

Arabic Influence on the Spanish Language



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Introduction

Castellano. Español. Spanish. An offshoot of Vulgar Latin now spoken by over 400 million people around the globe [15]. This particular language grew out of the northern region of Iberia, surviving peninsular conquest by both Visigoths and Moors. Yet it did not survive these eras unaltered. And so this report looks at the particular influences that Arabic, brought by the Moors, has had on the evolution of Spanish. After a brief discussion of the relevant history, including the mingling of Romance and Arabic seen with the Mozarabs, we will take a look at the most prominent contribution of Arabic to Spanish, which is vocabulary. Then we will work our way through the structural levels of linguistics – semantics, syntax, morphology and phonology – and explore some of the more subtle interactions of these two languages.

History

This paper is not directly concerned with the historical events surrounding Arabic rule in the Iberian Peninsula, but a brief summary of that history is necessary to provide a context for the linguistic concerns at hand. Before the arrival of the Moors in the eighth century, the peninsula had accommodated Celtic, Roman and Germanic peoples, each adapting to or replacing the language and culture of their predecessors to varying extents. Then in 711, driven by the directives of Islam, Moors from Northern Africa came across the Strait of Gibraltar and, over the next couple decades, usurped virtually the entire peninsula from Visigoth rule. As shown in Figure 1, the Franks repelled the Moors' push into the rest of Europe. So the Moors settled down in the land they had already conquered, and there their kingdom of Al-Andalus stood for the next several centuries.

Figure 1 – The Moorish Conquest of Iberia



For the first part of Moorish rule, the Hispano-Roman Christians and Jews were allowed to freely continue their religious practices, resulting in some form of Arabic-Romance bilingualism among the non-Moorish people. These people were called *Mozarabs* from the Arabic word for ‘one who imitates Arabs’. Eventually, this linguistic encounter resulted in the now-extinct language of *Mozarabic*. Having grown under Arabic domination, Mozarabic did not develop its own orthography, but rather was an *aljamía* (i.e., used Arabic script) [4]. The primary extant examples of Mozarabic are *Jarchas* – poems of Arabic-origin that were written in Arabic or Hebrew. Figure 2 shows one such Jarcha and its Spanish and English translation.

Figure 2 – A Mozarabic Jarcha

| Transliteration from Arabic Script | Transcription (approximate) | Spanish Translation | English Translation |
|---|--|--|---|
| mw sīdī 'ibrāhīm y' nw'mn dḷỵ f'nt myb dy njt in nwn š nwn k'rš yrym tyb grmy 'wb 'f̣rt. | meu 'sidi 'Ibrahim, ya 'nuemne 'doltše, 'fente mib de 'nojte. in non si non ker'iš ir'eime tib 'garne a ob. a fer-te. | Señor mío Ibrahim, oh nombre dulce, vente a mí de noche. Si no, si no quieres, ireme a ti; dime adónde a verte. | My lord Ibrahim, oh name so sweet, come to me by night. If not, if you do not wish, I'll go to you; tell me where to find you. |

In this Jarcha, we see that Mozarabic is notably similar to Spanish, particularly by Mozarabic-Spanish word pairs such as *doltše-dulce* (line 2), *fente-vente* (line 3), *keriř-quieres* (line 5) and *ireime-ireme* (line 6). There are several evident ties to both Arabic and Latin as well. Notably, we have from Arabic the word *sidi* ('lord') and the particle *in* (with *non*, 'if not'). An artifact from Latin – less visible in Spanish than Mozarabic – is the form of the personal object pronouns *tib* (line 6) and *mib* (line 3), which are from the Latin *tibi* and *mihi*. [7,9,18]

With the arrival of more radical Muslim tribes, the Almorávides and Almohades in 1090 and 1146, respectively, religious intolerance drove the Mozarabs out of Al-Andalus [4]. Many of them fled to Asturias, beyond the Cantabrian Mountains (see Figure 1), where other Hispano-Goths held their ground against the Moorish Invasion. It is often argued that the several-century growth of Mozarabic, followed by the coexistence of Mozarabs with the early Castilians in Asturias, is the major channel by which elements of Arabic entered Spanish. Regardless, the remnant of Mozarabs was later wiped out during the Christian Reconquest. [18]

The Asturian defense against the Moors gradually became the offensive campaign known as the Reconquest of Spain. Within 300 years of the Moors entering Spain, six distinct kingdoms had arisen from the small, unconquered region in the north and had reconquered a third of the peninsula (Figure 3a). The progress of the Reconquest was aided by the dissolution of the central political power of Al-Andalus. By 1150, the Moors controlled less than half of Iberia, and the Kingdom of Portugal came into existence (Figure 3b). Castile became the predominant Kingdom by 1300, at which point the Moors had been pushed back to an area no bigger than Asturias, from whence the reconquerors had begun their campaign (Figure 3c). [18] Grenada, the final stronghold of the Moors in Spain, is taken in 1492. Furthermore, all the kingdoms of the peninsula, except Portugal, were united under Ferdinand of Aragon and Isabella of Castile, and so became the Spanish Empire. [5]

