

Linguoculturological Particularities of Venezuelan National Variant of Spanish Language As Compared with Pyrenean

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Abstract—Actuality of the article is determined by the necessity to describe language norm of Venezuelan national variant on the background of Pyrenean one. Understanding of norm, in its turn, is closely connected with one of the most topical issues of modern Spanish American studies, i.e. revealing of linguoculturological particularities of national variant of Spanish-speaking area. Complex analysis of deviations between two national variants of Spanish language, Venezuelan and Pyrenean, on all levels of language structure, offers a possibility to demonstrate correlation of common Spanish and Latin American (Venezuelan in given article) variants of Spanish language.

Keywords—*linguoculturology, interviant dialectology, language variation, Spanish language, Venezuela*

I. INTRODUCTION

System research of language variations in Latin American countries is one of the most topical issues on contemporary stage of Spanish studies. Spanish language has recently become an abstract notion, a combination of national variants, forming of which is determined, above all, by extra-linguistic factors, namely historical, geographical, social, cultural, economic, etc. They, in turn, have an inevitable impact on distinctiveness of national variants of every given Latin American country.

Study of national and cultural peculiarities of poly-national language (in this case – Spanish) and its variants enters the domain of a wide circle of research areas: linguistics, sociolinguistics, psycholinguistics, ethnolinguistics, linguopragmatics, intercultural communication, cognitive science and linguoculturology.

Given that linguoculturology is a complex synthesizing science, it perceives language as a cultural code of the nation, creating certain ethnic background which allows to relating surface language structures to their fundamental nature. Linguoculturology studies “the interconnection and interaction of culture and language in the process of its operation; and analyzes the given process as an integral units structure as read in conjunction with linguistic and extralinguistic content with the help of system methods focused on modern priorities, reflecting new system of values” [1].

Characteristic linguistic properties and national and cultural particularities of Venezuelan national variant of Spanish language become apparent on the background of its Pyrenean variant (general Spanish language). It is necessary to stress that as objects of linguistic analysis both national variants are treated comparatively in the framework of interviant dialectology, a school of thought created by academicians N.M. Firsova and N.F. Mikheeva. In the given work we hold a view, according to which Pyrenean national variant of language is identified as common Spanish language norm: “in the framework of the concept of national variants speaking about Pyrenean national variant of language rather than merely Spanish language would be methodologically proper and politically correct (as the situation is within the states)” [2]. This idea has been justified in considerable number of scholarly studies by domestic hispanists L.A. Isenko, V.V. Yakovleva, E.E. Rogulina, A.A. Sinyavski, E.V. Solovieva, N.V. Zenenko, A.I. Noskova.

Traditionally the majority of works dedicated to variations of Spanish language focus on revealing of its linguocultural particularities on the levels of phonetics and vocabulary which provide the clear picture of national distinctiveness. Alongside with this, derivational, morphological and syntax layers have not been yet studied from the perspective of their national and cultural particularities. The works of N.M. Firsova, N.F. Mikheeva, O.S. Chesnokova, E.V. Shcherbakova, L.A. Isenko, N.A. Gostemilova, etc. have demonstrated that national and cultural particularities are reflected on all levels of language system. This generally accepted fact has become the basis for revealing of linguoculturological particularities of Venezuelan national variant across all language levels [3].

II. VENEZUELAN NATIONAL VARIANT OF SPANISH LANGUAGE AS A SUBJECT OF LINGUISTIC RESEARCH

Nowadays more than 450 million people speak Spanish as a native language, which qualifies it as third on the lists of languages (after English and Chinese) by number of native speakers. It is estimated that by 2050 number of speakers will have reached the number of 535 million

people. Beside Spain, Spanish is an official language in 19 countries of Latin America. It is spoken in some states of the USA, Equatorial Guinea and the Philippines. Approximately 30 million people speak Judaeo-Spanish. Taking into account its geography – 11 990 000 sq.km (which constitutes 8,9 % of earth's surface) – and rich cultural and ethnic component, it becomes obvious that Spanish language is characterized by a substantial degree of variation.

