

Abstract in English

The present dissertation deals with the Spanish-Portuguese border, describing its specificities and the current situation with regard to language policy within the European Union, Spain and Portugal. La Raya, or A Raia, as the border is commonly called in Castilian and Portuguese, represents a very interesting linguistic area in which there are several minority Galician-Portuguese and Asturian-Leonese varieties. We define these varieties in this thesis, but we will nevertheless deal in depth with two of them, i.e. Mirandese and Leonese. Although it is only these varieties that form the group of Western Asturian-Leonian languages, each is at a different stage of standardization and enjoys a different degree of legal protection. This is undoubtedly the case since the two varieties are found on different sides of the border - Mirandese in Portugal and Leonese in Spain. This fact thus provides conditions suitable for comparative sociolinguistic research.

Therefore, the practical part of this paper focuses on the assessment of the state of the Western Asturian-Leonian languages through the results of our field research in which the theories of verticalization and ethnolinguistic vitality were used. The research shows that the Mirandese language area shows less tendency to verticalization while showing higher signs of vitality. The Leonese language area, on the other hand, is highly verticalized and shows lower signs of vitality.

Key words in English

Spain, Portugal, border, sociolinguistics, language policy, Mirandese, Leonese