Figure 3a – Reconquest by AD 1000



Figure 3b - Reconquest by AD 1150

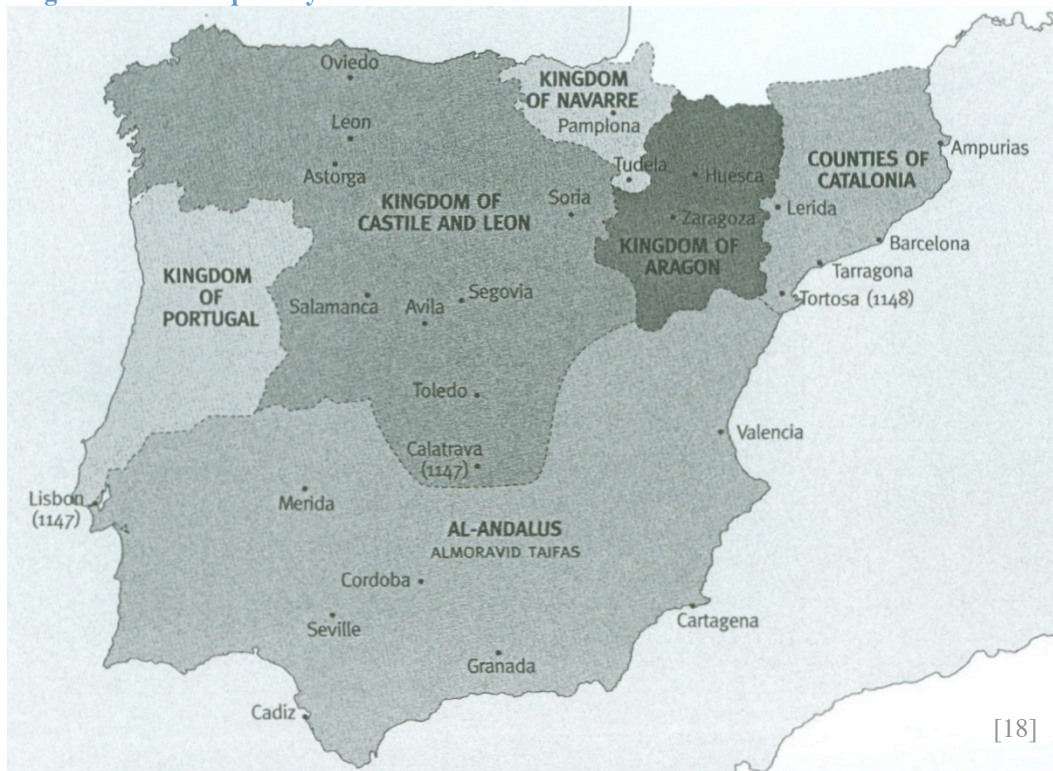


Figure 3c - Reconquest by AD 1300



Lexical Influence

There is no doubt that the greatest linguistic influence of Arabic is lexical. Some 8% of Spanish vocabulary is of Arabic origin [19]. This includes some hundreds or thousands of modern locations and geographic features that still hold the place-names they received from the Moors. Figure 4 shows only 22 of these toponyms¹, including Tarifa, Gibraltar, Cabo Trafalgar and Algeciras in the area where the Moors first entered the peninsula. Tarifa is named after *Tarif*, the first Muslim in Spain. Gibraltar comes from *jabal Tariq*, meaning ‘mountain of Tariq’ and named after the Muslim general who led the attacks on the peninsula [9]. Between Tarifa and Gibraltar is Algeciras, from the Arabic for ‘the (green) island’ - *al jazeera (al khadra)*. Throughout Spain, it is commonplace to find toponyms contain “Guada-”, which comes from the Arabic word *wadi* meaning ‘river’ or ‘valley’. Some examples are Guadalajara (*wadi al-hijarah*, ‘river/valley of stone’), Guadalcazar (*wadi al-qasr*, ‘river/valley of the castle’), and Guadalaviar (*wadi al-abyad*, ‘white river’). The Arabic word *wadi* was even paired with a Latin word *lupus* to produce the toponyms Guadalupe (‘wolf river’). The name given by the Moors to their entire peninsular domain was *Al-Andalus*, meaning ‘the Vandals’, in reference to the Visigoths that had ruled the land before them. During the Reconquest, Al-Andalus was retaken by the Romance people in the north, and eventually became Andalucía, the southernmost autonomous community of peninsular Spain. For more Arabic and partially-Arabic toponyms, including all shown in Figure 4, see Appendix 1.

Along with the locations that were established or renamed by the Moors during their conquest, Spanish is filled with military words that reflect the means by which they took control, as well as the administrative and infrastructural words that reflect their continued

¹ Locations found via Google Maps (<http://maps.google.com>)

control. The military-related words Spanish gained include: weaponry, such as *adarga* ('shield') from Arabic *ad-daraqah* and *alfanje* (a type of sabre) from *hanğar*; people, such as *alférez* ('lieutenant') from *al-fāris* ('the gentleman') and *algara* ('cavalry') from *al-ğārah*; and structures, such as *alcázar* ('fortress') from *al-qaṣr* and *atalaya* ('watchtower') from *at-ṭalā'i*. Spanish words that came from the continued Moorish rule include: officials, such as *alcalde* ('mayor') from *al-qāḍī* and ('bailiff') from *al-wazīr*; and administrative areas, such as *aldea* ('village') from *al-ḍay'ah* and *arrabal* ('suburb') from *ar-rabaḍ*.

Figure 4 - Some Spanish Toponyms of Arabic Origin



Furthermore, the immense influence that the Moors had on architecture, economics, and agriculture are monumental topics in their own right. But here, we continue to focus on the vocabulary that came into Spanish as a result of that influence. From architecture, for example, we have: buildings, such as *fonda* ('inn') from *funduqah*; and structural elements, such as *zaguán* ('hallway') from *uṣṭuwān[ah]* and *zaquizamí* ('attic') from *saqf shami*. Some Arabic-origin terms in economics include: words directly regarding currency, such as *alcancía* ('money-box') from *al-kanz* ('the treasure') and *arancel* ('tariff') from *al-inzāl*; as well as relevant people and places, such as *azogue* ('market') from *as-sūq* and *zarracatín* ('profiteer') from *sāriqu ttīn* ('fig thief'). The agricultural terms that Spanish gained from Arabic are bountiful, including: plants, such as *algodón* ('cotton') from *al-quṭn* and *limón* ('lemon') from *laymūn*; animals, such as *acémila* ('mule') from *az-zāmilah* ('beast of burden'); people, such as *arriero* ('muleteer') from *harr* (an expression used to urge on a camel) and *rabadan* ('head shepherd') from *rabbu ḏḏa'n* ('man/lord of sheep'); and appliances, such as *almazara* ('oil mill') from *al-ma'ṣarah* and *noria* ('water wheel') from *nā'ūrah*.

