

Variation and grammaticalization in Spanish possessive constructions

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Unlike peninsular Standard Spanish, Guatemalan Spanish allows for the co-occurrence of an (indefinite) article with a pronominal possessive (*una mi hermana* 'a my sister'). As a structural remnant of Old Spanish, the maintenance of this word order pattern seems to be related to the grammaticalization of either the indefinite article or the possessive.

Applying the standard tools of variationist (sociolinguistic) analysis, I will show that the grammaticalization of the indefinite article is retarded in this construction.