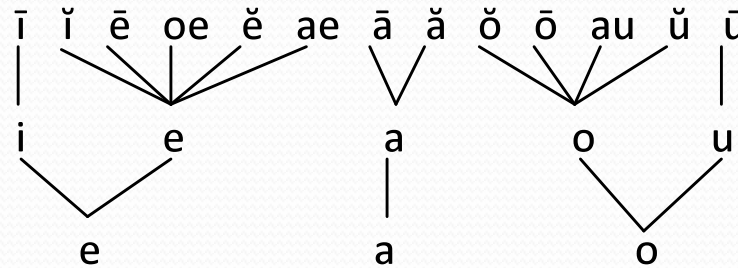
Vowel Mergers Con't

- Final Vowels

(1) Early and Classical Latin

Spoken Latin

Spanish



Progression of Changes

habēo > haβeo > haeo > hae

ibi > iβi > ii > i

habēo ibi > haβeo iβi > haeo ii > hae i

- The final result would have been unstable, and subject to further merger.
 - /a/ is more sonorous, and would have survived, leading to the modern reflex /ai/

Corpus Investigations

- *Corpus del Español*
 - 100 million word corpus, searchable by century (13th -15th)
 - Mark Davies, BYU
- Note: there were spelling variants of the existential phrase: *hy, hi, ha y, y ha*
 - Similar semantics and pragmatics
 - Possible pronunciation/dialectal difference?

Hy and Hi

- 13th century

- Hy- 448, Hi-144. Many indeterminate readings.

- tan bien a los caualleros ffijos dalgo como a los caualleros cibdadanos e como a los otros que hy son moradores (Documentos castellanos de Alfonso X – Andalucía)

‘Also to those knights, sons of someone as to the gentleman knights and as to the others, that there are dwellers/are dwellers there’

- El logar perigroso, do sufren grant laçerio laçerio los monges que hi viven en essi çimiterio (Milagros de Nuestra Sennora)

‘The dangerous place, where they suffer great pain/anguish pain/anguish the monks that are there/there live in that cemetery’

Hy and Hi

- 14th – 15th Century
 - No existential or indeterminate readings for either form
- My hypothesis is that the rise of the modern spelling variant *hay* eclipsed these forms
- As the rise of *hay* began, they retain former locative meanings and are used in perfect constructions.

Ha y and Y Ha

- 13th Century Existential Occurences

- Ha y: 22, Y Ha: 201

- Corrompidos son & fechos son aborrecederos en su maldat / no ha y qui faga bien (Biblia Latina)

‘Corrupt are they and made abhorrent in their evil, there is none that do good’

- Ley primera. como el pueblo deue guardar al rey a su muger la reyna / Otras cosas y ha sin las que diximos en las leyes del titulo ante deste que deuen los del pueblo (Siete Partidas)

‘First Law. As the people should save the King and his wife the Queen / there are other things without which we say in the laws of the title before this that some of the people owe

Ha y and Y Ha

- 14th Century Existential Occurences

- Ha y: 46; Y ha: 35

- es muy buena tierra & de muy buena sementera & de buena criança & es muy buena tierra de Colmenas & **ha y** flores & muy buenas & muy prouechosas para las abejas (Crónica de 1344)

‘It is very good land & good for sowing & good for raising & it is very good land in Colmenas & there are flowers & very good & very productive for the bees

- mas en amar a dios ssin dubda / non **y ha** auentura njn caida. mas quien lo mas ama & quien lo mejor sierue (De una santa emperatriz que hubo en Roma)

‘More in loving God without a doubt / there is neither adventure nor fall. Better the more love and better service’

Ha y and Y Ha

- 15th Century
 - Ha y: 6; Y Ha: 2
- lo he en todas las cossas que ha y entonçe veremos sy te bendiçira en tu faz(Tratado en defensa de virtuosas mujeres)

‘That I have all the things that there are then we will see if he will bless you to your face
- E avn y ha otro mal que no podia la natura vençer al morbo ni lo contrariar: & assy el morbo sera el vencedor (Prognostica)

‘And although there is other evil that nature could not vanquish over morbidity or the contrary, & so morbidity will be the vanquisher

Hay

- 13th Century – None (only modern examples)
- 14th Century – 45
- En Constantinopla es el palacio del emperador muy lindo y noble. y bien ornado. Dentro el qual hay vna hermosa plaça para justar: y para otros exercicios (Libro de maravillas del mundo)

‘In Constantinople is the beautiful and noble palace of the Emperor, very ornate, within which there is a gorgeous plaza for jousting and for other exercises’

Hay

- 15th Century
 - 1,963 existential occurrences
- Onde el propheta dizia. que su anima hauia sed de dios fuente biua. ca non hay otro dios fuera de ty. nin hay fuerte alguno commo es dios nuestro (Apología sobre el salmo ‘Judica me Deus’)

‘Where the prophet was saying that his soul had the thirst for the fount of the Living God, that there is no other God other than you, and there is none strong like our God

All Spelling Variants

	13th century	14th century	15th century
hi	144 (indeterminate)	0	0
hy	448 (indeterminate)	0	0
y ha	201	35	2
ha y	22	46	6
hay	0	45	1963



Conclusions

- The process of grammaticalization, which includes the phonological reductions, acted upon the Latin verb phrase *habet/habeo ibi* to arrive at the modern reflex *hay*.
- The indeterminate stage was still in progress into the 13th century.
- The track of the rise of the modern form, as compared to other orthographic variants, clearly shows the development of the modern form of the existential.

Conclusions Con't

- This study has supported the hypothesis that *habet/habeo ibi* > *hay*, and has shown how the modern form can be tracked using modern corpora.
- This study demonstrates that using modern corpora can allow the demonstration of the development of various language change processes, and allows researchers to test and verify their hypotheses in an easier fashion than the past.



In Memoriam

This presentation was done in memory of my father,
Paul Reed Sr., who passed away yesterday.

Atque in perpetuum, pater, ave atque
vale

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