### Phonemic Distinctions Among Dialects of Spanish in the Americas

#### Frequently Occurring Features

- /s/ is frequently dropped or aspirated (especially in final position)
- Many dialects do not distinguish between /j/ and /ʝ/  
  - /n/ → [ɲ] (word final before pause or vowel)
- Assibilation of /r/ is common, resulting in a sound that is similar to the English /s/
- /ʃ/ before /e/, /i/ → [ç]
- /f/ → [ɸ]
- /ʃ/ or /ɾ/ are frequently leveled, resulting in an acoustically similar profile for both sounds
- Some regions distinguish between /j/ and /ʝ/ as either [ʒ] and [j] or as [ʒ] and [ʃ]

#### Dialectal Variations

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<tr>
<th>Dialect</th>
<th>Phonological Features</th>
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| **Argentina** | /s/ in syllable final position → [h], [ʃ] or deleted  
  - Some regions distinguish between /j/ and /ʝ/ as either [ʒ] and [j] or as [ʒ] and [ʃ]  
  - /r/ may be produced as [r] or assimilated  
  - /l/ and /ɾ/ are frequently leveled, resulting in an acoustically similar profile for both sounds |
| **Bolivia**   | /s/ → [ʃ], [y], [s]  
  - /r/ may be produced as [r] or assimilated  
  - CVC → CC |
| **Chile**     | /s/ → [ʃ], [y], [s]  
  - /l/ (indefinite) is deleted  
  - /d/ → [ɾ]  
  - /r/ may be produced as [ɾ] or assimilated  
  - Some regions distinguish between /j/ and /ʝ/  
  - /v/ → [f] |
| **Colombia**  | /s/ → [ʃ], [y], [s]  
  - /r/ is deleted  
  - /r/ may be produced as [ɾ] or assimilated  
  - CVC → CC  
  - Some regions distinguish between /j/ and /ʝ/  
  - /v/ → [f] |
| **Costa Rica**| /s/ → [ʃ], [y], [s]  
  - /r/ may be produced as [ɾ] or assimilated  
  - /v/ → [f] |
| **Cuba**      | /s/ → [ʃ], [y], [s]  
  - /n/ → [ŋ] (word final before pause or vowel)  
  - /e/ → [i] or assimilated to C ([pwelta] or [pwetta])  
  - /v/ → [f] (devoiced, especially among female speakers) |
| **Dominican Republic** | /s/ → [ʃ], [y], [s]  
  - /n/ → [ŋ] (word final before pause or vowel)  
  - /v/ → [f] |
| **Ecuador**   | /s/ → [ʃ], [y], [s]  
  - /r/ may be produced as [ɾ] or assimilated  
  - CVC → CC  
  - Some regions distinguish between /j/ and /ʝ/ as either [ʒ] and [j] or as [ʃ] and [ʝ] |
| **El Salvador** | /s/ → [ʃ], [y], [s]  
  - /n/ → [ŋ] (word final before pause or vowel)  
  - No distinction between: /j/ and /ʝ/ → [j] or [ʃ] |
| **Guatemala** | /s/ → [ʃ], [y], [s]  
  - /r/ may be produced as [ɾ] or assimilated  
  - /v/ → [f] |
| **Honduras**  | /s/ → [ʃ], [y], [s]  
  - /n/ → [ŋ] (word final before pause or vowel)  
  - /d/ → [θ] or [ð]  
  - /v/ → [f] |

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<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<td>Mexico</td>
<td>[j] has the tendency to vocalize (mayo [majo], capilla [kapia]) /x/ → [h] Vowel reduction in unstressed syllable (coches [koø̃ʃ]) /j/ → [ʒ] sporadically /n/ → [ŋ] (word final before pause or vowel)</td>
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<td>Nicaragua</td>
<td>/b/, /d/, and /g/ are occlusive after a consonant or semivowel /s/ → [s], [h] /s/ → [h] syllable final /s/ → [ao] /r/ may be produced as [r] or dropped Vado /ao</td>
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<tr>
<td>Panama</td>
<td>/ʃ/ → [ʃ] syllable final /ʃ/ → [ʃ] (youth under 25 years old) /d/ → [t] word final /ʃ/ → [ʃ] -ado → [ao] (rural) /ʃ/ and /tʃ/ are acoustically equivalent /n/ → [ŋ] (word final before pause or vowel)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paraguay</td>
<td>Distinction between /j/ and /ʃ/ /s/ → [h] or [x] in syllable final position Intervocalic /j/ → [j] /ʃ/ → [ʃ] /ʃ/ may be produced as [r] or assimilated</td>
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<td>Peru</td>
<td><em>Sierra Region:</em> Reduction of vowels in unstressed syllables (bloques para apuntes [bloks para apunts]) Distinction between /j/ and /ʃ/ /ʃ/ → [ʃ] syllable final position -ado → [ao] /ʃ/ may be produced as [r] or assimilated</td>
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<tr>
<td>Puerto Rico</td>
<td>[ʃ]/ [ʃ], [tʃ] or [ʃ] depending on region /ʃ/ → [ʃ] /ʃ/ syllable final → [h] or deleted /ʃ/ → [ŋ] (word final before pause or vowel) leveling of /ʃ/ and /tʃ/ → [r], [l] or mixed sound (some regions distinguish between these two phonemes)</td>
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<td>US New Mexico</td>
<td>New Mexico/Colorado Spanish resembles that of Guatemala or Costa Rica more so than Mexican Spanish /ʃ/ → [h] /ʃ/ may be produced as [r] or assimilated</td>
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<td>US California Border</td>
<td>No aspiration of /ʃ/ in syllable final position /ʃ/ → [ç] with a tendency toward [h]</td>
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<td>US Tampa</td>
<td>Type 1: Similar to Northern Spain Distinction between: /j/ and /ʃ/ /ʃ/ → [ʃ] /ʃ/ similar to English (more volume, less air) /ʃ/ is no longer apicoalveolar /ʃ/ → [ʃ] Type 2: Cuban Spanish &amp; English Influence /ʃ/ → [h] syllable final Type 3: Similar to Havana Spanish /ʃ/ → [ŋ] (word final before pause or vowel)</td>
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<td>US Miami</td>
<td>Lax consonantal articulation /ʃ/ → [ŋ] (word final before pause or vowel or simply nasalization of the preceding vowel) /ʃ/ → [h] in syllable final position /ʃ/ is often devoiced [r]</td>
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<td>Uruguay</td>
<td>/ʃ/ → [h] or [x] /ʃ/ → [x] No distinction between /ʃ/ and /ʃ/ → [ʒ]</td>
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<tr>
<td>Venezuela</td>
<td>/ʃ/ → [ŋ] (word final before pause or vowel) /ʃ/ → [h] Some regions distinguish between /ʃ/ and /tʃ/ /ʃ/ → [ŋ] (word final before pause or vowel) Some regions have leveling of /ʃ/ and /ʃ/ → [r], [l] or mixed sound (some regions distinguish between these two phonemes) In some cases /ʃ/ is not heard, but rather the following consonant is doubled (carne [kanne])</td>
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