We understand “language variation” as a usage of language in various geographical, socio-cultural, contextual or historical conditions. The form of the language spoken is not universal, conversely, it varies depending on personal circumstances, time and type of communication [4]. The possibility for variation lies in the very nature of the language.

Nowadays linguists in general and dialectologists in particular assume the fact that language variation is universal for functioning of any language. In this respect Spanish language, used in a group of countries of Latin America, presents an extensive research material.

In accordance with concept of national variants, worked out by the Academician G.V. Stepanov in mid-1950s, Spanish language in Latin America is characterized by existence of “national peculiarities”, i.e. separate forms of Spanish speech that developed in spatial, historical and social space.

Herewith, national variants of Spanish language have their own standard which reflects the essence of the variant, is independent, and is recognized and promoted as socially neutral and prestigious in every national community.

Therefore, national variation of Spanish language of Latin America is a complex-structure system (“arch-system” in G.V. Stepanov's term), in which each national variant, having some common features, has its own form of existence and functioning. Thus, Spanish language may be treated as an abstraction that is implemented in the form of different variants.

Venezuela nowadays is a country with huge language variation: the territory of a bit more than 900 000 sq.km is occupied by people who speak 100 different languages. All these languages coexist in one geographic space due to demographic, socio-economic, political and technological processes that are happening in Venezuelan society. Moreover, due to Indian (substrate) and African (adstrat) components Venezuelan national variant of Spanish language presents extensive material for analysis from linguoculturological point of view.

Studies of linguistic peculiarities of Venezuelan national variant of Spanish language started already in colonial period, they were mostly presented as lexicographical works (making dictionaries, Indian first and foremost) and creation of descriptive grammars (also Indian languages). Lexicographical works of 17-18th centuries were created by monks and were not purposeful linguistic

research.

Among linguistic works of 19th century, dedicated to Indian languages of Venezuela, the central place is occupied by the dictionary of Miguel Carmona *Diccionario Indo-Hispano o Venezolano Español*. Owing to strong descriptive component it reflects main lexical peculiarities of Venezuelan national variant of Spanish language in comparison with other Spanish-American variants, which is why the dictionary of M. Carmona is considered to be the first dictionary of “venezualisms”.

At the beginning of the 20th century Venezuelan linguistics was developing under the sign of “socio-cultural revolution”. Due to economic and industrial progress Venezuelan language was changing actively, which led to appearance of new words, phrases and expressions that were required for the explanation of new realia. Special attention was paid to colloquial Venezuelan speech.

In this context it is necessary to mention the works of Lisandro Alvarado *Glosario de Voces Indígenas de Venezuela* (1921) and *Glosario del bajo español de Venezuela* (1929), in which the linguist characterizes Venezuelan Spanish language of the first quarter of 20th century.

The turning point in the history of Venezuelan linguistics and modern understanding of Venezuelan national variant of Spanish language are connected with the name of Angel Rosenblat. In his work dedicated to national Venezuelan speech, *Buenas y Malas Palabras en el Castellano de Venezuela* (1955), A. Rosenblat reflected Venezuelan speech in the period of dictatorship of Marcos Pérez Jiménez, full of jargon and borrowings.

On the modern stage of development the main aim of Venezuelan linguistics still remains to create unabridged dictionary of Venezuelan vocabulary.

III. LINGUOCULTUROLOGICAL PARTICULARITIES OF VENEZUELAN NATIONAL VARIANT OF SPANISH

Here are analyzed national and cultural peculiarities of Venezuelan national variant of Spanish language on all levels of language system, namely phonetic, derivational, morphological, syntax and lexico-semantic.

Phonetically Venezuelan national variant of Spanish language does not differ substantially from Pyrenean. It is essential to mention some phonetic features:

1) Neutralization *l – r*: [*kompral*] – buy; [*defen^hdel*] – protect; [*flol*] – flower; [*rejil*] – laugh; [*sel*] – be; [*señol*] – senior; [*polke*] – because; [*señtalse*] – sit down; [*fofeles*] – drivers; [*kjele*] – he loves; [*difikurtaçes*] – difficulties; [*farta*] – lack;

2) Transition *hue, bue (vue) > güe*: [*gwelen*] – they go away; [*gweljen^hdo*] – having smell; [*gwejas*] – traces; [*gwesos*] – bones; [*aywelo*] – grandfather; [*gweno*] – good; [*gwej*] – ox; [*gwe^hta*] – return.