The occurrence of Arabic words also reaches into the domestic and personal lives of the Iberian people. The lexical impact on domestic life is seen in: food, such as *albóndiga* ('meatball') from *al-bunduqah*, *café* ('coffee') from *qahwah* and *taza* ('cup') from *ṭassah* or *ṭast*; clothing, such as *albornoz* ('bathing robe') from *al-burnūs* and *camisa* ('shirt') from *qamis*; and craft, such as *recamar* ('embroider') from *raqm* and *alcántara* (a part of a yarn loom) from *al-qanṭarah* ('the bridge'). In the more social part of life we find: instruments, such as *aldufe* ('tambourine') from *al-duff* and *guitarra* ('guitar') from *qitarah*; and other terms found in festive occasions, such as *alcohol* from *al-kuḥl* and *zahora* (a wild/festive party) from *saḥūr* or *suḥūr* (a meal taken during Ramadan).

One interesting aspect of the era of Arabic rule in Iberia is that, although the Moors held to extremely orthodox forms of Islam, they accepted, and even encouraging, all manner of open science and philosophy among the great thinkers [3]. And so, while the rest of Europe entered the Dark Ages, the Iberian Peninsula acted as a center of culture and learning, especially translating Greek writings. With the rise of intellectual centers in Al-Andalus such as Córdoba came concepts of: mathematics, such as *álgebra* from *alğabru walmuqābalah* ('reduction and comparison') and *cifra* ('zero') from *ṣifr* ('empty'); astronomy, such as *cenit* ('zenith') from *samt* and *almanaque* ('calendar') from *munāḥ* ('above the caravan', stars were compared to camels en route); physical sciences, such as *azogue* ('mercury') from *az-zāwq* or *az-zā'ūq* and *alquimia* ('alchemy') from *al-kīmiyā*; and medicine, such as *alferecía* ('epilepsy') from *al-fāliġ* and *elixir* from *al'iksīr*.

One exceptional influence of Arabic in more modern times is the toponym Zahara de los Membrillos, which combines Arabic *zahra* ('flower') and Spanish *de los Membrillos* ('of the quinces'). Another is the Spanish word for air stewardess (*azafata*), derived from an antiquated Spanish word for a tray or a low basket (*azafate*), which comes from the Arabic word *as-safaṭ* meaning 'the (wicker) basket'. As with *azafate*, many more Spanish words that came from Arabic – although they remain in the official dictionary of the Royal Spanish Academy [21] – have gone out of common use. This was particularly the case after the expulsion of the Moriscos in 1609, whose practices and customs has sustained the relevance of Arabic-origin words [16]. Furthermore, according to Arnold,

words borrowed from Arabic, which have survived in literary Spanish, are gradually dropping out under the influence of journalism. Spanish journalism, and particularly Spanish-American journalism, is strongly influenced by Paris, and the so-called 'Latin press'

(prensa latino) has no love for words which are not immediately intelligible in any Latin country. [3]

Regardless of their diminished popularity, Spanish words with Arabic origin still abound. For a far more extensive – yet far from comprehensive – list of these words than what has been mentioned up to this point, see Appendices 2.

Semantics

Along with the large proportion of Spanish vocabulary borrowed directly from Arabic, there exist abundant words and phrases whose meaning is derived from Moorish idioms, concepts of Islam, and other semantic characteristics of the Arabic language. Since these expressions can require extensive context or subtle cultural understanding, and since the origins of the particular connotations of a word or phrase can be nigh impossible to trace, it is far more difficult to create the sort of catalogue of expressions as we have for specific words (Appendices 1-2). Nevertheless, we will describe a few of the more prevalent examples here.

In Arabic, as with other Semitic languages, the word for ‘son’ (*ibn*) can be used to express someone’s nature, rather than just their biological heritage. For example, the phrase “son of wealth” refers to a rich man. This use of ‘son’ is not commonly found in Romance languages, except in the Iberian Peninsula. In Spanish, for example, the word for nobleman or gentleman, *hidalgo* (also *hijodalgo*, *fidalgo* and, *fijodalgo*), is literally translated “son of something [of value]”. [4,5]

We also see in Spanish, but not in other Romance languages, an additional meaning of the word for ‘shame’ (*vergüenza*), which appears to be Arabic in nature. Castro gives the following translation for a line from the *Crónica de Alfonso XI* in *Bibliotexa de Autores Españoles*, LXVI: “And those few companions who stayed with the King were knights and

squires, and the others whom the King had reared in his house and in his grace; but they were all men of good heart, and in whom there was shame [vergüenza].” Here, the word is of a virtue, implying loyalty and honor. We see this sort of meaning also in the use of the Arabic word *ḥayyat*, which means ‘to live, to protect life, to be ashamed’. [5]

A variety of Spanish proverbs can be traced to sayings in the Qur’an. For instance, the phrase *burro cargado de ciencia* (“ass burdened with knowledge”) is used to express how a person’s knowledge, no matter how extensive, is relatively naught. This is seen in the following passage in the Qur’an (62,5): “The example of those who were entrusted with the Torah and then did not take it on is like that of a donkey who carries volumes [of books].” (Sahih International Trans.) [4,20]

Within numerous expressions of casual Spanish conversation, there often exists a strong likeness to Arabic expression. Probably most well-known is the interjection *¡Ojalá!*, which is derived from the phrase *law šá lláh*, meaning “if Allah wills [it]”. In similar form to this, Spanish has received from the Moors *si Dios quiere* (“if God wills [it]”), *Dios mediante* (“by means of God”), and *Dios te ampare* (“[may] God protect you”) [16]. After picking up bread that has fallen on the floor, a person in Andalucía might say *es pan de Dios* (“It is God’s bread”), which was a practice among the Moors (‘*āysh Allāh* – “Allah’s bread”) [4,22]. When visiting somebody in Spain, one might be told *ya sabe que ha tomado posesión de su casa* (“know that you have taken possession of your home”), which can also be traced back to Moorish practice [22]. These are all just a few prime examples of how the language, culture, and religion of the Moors have influenced Spanish semantics.

