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Barranquenho, a Portuguese dialect

Barranquenho is a recent Portuguese dialect, which is spoken in town Barrancos, where there live no more than 2.000 habitants. Barrancos is a small town of Portugal and it's located near the borders of Spain. Barranquenho is a non official language of Portugal nor is recognized by the Portuguese government. It's mixed by Spanish and Portuguese. More specifically, Barranquenho is influenced by the Portuguese language and Spanish dialects, which are spoken at the Spanish towns Extremadura and Andalucia because are located near the borders with Portugal. Nevertheless, Barranquenho is considered to be more similar to the *Andalucian* and *Extremaduran dialects*, because there are more common characteristics with them. While Portuguese is spoken as a prestigious language in public institutions (town hall, school, hospital) as well as in banks and in the church, Spanish (or Andalusian or Extremadurian) is spoken mainly by residents who have moved from Spain for centuries. Barranquenho is spoken by all people born in Barrancos, it is considered the common language of all residents and is mainly heard in everyday life.

There is no written language.

1. Characteristics:

- The letters «s» and «z» are either not (a) pronounced like these as the Spanish and Portuguese language or (b) not pronounced at all. For example: a) *buhcá* (Barranquenho), while in Spanish and Portuguese is written as *buscar*.

b) uma bê (Barranquenho), while in Portuguese (uma vez) and in Spanish (una vez) is pronounced.

- The letters «j», «ge» and «gi» are pronounced as «x», while in Portuguese are usually pronounced as «ʒ».

- The letters «l» and «r» (a) in the end of the words are not pronounced, while (b) in the plural form are pronounced.

For example: (a) *Manué* (*Manuel*), (b) *olivareh* (*olivares*).

- The letter «l» at the end of a syllable becomes «r»

For example: *argo*, while in Portuguese and Spanish is *algo*.

- The letter «e» at the end of a word is pronounced as «i», while at Portuguese is pronounced as «i» and in Spanish as «e».

- The first person of the plural «nós» (*nusotrus*), which is comes from the Spanish *nosotros*.

- There are many verbal forms of Spanish conjugation.

For example: *andubi*, while in Portuguese is *andei* and in Spanish is *anduve*.

supimos, while in Portuguese is *soubemos* and in Spanish is *supimos*.

- The pronouns are closer to the Spanish than to the Portuguese.

se lavô, while in Portuguese is *lavou-se* and in Spanish is *se lavó*.

There are three salient phonological features of Barranquenho:

A) the aspiration and deletion of *-s/* in coda position,

B) the lack of labiodental fricative */v/*,

C) the reduction and raising of unstressed vowels

Phonological Feature	Barranquenho	Regional Portuguese	Andalusian Spanish
aspiration and deletion of $-s/$ in coda position	+	-	+
lack of labiodental fricative $/v/$	-	+	-
reduction and raising of unstressed vowels	+	+	-



Εικόνα 1: The Barrancos town

References:

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barranquenho>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=38jICaS_frw