From the point of view of phonetic features we can

distinguish “the language of mountains” (tierras altas) and “the language of plain” (tierras bajas). On flat terrains the consonants are pronounced distinctly and exactly whereas vowels tend to obscure in unstressed syllable. In the mountains, conversely, the vowels are pronounced distinctly while consonants in certain positions are reduced or disappear.

Word-formation of Venezuelan national variant of Spanish language is characterized by specific suffixes which are morphologically not characteristic for common Spanish language, for instance, suffix *-amentazón* (collective meaning): *carramentazón* – car congestion; *tiramentazón* – continuous shooting, gunplay.

“Una curda, una pea, la bebedera, los tragos, los palos, **la palamentazón**, caerse a palos, la borrachera, una parranda; los venezolanos hemos inventado un sin número de nombres para describir el consumo de bebidas alcohólicas” (Hellbender, drinking-bout, hard drinking, **big amount of hot drinks**, go on the booze, excessive drinking, intoxication; Venezuelans created numerous words to describe alcohol consumption) [La Voz, 17.04.2010].

Some common Spanish suffixes in Venezuelan national variant of Spanish language expanded or changed their semantics that should be treated as lexico-derivational, for instance, suffix *-azo* in the meaning of “commercial and advertising effect”; “political activity”; “excessive consumption of alcohol drinks”: *bazarazo* – price-cutting in the shop; *poliedrazo* – meeting of political party in The Poliedro de Caracas; *cañazo* – drinking reed vodka.

“Los contra efectos del **“aguinaldazo”** (Negative effect of **big Christmas sales**)” (headline) [El Nacional, 25.11.2013].

“El **“Calderazo”** no se hizo esperar, ex guerrilleros y ex comunistas fueron artífices del neoliberalismo en materia laboral...” (Supporters of Caldera soon arrived, ex-partisans and communists were masters of labor neoliberalism...) [Aporrea.org, 04.02.2012].

“Un **guarapazo**, una tamborera y no respondo”, **habr á sido su lema**” (Drinking reed vodka, drumming and producing silence as an answer – that might be his motto) [El Universal, 22.06.2012].

Some common Spanish suffixes in Venezuelan national variant of Spanish language are highly productive, for instance, *-azón* in the meaning of “intensifying sense” and *-al* in the meaning of “connection with something”: *aguazón* – big amount of water (usually rain); *aderal* – member of the party Democratic Action (Acción Democrática); *candidatural* – member of support staff of some candidate.

“La econom ía venezolana, en tiempos de **pelazón**” (Venezuelan economy in **hard times**) (headline) [Tal Cual, 22.10.2014].

“En medio de un ambiente de cordialidad y camarader ía deportiva, el C írculo Militar de Maracay,

estado Aragua, fue escenario para el I Campeonato Invitacional de Motocross, que contó con una concurrida participación de 20 destacados pilotos representantes de varios estados” (In cordial and friendly atmosphere military region Maracay, Aragua, became a spot for hosting of First **Invitational Motocross Championship** with more than 20 outstanding racers from different states) [Diario VEA, 23.10.2013].

The productivity of certain suffixes in Venezuelan national variant of Spanish language increases under the influence of other languages. Thus, suffixes *-ivo* in the meaning “connection with something” and *-ción* participate in the process of word-formation due to the influence of English language: *sobre contentivo* – keeper; *operativo policial* – police special operation; *carnetización de los estudiantes* – distribution of student IDs; *domiciliación de las cuentas* – automatic redemption of debts.

