

SOBRE TENDENCIAS GRAMATICALES Y DISTRIBUCIONES
OBSERVADAS. LA ALTERNANCIA DEL IMPERFECTO DEL
SUBJUNTIVO COMO ESTRATEGIA EVIDENCIAL EN EL ESPAÑOL
DE LA ARGENTINA

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ABSTRACT

This article analyses the “pretérito imperfecto” [imperfect] tense, subjunctive mood forms’ variation in the Spanish spoken in Argentina. Grammar books claim the Spanish spoken in the American continent exhibits certain preference for the *-ra* form, even though the *-se* form appears in written language (NGLE 2010:457). Based on this description, we have analysed a series of novels written by Argentine authors where the alternate use of both forms is verified. This article presents data corresponding to the Rioplatense Spanish (spoken in the river’s area of influence) obtained via the analysis of *Sudeste*, a novel by Haroldo Conti.

It is of our interest to approach an explanation of the phenomenon that – from our perspective – relates to evidentiality as its underlying semantic substance. This article is in line with studies interested in the analysis of the forms in which evidentiality is expressed in Argentine Spanish, set in a variation theoretical framework.