

Lima, July 17, 2012

Report-Santander Visiting Fellowship

From April 25 to July 15 2012 I was kindly hosted by the School of Modern Languages of Newcastle University in an academic stage funded by the Santander Visiting Fellowship Schema. This period was intended to write the draft version of my doctoral dissertation on Andean Linguistics, to be submitted in August to the Program of Andean Studies in the Catholic University of Peru (Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú).

The visit gave me the appropriate space and the necessary research resources to meet that goal. During my stay, I was able to write the draft version of two chapters of the dissertation, and critically improve the other two I had brought in a preliminary version from Lima.

Not only the bibliographical resources of the university were paramount to achieve this goal, but, above all, the dialogue with the scholars involved in academic research on Andean and Hispanic linguistics, especially Prof. Rosaleen Howard and Prof. Ian Mackenzie. Both of them not only gave me invaluable advice for the writing of my text, but also were keen to discuss the possible future extensions of my current work. Dr. Richard Waltereit gave me the opportunity to discuss with him broader aspects of my academic projects and career, and Dr. Silvia Espelt-Bombin offered interested and informed help on some of the historical aspects I had to deal with during my writing.

On May 10, I had the opportunity to present and discuss the main arguments of the dissertation, and some of its social and educational implications, in the seminar “Northern Andean Spanish: an Endangered and Misunderstood Linguistic Variety”, which I gave to a multidisciplinary audience that provided me with insightful comments, suggestions and questions (see <http://www.ncl.ac.uk/sml/about/seminars/item/Andrade>).

The visit also allowed me to visit St Andrews University and meet Prof. Tristan Platt, with whom I discussed some of the historical questions that my linguistic research has raised. In St Andrews’ library I could read some bibliographical items not held in the other university libraries I had access to, and those items were crucial for the project. Another important archive I visited during my stay was the British Library, where I could browse an old edition of one of the most important sources for my study.

Thus, the ten weeks I spent in the United Kingdom thanks to the Santander Visiting Fellowship Schema yielded an important space for academic discussion, bibliographical research and networking building that will undoubtedly enhance the scope of my present and future work.

Luis Andrade Ciudad
Lecturer, Pontificia Universidad Catòlica del Perú