Among prefixes highly frequent and productive are the prefixes *re-* in the meaning of “repeated action” and *pro-* in the meaning of “in favour of something”: *repotenciar el parque automotor* – refit fleet of vehicles; *reconvenir la industria* – reform industry; *refundar la República* – recover the Republic; *actitud proconstituyente* – activity in favour of Foundation Meeting (Asamblea Constituyente).

“Comienza el plan para **reconvertir** la moneda de Venezuela y que culminará en enero de 2008” (The plan of **modification** of Venezuelan coin which is to finish in January 2008 is due to start) (headline) [El Informador, 01.10.2007].

“Cónsul de Perú en Venezuela ofreció apoyo a **prochavistas** que usaron polos con logo de Marca Perú” (Consul in Peru offered support to **the followers of Hugo Chávez’s ideas**, who were wearing T-shirts with Peru logo) (headline) [El Universal, 10.05.2013].

The processes of suffixation and prefixation in Venezuelan national variant of Spanish language in general follow morphological and semantic laws of Spanish language. Choice and usage of given suffix / prefix depends on linguistic identity, communicative situation and register.

Morphological peculiarity of Venezuelan national variant of Spanish language is reflected in specific functioning of the categories of gender and number of nouns. There is a tendency of preferable usage of masculine word endings with the nouns denoting profession or occupation. As a result, both written and oral speech traces interchangeable forms of masculine and feminine gender: *la ministro / la ministra* – female Minister; *la decano / la decana* – female Dean; *la alcalde / la alcaldesa* – female mayor; *la magistrado / la magistrada* – female manager.

“Rosa de Scarano es la **alcaldesa** más votada en Venezuela” (headline) [El Propio, 26.05.2014] / “Denuncian a la **alcalde** de San Cristóbal por apoyar a violentos” (headline) [Tal Cual, 13.06.2014].

Gender marked are the nouns of Indian origin denoting plants and fruit: *guayabo* – tall tropical tree with sharp small leaves and aromatic white flowers / *guayaba* – small pear-like yellow-green fruit with small bones inside; *guamo* – fruit tree / *guama* – fruit.

“*El guayabo se cultiva debido a sus frutos deliciosos...*” [Diario La Costa, 20.07.2013] / “*La guayaba es una fruta super común en nuestra cultura que hasta el momento no ha tenido el reconocimiento que se merece*” [La Voz, 22.05.2013].

Gender variations can be also traced in the pair of words where feminine gender means a bigger size than masculine gender: *hueco* – hole / *hueca* – big hole; *perol* – pot / *perola* – boiler.

“*Venezuela está en un hueco y al parecer no saldrá en muchísimo tiempo*” [El Nacional, 12.05.2014] / “*Huecas se comen las calles de Maracaibo*” [Noticias 24, 08.01.2012].

The specific functioning of category of number is reflected in Venezuelan national variant of Spanish language in using plural form for words and constructions that are usually used in singular form: *voltear las cabezas* – turn one’s head round; *morirse de miedos* – die of fear; *¿Qué horas son?* – What time is it?

“*Educar es afectar los corazones*” (headline) [El Propio, 03.10.2013].

“*La mayor á de esas mujeres se mueren de miedos al pensar del futuro de sus hijos*” [Oriente 20, 22.05.2012].

Phenomena, characterizing syntax of Venezuelan national variant of Spanish language, are closely connected with grammar. Thus, one of the common practices for population of the whole country is substitute of unstressed pronoun *lo* for *los* that can be accounted for by the necessity to compensate semantic nontransparency of the pronoun *se* related to gender and number: *yo se los dije a ustedes* – I told you this.

In the course of our research we traced the tendency to double direct object in order to emphasize: *los colegas están dando una batalla que es muy importante apoyarla* – the colleagues are conducting a combat that is so vital to support; *otra que no está aquí y uno tiene que comprarla* – It is not here and somebody has to buy it. Duplication of indirect object with the help of *le/s* is wide-spread even if the indirect object is expressed by inanimate noun.

“*Le pedí una beca a la universidad y bueno, estoy aquí estudiando física*” [Tal Cual, 30.07.2011].