Syntax

Unlike the case with semantics, there is hardly any notable syntactic influence on Spanish from Arabic. Aside from a few function words, some correlation is found between the Iberian languages and certain phenomena. For example, the subject generally precedes the object in Romance languages, but there appear to be more verb-subject occurrences in Spanish and Portuguese than elsewhere in Europe; Arabic has verb-subject word order. However, that such correlations imply causation is only theory until more rigorous studies take place. [13]

The function words in Spanish that have origins in Arabic include the preposition *hasta*, which is generally traced to the Arabic word *hattá*, though it also has ties to Latin *ad ista*, meaning ‘to this’. Also, the adverbial phrases *de marras* (referring to something already know or stated), *de balde* (for free), and *en balde* (in vain) come from Arabic *murrah* (“once”) and *bāṭil* (“useless”); these are sometimes considered particles. The indefinite pronouns *fulano/a* and *mengano/a* are from Arabic *fulān* (“that one”) and *man kān* (“the one who is” or “the one who would be”), respectively. Recall in the early discussion of idiomatic expressions, we mentioned that the interjection *Ojalá* is from Arabic; the interjections *hala*, *arre*, *harre*, and *guay* are also sometimes attributed to Arabic origin. [13,16] Most of these contributions to Spanish, however, are as much lexical as they are syntactic.

Morphology

It is difficult not to notice a frequent presence of *a-* or *al-* at the start of so many Spanish words of Arabic origin. These come from the Arabic article *al*. The occurrence without the *l* is due to the allomorphs of /al/ that occur in Arabic when the article is directly followed by a “solar letter” (dentals, sibilants, approximants, and /n/). In this case, the /l/ is assimilated to its

subsequent solar letter. [13] For example, *ad-dalīl* (> *adalid* = ‘leader’), *az-zahr* (> *azahar* = ‘citrus blossom’), *ar-rubb* (> *arrope* = boiled down fruit juice), and *an-naḥḥ* (> *añafil* = a Moorish trumpet). Since the words that came into Spanish from Arabic were transferred orally, sometimes the article was picked up as part of the word. There are even scattered examples of *al-* prefixed on other words and toponyms of non-Arabic origin, such as: *alcanzar* (‘to reach’) from Latin *incalciare*, *almena* (‘battlement’) from Latin *minae*, and *Almonaster* from Latin *monasterium* (‘monastery’). The important thing to note is that the addition of *a-* or *al-* at the start of words occurred while the Moors were still in the peninsula. These words in modern Spanish are now solitary lexical units; the initial syllable does not provide any additional information, either syntactically or lexically, to the rest of word and the rest of the word does not mean anything in Spanish without it. Any semblance of a productive morpheme the *al-* might have possessed in the early Castilian language is now gone, and thus it is not generally considered an affix in Spanish.

Along with the abundance of *a-* and *al-* words in Spanish, there are numerous words that end in *-í*. If we ignore the preterit first person singular conjugation of *-er* and *-ir* verbs, we find that many of the words ending in *-í* are of Arabic origin: *jabalí* (‘wild boar’), *marabedí* (an Arabic coin), *baladí* (‘worthless’), etc. Although they appear to be completely unrelated words, the similar ending comes from a common source in Arabic – the genitive case. The word *jabalí* is from the Arabic word *ḡabalī* meaning “of a mount”. *Marabedí* was a gold coin, and is a shortened form of the Arabic *mitqāl murabiṭī*, meaning “dinar of gold”. Finally, *baladí* used to mean “of the land” or “of the country”, which was the meaning of its Arabic source *baladī*. [16] Also, in the 13th century, the era of Alfonso X was referred to as “*la era alfonsí*”; and in 1951,

Menéndez Pidal used the word *andalusí* ('regarding Al-Andalus') in contrast to *andaluz* ('regarding Andalucía'). [13]

More notably, the *-í* ending that resulted from the Arabic genitive case can be found in Spanish demonyms or gentilics (words for a person's location or origin). A person from the Spanish city Ceuta in Morocco is a *ceutí*. A person from Marbella in Andalusia is a *marbellí*. And a person from Santa Coloma de Queralt in Catalonia is a *colomí*. Spanish also uses demonyms ending in *-í* for a good portion of the Arabic-speaking nations of the world. For example, a *bahreíní* is from *Bahréin* (Bahrain), a *marroquí* is from *Marruecos* (Morocco), and a *yemení* is from *Yemen*. With many more examples (Figure 5), *-í* is a fairly commonly recognized allomorph of the Spanish morpheme for creating demonyms.

Figure 5 - Spanish Demonyms Ending in -í

| Demonym in Spanish | Location in Spanish (details in English) | Official Language(s) in English |
|-------------------------------|---|--|
| bagdadí | Bagdad (in Iraq) | Arabic |
| bahreíní | Bahréin (Bahrain) | Arabic |
| bengalí | Bangladesh | Bengla |
| catarí | Qatar | Arabic |
| ceutí | Ceuta (of Spain, in Morocco) | Spanish |
| colomí | Santa Coloma de Queralt (in Catalonia, Spain) | Spanish |
| iraquí | Iraq | Arabic |
| israelí | Israel | Hebrew/Arabic |
| kuwaití | Kuwait | Arabic |
| magrebí | Magreb (a region of North Africa) | Arabic |
| malauí | Malawi (Malawi) | English |
| malí | Malí | French |
| marbellí | Marbella (in Andalusia, Spain) | Spanish |
| marroquí | Marruecos (Morocco) | Arabic |
| nepalí | Nepal | Nepali |
| omaní | Omán | Arabic |
| pakistaní | Pakistán | Urdu |
| saudí | Arabia Saudí (Saudi Arabia) | Arabic |
| somalí | Somalia | Somali |
| tunecí | Túnez (Tunisia) | Arabic |
| yemení | Yemen | Arabic |

