**Language politics and politicians’ language in the contact zone:**

**On analyzing parodies of a Catalan president’s non-native Catalan**

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In language contact situations, parodies of the hybrid speech production of second-language speaking public figures have generally been analyzed by sociolinguists and linguistic anthropologists as forms of ethnic derogation and discrimination. This presentation examines the linguistic politics of mass media commentaries and parodies of the Catalan spoken by José Montilla, a Socialist politician of Castilian-speaking, Andalusian immigrant origin who is the recent past president of the autonomous government of Catalonia. I compare representations of the president found in print, Internet, and television before focusing closely on the linguistic characterization of Montilla in a popular television satire. Both the form and the social meaning of broad public parodies of hybrid forms of Catalan are addressed.

I will argue here that aspects of the Catalan case render the politics of linguistic parody less straightforward than in some other cases that have been analyzed. First, the socio-political status of the linguistic medium can create fundamental differences in the social semiotics of parody. Specifically, when the target linguistic variety is itself a minoritized language rather than a hegemonic public language, it is not just the medium but at the same time the object of representation and scrutiny. Second, I will show that there are significant differences among different parodic genres and different media within the Catalan case, rendering the valence and effects of linguistic criticisms and parodies more variable. Both the status of the linguistic medium itself and different media technologies complicate the social indexicality and politico-linguistic effects of linguistic parody.