As Pyrenean variant Venezuelan language is characterized by usage of pronoun in dative case in such constructions as *el niño no me come* – the child doesn’t eat (I can’t make him eat); *no te me vayas* – don’t leave me, when the speaker wants to demonstrate an interest towards someone’s actions.

Distinct peculiarities exist in the verb system:

interchange of morphological (*cantaré*) and paraphrasing (*voy a cantar*) future forms when the latter is used to express doubt, supposition or proposition related not to future but to present; usage of present tense to express future with the meaning of absolute confidence (*mi hijo cumple años mañana* – my son has birthday tomorrow) or the nearest future happening (*salimos dentro de media hora* – we leave in half an hour); usage of gerund periphrasis with auxiliary verbs *ir* or *venir* instead of *estar*: *cuando vamos entrando* – when we were entering; *él venía saliendo del baño* – he was going out of the bathroom; usage of the verb *haber* in plural forms that resulted in “personalization” of the verb and emergence of the form *habemos*, substituting for traditional *hay*, *estamos*, *somos*: *en mi familia habemos nueve personas* – there are nine of us in the family; usage of the verb *estar* with preposition *para* and adverbial modifier of place: *mi abuela está para (en) mercado* – my grandmother is on the market, that can be accounted for by blending of two equally functioning constructions: be in some place (*estar en el mercado*) and go to some place (*ir para el mercado*).

In the system of adjectives one of the most widespread tendencies is adverbialization of such adjectives as *lindo*, *sabroso*, *bueno*: *canta muy lindo* – sings beautifully; *comí sabroso* – ate tasty; *ya está bueno!* – it’s enough!

There is also a tendency of adjectivation of the adverb *medio*: *media cansada* – a bit tired; *medios muertos* – half dead.

In colloquial Venezuelan speech some adverbs have specific semantics: *de repente* is used in the meaning of “possibly”; *al final* is substituted for *a la final*; *de primero*, *de segundo*, *de último* are substituted by *el primero*, *el segundo*, *el último*; *a juro* is used with the meaning of obligation; *bien* interchanges with *muy* before an adjective; *un poco de* may mean “little” and “much” depending on the context.

One of the typically Venezuelan linguistic phenomena is usage of *más* in expressions *más nunca*, *más nadie*, *más ninguno*, *más nada*.

As for auxiliary parts of speech in Venezuelan national variant of Spanish language, there is the so-called “*de queísmo*”, a tendency to use prepositions in a different way (although there are some cases of “additional” preposition *en*).

“*Creo de que el gobierno sabe lo que hace...*” [El Venezolano, 11.02.2014].

“*Yo pienso en que hoy en día somos presa de la publicidad*” [Tal Cual, 24.08.2013].

The phenomenon of “*de queísmo*” can be explained by two factors: mixing of two constructions in the speech of middle class: the one requiring preposition (*me di cuenta de que era tarde* – I understood that it was already late), and another used without preposition (*creo que llegará mañana* – I think he will come tomorrow); the second factor implies that an “additional” preposition means doubt, lack of

certainty of the speaker: thus, the phrase *creo de que la situación económica va a mejorar* means that the speaker is uncertain about the improvement of economic situation.

In its turn, traditional preposition may disappear in certain contexts, among which are verbs requiring preposition (*no me acuerdo (de) la fecha* – I don't remember about the date); before indirect object which precedes the verb (*(a) mi mamá le daba pena* – I felt sorry for my mum); before subordinate clause of the sentence with *que* (*estoy segura (de) que llegaremos tarde* – I am sure that we will come late).

Alongside with common Spanish language in Venezuelan national variant one preposition is substituted by another (*quedaron (de) en verse* – they met; *participar (de) en la evaluación* – participate in evolution; *consiste (de) en cuatro grupos* – consists of four groups).

Special attention should be paid to subordinate conjunction *que*, as one of the most commonly used in Venezuelan variant. Venezuelan national variant of Spanish language is characterized by the so-called phenomenon of “*que galicado*”, where “*que*” is a “*antecedent*” that can have several meanings: adverbial modifier of cause (*por eso es por lo / que no me interesa* – that is why it is not interesting to me), time (*fue ayer cuando / que lo ví* – it was yesterday when I saw him), way (*es así como / que se hace* – that is how he does it), place (*es ahí donde / que vive* – that is where he lives), subject (*ellos son los que / que tienen que estar viendo las fotos* – it is them who have to look through photos) or an object (*eso es lo que / que yo pienso* – that is what I think).