Some of the more common gentilic allomorphs are *-ano*, *-ense*, *-eño*, *-ero*, and *-es*. The major difference between *-í* and the other suffixes is that *-í* is relatively unproductive. In almost every occurrence, even those for non-Arabic-speaking locations, the demonym was taken entirely from the language of the locale. Suffixes such as *-ano* (e.g., *peruano*) and *-eño* (e.g., *puertariqueño*), are commonly affixed to Spanish toponyms to create demonyms, and can be used when new toponyms enter the language – thus they are productive. One of the few examples that can be used to support the productivity of *-í* is the replacement of *nepalés* with *nepalí* for a person from Nepal. However, even this change could be influenced by the demonym used in Nepal: नेपाली, /nēpālī/ [2]. Likewise, aside from the two aberrant occurrences mentioned at the end of the previous paragraph, *-i* is unproductive for non-demonymic use. [11,13]

Phonology

Although it is argued that Arabic did not contribute any distinctly novel phonetic units to the Romance languages developing in the Iberian Peninsula, the phonological differences between Arabic and early Castilian can explain some of the alterations to pronunciation that occurred, both in new words from the Moors and in preexisting words of Greek or Latin origin. We will discuss a variety of examples, regarding first vowels, then consonants. In this section, languages are abbreviated when demonstrating the evolution of a word: GR for Greek, LAT for Latin, AR for Arabic, ARSP for the Romance language that existed during the Moorish Rule, OSP for Old Spanish, and SP for Modern Spanish.

There is a well-documented phonological phenomenon that occurs with Arabic vowels called *'imāla*: partial or complete assimilation of /ā/ to the /ī/ of an adjacent syllable, resulting in /ē/ or /ī/ rather than /ā/. An example of this is in the toponym: LAT *Hispalis* > ARSP *Isbilia* > SP

Sevilla. [14] Some other changes occurred due to different vowel inventories. Arabic has three locations (/a, i, u/), two levels of openness, and a distinction of duration (e.g., /a/ versus /a:/). The Latin-based language present in the peninsula, however, had 3 levels of openness and no distinction of duration. We also see the modification and substitution of some Arabic diphthongs. For example: /aw/ became /o/, as with AR *al-ḥawz* > SP *alfoz* ('set of towns in a single jurisdiction') and AR *as-sawṭ* > SP *azote* ('whip'); and /aj/ became /e/ or /ej/, as with AR *al-mays* > SP *almez* ('nettle tree') and AR *al-bayṭar* > SP *albéitar* ('veterinarian'). [13,16]

Changes also occurred due to difference in available consonants and consonant use between the Arabic and Spanish. First of all, the unvoiced alveolar fricative /s/ of Castilian was often mispronounced by the Moors as the unvoiced affricate /š/, represented by *x*, which later became /x/, represented by *j*. Thus: LAT *sapōnis* > OSP *xabon* > SP *jabón* ('soap'); LAT *sepīa* > O. Sp *xibia* > SP *jibia* ('cuttle fish'); LAT *satureia* > ARSP *aššatríyya* or *aššitríyya* > SP *ajedrea* ('savory', a flower); LAT *Salonem* > OSP *Xalon* > SP *Jalón* (in Valencia); and LAT *Saramba* > SP *Jarama* (by Madrid). Though the Moorish invasion affected many preexisting toponyms, others locations were retaken quickly enough by the Christian Reconquest to avoid it. [7,17]

Since Arabic contains many uvular and pharyngeal sounds that were not present in early Castilian, these were changed to one of /f, x, g/ or dropped altogether: AR *al-ḥarakah* > SP *alharaca* ('fuss'), AR *al-ḥinnā'* > SP *alheña* (a shrub), AR *raḥl* > SP *rafal* ('farm/house in a field'), AR *al-hury* > SP *alfolí* or *alholí* ('warehouse/barn'), AR *al-ḥarrūbah* > SP *algarroba* ('carob bean'); AR *al-‘arrādah* > SP *algarrada* (a war machine), AR *al-‘arīf* ('expert') > SP *alarife* ('architect' or 'master of arts'). [16]

Furthermore, some word-final consonants and consonant clusters that exist in Arabic, including the ending of masculine nouns, did not exist in early Castilian pronunciation. The

result was generally epenthesis of a vowel or substitution of the consonant(s) with /n/: AR *suq* > SP *zoco* ('market'), AR *al-ʿard* > SP *alarde* ('show'), AR *al-ğubb* > SP *aljibe* ('well'), AR *al-ʿaqrab* > SP *alacrán* ('scorpion'), AR *al-muhtasib* > SP *almotacén* ('market inspector'). [16]

Other evident changes that occurred during the Moorish era include /b/ > /p/: LAT *pastināca* > SP *biznaga* ('Bishop's weed'), LAT *Ostippo* > SP *Teba* (in Málaga, Andalusia), and GR *Περσικόν*, /persi'kon/ > SP *albérchigo* ('apricot'). Also, /st/ > /z/ or /s/: LAT *Basti* > SP *Baza* (in Granada, Andalusia), AR *mustaʿrab* > SP *mozárabe*, AR *uṣṭuwān* > SP *zaguán* ("hallway"), and LAT *Caesar Augusta* > ARSP *Saraqusta* > SP *Zaragoza* (in Aragón). And finally, /k/ > /tʃ/ or /s/: LAT *acetarīa* > SP *acedera* ('vinegar'), and LAT *Ilice* > SP *Elche* (in Alicante, Andalusia). [13,16,17]

Conclusion

Although the abundance of Arabic words present in Spanish is the most notable linguistic influence left by the Moors in the Iberian Peninsula, we also find a handful of semantic, syntactic, morphological, and phonologic characteristics that can be traced to the Moors. The semantic influences can be hard to trace, the syntactic influences are relatively minimal, the morphological influences lack productivity in modern Spanish, and the phonological changes are no more extreme than what might be encountered over the history of a much more isolated language group. Nevertheless, each level of influence from Arabic contributes to the characteristics that make Spanish, as well as Portuguese, so wonderfully distinct from other Romance Languages.

