

Hispanic Studies Panel – April 30, 2020

“Marianopedia”: Teaching languages through the history of California”

Álvaro González Alba

The XIX was a time of intense challenges in the life of the people who were settled in California. Many political, social, economic and educational changes created a climate of conflict among the population. Mariano Guadalupe Vallejo in his *Recuerdos históricos y personales* (1769-1848) describes this unstable situation. This literary and historical piece compiled in 5 manuscripts that are being transcribed and edited by the SocaLab team of the University of California-Riverside.

This long-term project, that began in 2014, presents multiple challenges. The manuscripts are previously unpublished materials, the number of pages is extremely large, and all the work must be done manually in order to achieve the best quality on the transcription. Beyond that, the “Marianopedia” has been linked from its inception to an undergraduate research project. The training of new cohorts of undergraduate, as well as graduate, participants is challenging. At this panel we will share how do we archive, digitalize and edit the materials in a crowdsourced environments, and also, how we deal with the concerns that are connected to the preservation of these raw materials. The final goal of the project is giving back the materials to the communities they belong to, providing them with a branch of their historical tree that had been ignored, or hidden before. The final objective of this project is to develop a curriculum focus on the Spanish language and the history of California. By doing this, the heritage Spanish speakers of California would be able to learn the language while understanding their culture and traditions.

“The Marianopedia as a Crowdsourced Californio Project for Heritage Speakers”

Covadonga Lamar Prieto

The link between speakers of Spanish before and after the annexation to the US was broken by the 1880 Constitution. By describing Spanish as a foreign language, Californios became alienated from their own cultural and social uses. It created a de facto diglossic situation in which Spanish was the language of the private and English the language of all things public. Although during the second part of the XIX there were still documents in Spanish, these saw a sharp decline during the last two decades of the century.

The Marianopedia is the first step towards the recovery of those documents. Scattered in libraries and archives not only around California, but also in Mexico and Spain, the archive of the Californios is claiming to be recognized: transcribed, edited and made public so that future generations are aware of its existence. SOCALab at UCR has been working on this project for 6 years now. It is especially important as the participants in the crowdsourced project are, for the most part, heritage speakers of Spanish.

This paper examines the different steps towards the development of the project: the paleographic decisions on the manuscripts, the Digital Humanities tools employed to handle a team of more than 100 individuals, and the resulting social, linguistic, historical, literary and cultural documents that we are moving directly from the XIX to the XXI. Contributors and collaborators are welcome to the project.

"The Fall of the Missions"

Miriam Villazón Valbuena

Documented from 1769 to 1848 due to the testimonial Mariano Guadalupe Vallejo gathered in order to create the history of the Californios, we can find a number of discourses, political situations and governors that were ruling those days all the Californias alongside with the important role religion had during this time. How were the relationships of the people who lived in California and how the religion influenced their lives seems familiar onto today's politics in the United States, particularly in the same state, California.

Through the analysis of some of the discourses and letters gathered by Mariano Guadalupe Vallejo we can analyze the social implications of religion in the Californias. Not only are these uses interesting at the linguistic level, but they also reveal core ideologies. These ideologies constitute the fundamental base for a region that later became the state we know today: California inside the United States. This analysis in turn may help in elucidating an understanding of current social changes. This current social metamorphosis echoes, and interconnects with other historical moments in the Californias, such as the beginning of an international relation between the Californios and the new creations from the old world.