“*Allí fue que conocí a mi marido*”[Diario VEA, 09.01.2014].

In general, national and cultural particularities of grammar means of Venezuelan national variant of Spanish language depend on social and educational level of the speakers and the register.

Lexical level of Venezuelan national variant of Spanish language is characterized by existence of “*venezualisms*”, specific lexical units not characteristic for common Spanish language. The notion of “*venezualisms*” is closely connected with Venezuelan national features and characterizes peculiar manner of naming objects and realia [5]. The criterion for identification of “*venezualisms*” is a contrast not only with Pyrenean norm but also with other national variants of Spanish language.

The main fundamental work on Venezuelan lexicography is *Diccionario de Venezolanismos* [6], proving national status of Spanish language of Venezuela with its own ways of coding and decoding of information different from Pyrenean language.

Analysis of lexical units presented in *Diccionario de Venezolanismos* allowed distinguishing several semantic groups, lexical units of which contain national and cultural connotation: 1) national household objects (78 lex.un.); 2) national dishes and drinks (100 and 49 lex.un.); 3) national

items of clothing (59 lex.un.); 4) traditional forms of labour (64 lex.un.); 5) institutions and furniture (25 and 9 lex.un.); 6) national culture (84 lex.un.); 7) monetary and measurement units (28 and 24 lex.un.); 8) fauna (165 lex.un.); 9) flora (220 lex.un.); 10) political terms and realia (32 lex.un.); 11) traits of character (172 lex.un.); 12) appearance (119 lex.un.); 13) parts of human body (65 lex.un.); 14) alcohol drinks and drugs (56 lex.un.); 15) euphemisms (16 lex.un.); 16) magic and superstitions (17 lex.un.); 17) family relations (15 lex.un.); 18) nominal forms of address (30 lex.un.); 19) exclamations (27 lex.un.). Semantic structure of these lexical units include national and cultural component that reflects various features of national culture of Venezuelan national variant of Spanish language.

The “*venezualisms*” highlighted by the author are in most cases indigenisms having gone through graphical and phonetic changes. The following semantic groups are the most numerous:

Flora (15%) and **Fauna** (11%): *bejuquera* – thin grey snake; *bigarro* – big wild bull; *guarura* – snail that produces loud sound when the shell is opened, which is used as a musical instrument or a signal by fishermen and cab drivers; *jaiba* – sea crab of flattened shape; *lambiojo* – small yellow wasp that produces honey and attacks people's and animals' eyes; *matapalo* – tree, wreathing other trees by its roots and trunk until their death; *mapurite* – 1-meter high herbaceous plant with extended leaves that is believed to cure cancer and other illnesses.

National culture (6%): *cacho* – musical instrument made from bull's horn; *pujao* – cylindrical drum which people play on by hand or special stick putting it between legs; *cachudo / cachúo / guardajumo / marrunga / rabudo* – devil; *chiriguare* – central character of Christmas folklore performance held in San-Antonio-del-Golfo, state Sucre, the costume presents mythological animal with a donkey head, catfish tail and lion body wearing a crown on the head.

National household objects (5%): *agaje* – big square basket, made from willow and liana used for carrying animal corpses; *butaque* – wooden and leather stool with crossed legs and sometimes with a back; *carebe* – spoon made from fruit of Crescentia tree; *chirigua* – clay container of spherical or oblong form used for carrying water; *tinajero* – sink in the form of cupboard which has container for collecting water at the bottom.

National dishes and drinks (7% и 4%): *arepa* – corn cake; *cachapa* – dish made from young corn, milk, salt and juice of sugar reed or ordinary sugar; *cacho* – spicy corn bun filled with black beans; *chivato* – delicacy cooked from pumpkin, coconut milk and juice of sugar reed; *tronche* – coffee drink extracted from beans of wild coffee tree; *yaraque* – fermented drink from fried tapioca.