Appendix 1 – Spanish Toponyms of Arabic Origin

| Spanish Toponym | Arabic Source | English Translation |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| Albacete | al-basit | the plain |
| Alcalá | al-qal'ah | the fort/castle |
| Alcolea | al-qal'ah | the fort/castle |
| Algarbe | al-garb | the west |
| Algeciras | al-jazeera (al-khadra) | the (green) island |
| (Pico) Almanzor | Al-Mansur Ibn Abi Aamir | (de facto ruler of Al-Andalus c. 1000) |
| Almedina | al-madīnah | the city |
| Almería | al-mirayah or al-Meraya | the mirror or the watchtower |
| Almonaster | al [Latin: monasterium] | the monastery |
| Alpuente | al [Old Spanish: puente] | the bridge |
| Alpujarras | al-bashurah | the bastion/news |
| Andalusia | Andalus | Vandals (i.e., the Visigoths) |
| Benicasim | Bani Qasim | son of (Ar. name) |
| Calatañazor | qal'at al-nasur | fort of the eagles |
| Calatayud | qal'at Ayyub | fort of Job |
| Gibraltar | jabal Tariq | mountain of (Arabic general) |
| Guadalajara | wadi al-hhijarah | valley/river of stone |
| Guadalcazar | wadi al-qasr | valley/river of the castle |
| Guadalén | wadi [??] | fountain river |
| Guadalquivir | wadi al-kabir | great river |
| Guadalupe | wadi al [Latin: lubb] | wolf river/valley |
| Guadalviar | wadi al-abyad | white river |
| Guadarrama | wadi [??] | ??? river/valley |
| Iznájar | hisn | fortified zone/place |
| Jaén | jayyen | crossroads of caravans |
| Madrid | majri | (a type of breeze) |

| Spanish Toponym | Arabic Source | English Translation |
|-----------------------------|--|--------------------------------|
| Mancha | mandza | high plateau |
| Maqueda | makādah | firm/stable |
| Medina | madīnah | city |
| Medinaceli | madinat Sa lim | city of (Arabic name) |
| Tarifa | Tarif | (first Muslim in Spain) |
| (Cabo) Trafalgar | Taraf al-ghar | (Arabic name) |
| Valladolid | balad al-Walid | town of (Arabic name) |
| Vega | buq'ah | field |
| Zahara de los Membrillos | zahara [Spanish: de los membrillos] | flower of the quinces |

Appendix 2 – Spanish Words of Arabic Origin²

| 1. Spanish Word | 2. English Translation | 3. Arabic Source (Transcribed) | 4. English Translation (If Different from Column 2) |
|-----------------|--|--------------------------------|---|
| aceifas | [a summer military expedition] | ṣā'ifah | summer expedition / harvest |
| aceite | olive oil | azzayt | |
| aceituna | olive | zaytūnah | |
| acelga | chard | silqah | |
| acémila | beast of burden / mule | zāmilah | beast of burden |
| aceña | water/flour mill | sāniyah | elevated / lifted |
| acequia | ditch | sāqiyah | irrigated |
| acicalar | adorn | ṣiqāl | tool for polishing/burnishing |
| adalid | leader | dalīl | |
| adarga | shield | daraqah | |
| adarme | [weight/measure] | dirham | |
| adarve | path behind a parapet | darb | |
| adarve | a defensive wall | darb | |
| adelfa | rosebay | diflā | laurel |
| adobe | sun-dried mud brick | ṭūb | |
| aduana | customs | dīwān | |
| aduar | gypsy camp | duwwār | |
| ajedrez | chess | ṣīṭranġ | |
| ajimez | arched | šams | |
| ajorca | anklet | šuruk [pl. of širāk] | thick (leather) strip/cord for tying |
| alacena | cupboard | ḥizānah | |
| alacrán | scorpion | ‘aqrab | |
| alajú | [a honey treat] | ḥašw | fill(ing) |
| alambique | (alcohol) still | inbīq | |
| alamín | clerk who checks weights | amin | |
| alarde | show / parade | ‘arḍ | |
| alarife | architect / master of art | ‘arīf | expert |
| albacea | executor of a will | wasiyah | |
| albanega | hair net | banīqah | |
| albañil | bricklayer / mason | bannā' | |
| albarda | saddle [for cavalry] | barda‘ah | |
| albaricoque | apricot | burqūq | |
| albayaide | [a white, lead-based paint ingredient] | bayāḍ | |
| albéitar | veterinarian | bayṭar / bayṭār | |
| alberca | artificial pool | birkah | |
| albóndiga | meatballs | bunduqah | |
| albornoz | bathing robe | burnūs | |
| alboronía | made into stew | būrāniyya | [a stew name after Būrān] |
| albricias | [a gift for good news] | buṣrā | |

²The etymology of every word (except Proper nouns) has been verified using the Spanish Royal Academy's Dictionary of the Spanish Language [21].