Appearance (8%): *chulenco* – a person with crossed legs walking like a duck, club-footed; *macambo* – a person with pale skin and reddish curly hair, who most often

comes from Kársou; *mechudo* – a person with thick tangled hair; *mojino* – a person with very dark shiny skin; *niche* – a person with Negro features.

Contemporary Venezuelan speech is characterized by presence of words of Indian (substrate component) and African (adstrat component) origin, connected with names of local realia and objects.

Having analyzed several bilingual dictionaries of Indian languages of Venezuela, we formed main semantic groups of Venezuelan indigenisms, among which are:

Flora and Fauna: *guamá/guamo* – tall tree, leaves and roots of which are used in medicine as uretic; *higüera* – fruit similar to pumpkin used to make bowls and other kitchen appliances; *curuba* – plant which is used to make gelatin, ice-cream and sherbet; *copaiba* – tree from the trunk of which medicinal balsam is extracted; *botuto* – edible snail from the Caribbean Sea with a shell measuring 20-25 cm which was used by the aborigines as a trumpet; *comején* – tropical insect savouring wood; *yacaré* – cayman.

National household objects: *budare* – round or a bit carved-in hot plate used to cook or fry corn cakes, kakapo, casaba and coffee; *tipoy* – a kind of tunic worn by Indian peasant girls; *guayuco* – breechcloth; *manare* – basket made from palm branches; *mícura* – pottery container.

National dishes and drinks: *guasacaca* – thick sauce cooked from sweet or spicy pepper, sometimes with addition of avocado and onion, topped with olive oil, vinegar, coriander and parsley; *masato* – fermented drink from corn, banana and yucca.

National culture: *yapurupo* – 1-meter long flute from bamboo, which is played by Indians from Alto Orinoko region; *carrizo* – village brass musical instrument made from trunk of sugar reed bound together; *mumaco* – idol made of cloth and clay; *mojá* – mythological creature, protecting fields, magician and wizard; *maraca* – musical instrument which looks like zucchini with small pebbles inside.

One more inherent component of contemporary Venezuelan speech is the African language that is used in the following semantic groups:

National culture: *garángano* – musical instrument from coconut palm; *curbata* – a kind of a drum; *marimba* – musical instrument sounding like xylophone; *mina* – a kind of a drum; *quichimba* – 1) a kind of a drum, 2) name of dance and music; *guasa* – a kind of folklore dance; *longorongo* – musical composition performed by a group of disguised people; *malembe* – dance performed by the sound of drum; *matigua* – 1) musical composition performed by a group of disguised people, 2) name of mythological or otherworldly creatures; *garunga / mandinga /perendengue* – devil.

National dishes and drinks: *berengue / merengue* – delicacy made from eggs, sugar, ripe banana and cocnut;

cafunga – a bun made from coconut and banana; *calalu* – dish cooked from grass and grain, typical for Eastern parts of the country; *mondongo* – dish made from cow tummy; *guarapo* – drink made from sugar reed juice; *guayoyo* – strongly watered coffee drink.

Flora and Fauna: *banana* – banana; *boroboro* – a kind of white iris; *caraota* – beans; *chiquichique* – fibrous plant; *giereg iere* – a kind of bush; *ñame* – herbaceous plant with edible bulbs; *ñongué* – a plant with furnace-like flowers; *sambito* – magical plant; *guacamaya* – parrot; *machango* – a kind of monkey; *gongorocho / cocoroche* – worm, insect; *canene* – razor-fish; *guasa* – red fish.

Human Appearance: *bembe* – thick fat lip; *chinga* – snub nose; *ñato* – flat nose, *pinga* – male genital organ.

It is necessary to mention that some common Spanish words acquired new meanings in Venezuelan: *levante* – 1) a herd of cattle or horses, 2) love conquest; *paloma* – 1) name of one of the songs of music band Polo Coriano, 2) request of a man for permission to dance with another man's partner; *pena* – 1) shyness, 2) prestige, honour; *tercio* – 1) cord of wood, stack of grass, 2) a sack of fruit, millet or vegetables, 3) measure of weight from 15 to 50 kg, depending on goods and region on sale of treacle, cakes, wood or coffee.

As Venezuela is one of the leading Latin American countries by number of immigrants, modern speech of its citizens is characterized by presence of foreign borrowings:

English borrowings: *hardware; software; guaya* – wire; *manifor* – exhaust stack; *guachimán* – guard; *cachifa* – cook; *guachicón* – sport washable shoes; *closet* – closet; *fréjer* – freezer; *teipa* – sticky tape; *bonche* – party.

Italian borrowings: *brócoli, canelones, espaguetis* – spaghetti, *ñoquis* – Gnocchi, *lazaña* – lasagne, *pizza, mortadela* – cooked sausage, *birra* – beer, *testa* – head, *capo* – boss, *piano* – slowly, gradually.

Portuguese borrowings: *botiquín* – first-aid kit; *garúa* – drizzle; *pena* – shame; *ñgrimo* – lonely, abandoned; *botar* – put; *lamber* – lick.

Galicisms: *afiche* – playbill; *creyón* –crayon; *chofer* – driver; *flamboyán* – a tree with fiery-red flowers; *fuete* – throng; *musiú* – Lord; *papel tualé* – toilet paper; *petipúa* – green peas; *puré* – puree; *randevú* – meeting of two people; *restorán* – restaurant; *taller* – tailor's, studio;

German borrowings: *estrúdel* – strudel, *delicateses* – delicacies; *sauerkraut* – sauerkraut; *pan de brot* – type of bread.

National and cultural peculiarities of Venezuelan national variant of Spanish language are also reflected in onomastic vocabulary. Main sources of Venezuelan toponyms are Indian, Spanish and African languages. Indian toponymy (*Acarigua, Barinas, Coro, Cumaná, Cumarebo, Guanare, Paraguaná, Píritu, Táchira, and Zulia* etc.) was the oldest on the territory of Venezuela and belonged to indigenous peoples of Arawakan, Chibchan

and Caribbean language families.

Spanish toponymy appears in the time of Conquista and colonization of the country.

Nowadays the majority of Venezuelan toponyms are Spanish and this tendency keeps growing due to economic (agricultural and industrial) contacts of two countries: *San Felipe, Mérida, Trujillo, Valencia, El Sombrero, El Tirano, Puerto Ordaz, Rubio, Michelena, Bolivia* etc.

African toponyms started to emerge in Venezuelan national variant starting with the 17th century when big amounts of slaves were brought to the country. African slaves named the places where they lived and some of them preserved in contemporary Venezuelan national variant, for instance: *Birongo, Cumboto, Curiepe, La Ganga, Taria*, etc.

In comparison with other Spanish-speaking countries, Venezuelan variant of language is characterized by bigger amount of extraordinary anthroponyms: hybrid-names, received in the process of contamination: *Andrecil* (Andrés and Cecilia), *Aliana* (Al í and Ana), *Analber* (Alberto and Ana), *Luzmilio* (Emilio and Luz), *Geysi* (Geremias and Silvia); foreign names: *Brayan* [Bryan], *Wuilian* [William], *Maikel* [Michael], *Estiven* [Stephen], *Yon* [John], *Den í* [Denisse], *Denison* [Denisson]; reverted spelling of traditional names: *Rotceh* (Héctor), *Nabsetse* (Esteban), *Mairim* (Miriam), *Aleuzenev* (Venezuela), *Susej* (Jesús), *Anierim* (Mi Reina), *Aseret* (Teresa).

The majority of Venezuelan family names are of Castilian, Canarias and Galician origin. As compared to other countries of Latin America and continental Spain, Venezuela possesses the brightest ethnic and anthropological diversity.

IV. CONCLUSION

The results of the research demonstrate the Venezuelan national variant of Spanish language is an independent language phenomenon with its own linguoculturological particularities and a scope of features distinguishing it from common Spanish language continuum.

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