| 1. Spanish Word | 2. English Translation | 3. Arabic Source (Transcribed) | 4. English Translation (If Different from Column 2) |
|-----------------|---|--------------------------------|---|
| albufera | lagoon | buḥayrah [dim. of baḥr] | (small) sea |
| alcachofa | artichoke | ḥuršūf(ah) | |
| alcaide | governor / warden | qā'id | |
| alcalde | mayor | qāḍī | |
| álcali | alkali | qily | soda |
| alcancía | money-box | kanz | treasure |
| alcándara | perch [for a bird] | kandarah | |
| alcandía | sorghum | quṭniyyah | |
| alcanfor | camphor | kāfūr | |
| alcántara | [part of a loom for yarn] | qanṭarah | bridge |
| alcaraván | stone-curlew [a tropical bird] | karawān | |
| alcatifa | tapestry | qaṭīfah | |
| alcázar | fortress | qaṣr | |
| alcoba | bedroom | qubbah | |
| alcohól | alcohol | kuḥl | |
| alcorque | overshoe | qurq | |
| alcotán | lanner falcon | qaṭām | |
| alcuza | olive oil can | kūzah | |
| aldaba | door knocker | ḍabbah | lizard |
| aldarga | [a leather shield] | daraqah | |
| aldea | village | ḍay'ah | |
| Aldebarán | [a constellation] | Al-dabarān | the follower |
| aldufe | tambourine | duff | |
| alerce | [a conifer] | arz(ah) | cedar(s) |
| aleve | treacherous | 'ayb | defect / blemish / mark of disgrace |
| alfahar | craft of a potter | faḥ ḥār | ceramics / pottery |
| alfajeme | barber | ḥaḡḡām | |
| alfalfa | alfalfa | fiṣfiṣah | |
| alfanje | [a sabre] | ḥanḡar | |
| alfayate | tailor | ḥayyāt | |
| alféizar | flared opening | ḥā'izah | that which takes possession |
| alferecía | epilepsy | fāliḡ | |
| alférez | lieutenant | fāris | gentleman |
| alfiler | needle | ḥilāl | |
| alfócigo | pistachio | fustuq | |
| alfolí / alholí | barn / warehouse | hury | |
| alfombra | carpet | ḥumrah / ḥanbal | redness / used fur-lined coat |
| alfoz | [a set of towns in a single jurisdiction] | ḥawz | |
| algalia | civet oil | ḡāliyah | |
| algara | cavalry | ḡarah | |
| algarrada | [a war machine] | 'arrādah | |
| algarroba | carob (bean) | ḥarrūbah / ḥarnūbah | |
| álgebra | algebra | alḡabru walmuqābalah | reduction and comparison |
| algodón | cotton | quṭn | |

| 1. Spanish Word | 2. English Translation | 3. Arabic Source (Transcribed) | 4. English Translation (If Different from Column 2) |
|-----------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| algoritmo | algorithm | ḥisābu lġubār | calculation by means of Arabic numerals |
| alguacil | bailiff / constable | wazīr | |
| alhaja | jewel | ḥāḡah | something necessary/valuable |
| alharaca | fuss | ḥarakah | |
| alhelí | [a wallflower] | ḥīrī | |
| alheña | [a shrub] | ḥinnā' | |
| alhóndiga | public house for wheat sales | funduq | |
| alicate | pliers | laqqāṭ | tongs / pliers |
| aljibe | well | ġubb | |
| aljófar | pearl | ġawhar | |
| aljuba / jubón | men's jacket | ġubbah | |
| almacén | storehouse | maḥzan | |
| almadén | mine/mineral of some metal | ma'din | |
| almagre | red iron oxide | maġ(a)rah | red earth |
| almalafa | woman's robe | miḥafah | |
| almanaque | calendar | munāḥ | above the caravan [stars were compared to camels en route] |
| almarraja | plant watering bottle | miraššah | |
| almazara | oil mill | ma'sarah | |
| almeja | clam | majjah | |
| almejía | short coat | mawšīy | embroidered for enhancement |
| almenara | surplus water channel | manārah | |
| almez | nettle tree | mays | |
| almíbar | [a quince drink] | maybah | |
| almirante | admiral | amīr | |
| almizcle | musk | misk | |
| almogávar | raider | muġāwir | |
| almohada | cushion | miḥaddah | |
| almohade | of the Almohades | muwaḥḥid | monotheist |
| almojábana | [a bread made with cheese] | ġubn | cheese |
| almojarife | royal treasurer / finance minister | mušrif | |
| almoneda | auction | munādāh | |
| almoradux | marjoram | marzanġūš | |
| almotacén | market inspector | muhtasib | |
| almud | [weight/measure] | mudd | |
| almunia | farm | munyah | wish / desire |
| alquería | farm / rural farm area | qaryah | |
| alquermes | [an alcoholic drink] | qirmiz | |
| alquiler | rent | kirā' | |
| alquimia | alchemy | kīmiyā(') | |
| altramuz | lupine | turmus | |
| alubia | (kidney) bean | lúbiyā' | |
| ama | mistress of the house | umm | |
| anafe | small stove | nāfiḥ | blower |
| añafil | [a Moorish trumpet] | naḥr | |

| 1. Spanish Word | 2. English Translation | 3. Arabic Source (Transcribed) | 4. English Translation (If Different from Column 2) |
|-----------------|---|--------------------------------|---|
| añil | indigo | nīl(ağ) | |
| arambel | wall hanging | ḥanbal | used fur coat |
| arancel | tariff | inzāl | |
| arcaduz | bucket | qādūs | |
| argolla | iron sheep fence | ḡull | [a trap/tool made with two heavy logs] |
| arrabal | suburb | rabaḍ | |
| arrayán | [a shrub] | arrayḥān | |
| arrecife | stone paved road | raṣīf | paved / cobbled |
| arrelde | [weight/measure] | raṭl / riṭl | |
| arriero | muleteer | harr | [expression used to urge on camels] |
| arroba | [weight/measure] | rubʿ | |
| arrope | boiled down fruit juice | rubb | |
| arroz | rice | āruz(z) / aruz(z) | |
| arsenal | arsenal | dār aṣṣināʾah | house of the industry |
| atalaya | watchtower | ṭalāʾiʿ | |
| atanor | pipe | tannūr | furnace / culvert / curbstone |
| atarjea | small drain | taṣyīʿ | accompaniment |
| ataujía | an inlaid design | tawṣīyah | |
| atún | tuna | tunn | |
| auge | apogee | awğ | |
| azafate | tray / low basket | safaṭ | (wicker) basket |
| azafrán | saffron | zaʿfarān | |
| azagaya | light spear | zağāyah | |
| azahar | citrus blossom | zahr | flowers |
| azar | chance / coincidence | zahr | flowers |
| azogue | mercury | zāwq / zāʾuq | |
| azogue | market | sūq | |
| azote | whip | sawṭ | |
| azotea | terrace roof | saṭḥ | terrace |
| azúcar | sugar | sukkar | |
| azucena | white lilies | sūsanah | |
| azud | waterwheel | sudd | |
| azul | blue | lāzaward | |
| azulejo | tile | zulayğ | |
| azumbre | [weight/measure] | ṭum[u]n | eighth part |
| babucha | slipper | bābūš | |
| badana | poor-quality leather | biṭānah | lining / cover |
| baladí | of little importance / of the earth/country | baladī | of the county |
| baldío | untilled | bāṭilah | something empty/vain |
| baldosa | paving tile | balat | |
| barbacana | [a low wall] | bāb albaqqāra | cattle door |
| barrio | neighborhood | barrī | wild / savage |
| berenjena | eggplant | bāḍiṅḡānah | |
| café | café / coffee | qahwah | |

| 1. Spanish Word | 2. English Translation | 3. Arabic Source (Transcribed) | 4. English Translation (If Different from Column 2) |
|------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|
| califa | caliph | ḥalīfah | vicar |
| camisa | shirt | qamis | |
| carmesí | crimson | qirmizi | |
| ceca | currency mint | sikkah | |
| celemín | [weight/measure] | thumni | |
| cenit / cénit / acimut | zenith | samt / assumūt [pl.] | |
| chirivía | parsnip | jiriwi ya | |
| chupa | dress | ḡubbah | |
| cifra | zero / digit | ṣifr | empty |
| daza | panic grass | duqsah | |
| elixir | elixir | al'iksīr | |
| escabeche | brine | sikbāḡ | |
| espinaca | spinach | isbānah / isfānah | |
| estragón | tarragon | ṭarḥūn | |
| fanega | [weight/measure] | fanīqah | [bag for carrying soil] |
| fonda | inn | funduqah | |
| fulano | chap | fulān | |
| gandul | loafing | ḡundar | spoiled / pampered |
| garrafa | carafe | ḡerraf | |
| garrido | elegant | gharī | |
| gazpacho | [a Moorish soup] | khabz mushrib | soaked bread |
| guadamecí | embossed leather | ḡadāmisī | from Ghadama [in Libya] |
| guarismo | cipher | Khuwarizmi | |
| guitarra | guitar | qītarah | |
| halagar | flatter | jalaqa | pigeon thief |
| hasta | until | hatta' | |
| hóndiga | grain exchange | funduq | |
| horro | free / liberty [exclamatory] | ḥurr | free |
| jabalí | wild boar | ḡabalī | of a mount |
| jaharro | plaster | hawarh | |
| jara | rockrose [a shrub] | ša'ra' | earth full of vegetation |
| jarabe | [a drink] | šarāb | |
| jarifo | showy | šarīf | noble |
| jarra | earthen jar | ḡarrah | |
| jazmín | jasmine | yāsamīn | |
| jofaina | washbasin | ḡufaynah [dim. of ḡafnah] | |
| laúd | lute | 'ūd | |
| limón | lemon | laymūn | |
| maquila | [weight/measure] | makīlah | measured thing |
| marabedí | [ancient Spanish coins/monetary unit] | mitqāl murabīṭī | dinar of gold [an Arabic coin] |
| marlota | outer skirt | mallūṭah | |
| medina | old neighborhood [in an Arabic city] | madīnah | |
| mezquino | wretched | maskin | palace subject |
| mozárabe | Mozarab | musta'rab | one who imitates Arabs |

| 1. Spanish Word | 2. English Translation | 3. Arabic Source (Transcribed) | 4. English Translation (If Different from Column 2) |
|-----------------|--|--------------------------------|--|
| muladí | [Spanish Christian who embraced Arabic rule] | muwallad | born of a non-Arabic mother |
| nadir | nadir | naẓīr | homologous |
| naranja | orange | nāranġ | |
| noria | water wheel | nā'ūrah | |
| Ojalá | | insha' Allah | if God wills |
| olé | [injection like 'bravo'] | wa-Allah | |
| quilate | karat | qīrāt | |
| quintal | [weight/measure] | qīntar | |
| rabadan | head shepherd | rabbu ḍḍa'n | man/lord of sheep |
| rábida | [a Muslim fort] | ribāt | [Muslim station for one dedicated to holy war/piety] |
| rafal | farm/house in a field | rahl | point of encampment |
| rahez | vile | raḥīṣ | cheap |
| rebato | central/community alarm of danger | ribāt | |
| recamar | embroider | raqm | |
| redoma | flask | raṭūm | narrows of the vulva |
| rehala | combined flock | riḥālah | camel saddle |
| rehén | hostage | rihān | |
| retama | [a bush] | ratamah | |
| robda | riders acting as castle watch | rubṭ | |
| robda | tax on cattle herding | rutbah | |
| sofá | couch | ṣuffah | |
| tabique | thin wall | tašbīk | to place/install grates |
| tambor | drum | tanbur | |
| taracea | inlaid | tarṣī' | encrusting |
| tarea | task | trḥ | to throw / to put |
| tarifa | price list | tacrifah | |
| taza | cup | ṭassah / ṭast | |
| trafalmejas | empty-handed | atraf al-nas | |
| turjimán | interpreter | turjuman | |
| zabra | frigate | zawraq | |
| zaga | defense / behind | sāqah | |
| zagal | young shepherd | zuġlūl | boy/young man |
| zaguán | hallway | uṣṭuwān(ah) | |
| zahora | [a wild/festive party] | saḥūr / suḥūr | [a meal taken during Ramadan] |
| zalmedina | lord of the city | ṣāḥibu lmadīnah | boss of the city |
| zanahoria | carrot | safunnārya | |
| zaque | wineskin | zīqq | |
| zaquizamí | attic | saqf shami | |
| zaragüelles | breech | sarāwīl | |
| zaratán | breast cancer | saraṭān | crab / crayfish |
| zarracatín | profiteer | sāriqu ttīn | fig thief |
| zoco | market | suq | |
| zorzal | thrush | zurzūr | |
| zubia | water channel | zubyah | |

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