

Newstead Wood's
Language Journal...

oh

my

WORD!!

2024

Introduction:

Greetings, linguaphiles! What follows is the 2024 edition of the Newstead Language journal. We begin our journey in Macau, around southeast Asia, to learn about the endangered language 'Patuá'. Next, Tingting and Valen take us North, and we time-travel through China, watching the most spoken language develop. On your journey to the west, why not try some potato pancake in Poland or Germany, maybe finish with a lemon posset in England? We then proceed to Spain (on the way, listening to the enthralling Françoise Hardy, being absorbed in reading 'Cosmetique de l'ennemi', and stopping by le cinéma to see 'Amélie') -- in Spain we do discuss politics, but finish with an exhilarating Carnival! Oh my *word*... what fun awaits!

From this year's editor, Lucy R 10P

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Patuá

By Trevor L, 12W

Introduction

Patuá, also known as Macanese Patois (in English) or patuá macaense (in Portuguese)^[1], is a Portuguese creole language that was once the common tongue of the Macanese. Macanese were predominantly a mix of Chinese and Portuguese. They also had a belief in Christianity and a connection to the Portuguese global system.

History

Patuá originated in the sixteenth century in Macau. The language was a blend between Portuguese (the language of the coloniser), Cantonese (the language of the locals), Malay, Sinhala and Japanese (languages of people coming to Macau).

Although being widespread in Macau in the nineteenth and early twentieth century, its popularity started to fall later in the twentieth century when the Portuguese government discouraged the use of Patuá and only allowed European Portuguese to be taught in school. This is because the Portuguese government considered Patuá to be impure. Meanwhile, Macanese families began to ban their children from speaking Patuá because the language symbolized a lower social status.^[2]

As of the turn of the millennium, only an estimated fifty people worldwide can speak the language, with most of the speakers being in Macau. Patuá is also listed as a critically endangered language by UNESCO (United Nation Education, Scientific and Cultural Organisation).^[3] Fortunately, there are works going on to preserve the language, whether is through songs, performances or books.^[4]

Lexicon^[5]

A lot of words in Patuá are derived from other languages, below are just some examples:

Cantonese: 'laissí' (meaning red packet), possibly from Cantonese '利是' (meaning red packet).

Dutch: 'cacús' (meaning toilet), possibly from Dutch 'kakhuis' (meaning toilet) via Indonesian 'kakus' (meaning toilet).

English: 'anidiu' (meaning honeydew melon), possibly from English 'honeydew'.

Japanese: 'miçó' or 'missó' (meaning soybean paste), possibly from Japanese '味噌' (meaning miso).

Malay: 'sapecá' (meaning money or coins), possibly from Malay 'sa' (meaning one) and 'paku' (meaning thread of one hundred coins).

Marathi: 'fula' (meaning flower), possibly from Marathi 'फूल' (meaning flower).

Portuguese: 'chomâ' (meaning to call or to be called), possibly from Portuguese 'chamar' (meaning to call or to be called).

Note that the writing system of the language is not standardised so some words may have alternative spelling(s).

Closing

This is just a simple introduction for Patuá. Please note that I don't speak Patuá. Therefore, I only have a limited knowledge on the topic. I decided not to include phonology and grammar as I did not find enough information about it.

Notes and References

[1]: Patuá is actually known by many names, like Crioulo Macaense (Portuguese, Macanese Creole), Docí Língu di Macau (Paluá, Sweet language of Macau), docí papiaçam (Paluá, sweet speech), papiá Cristam di Macau (Paluá, Christian speech of Macau) and so on.

Macanese Patois - Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Macanese_Patois

[2]: Patuá: The creole language of the Macanese - EHS History Project:

<https://ehshistoryproject.org/exhibits/show/the-macanese-people>

[3]: Moseley, Christopher, ed. (2010). Atlas of the World's Languages in Danger (3rd ed.). Paris: UNESCO Publishing.

[4]: belamaquista: <https://belamaquista.wordpress.com/>

NÔS TEM AQUI - 我們在此 - Aqui Estamos - We Are Here - YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3ut1q76K6cE>

[5]: Macanese Library: <https://www.macaneseibrary.org/pub/english/uipatua.htm>

Wiktionary: https://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/Wiktionary:Main_Page

Further Reading

Como Tá Vai: <https://comotavai.com>

History of the Chinese dialect by Tingting 10G and Valen 10F

There are many regional variations of the Chinese language known as dialects, which changed during the eighth and third centuries BC. Mandarin, sometimes known as "Putonghua," is considered the official language of China.

The earliest historical evidence of the Chinese language dates back around 4500 years, where engravings on bronze vessels and oracle bones showcased the writing system during the late Shang Dynasty. It's sometimes called "old Chinese" or "archaic Chinese" and is the ancestor of all modern Chinese dialects today, with many of the characters corresponding to a monosyllabic word that were created with the intentions of maintaining phonetics, but not an alphabet. Later on, the characters were allocated to one of 30 or 31 rhyme groups, and while many details remain unclear, it's widely agreed by scholars that Old Chinese lacked the tones seen in modern Chinese today, but instead had clusters of consonants at the end of each syllable, which developed into the tone distinctions that formed the basis of Middle Chinese.

Middle Chinese (formerly known as Ancient Chinese), also known as the Qieyun system, is the historical variety of Chinese documented in the Qieyun, a rime dictionary first published in 601 and later revised and expanded several times. The fanqie method used to indicate pronunciation in these dictionaries, while an improvement over previous methods, proved awkward in practice. The mid-12th-century Yunjing and other rime tables include a more sophisticated and user-friendly analysis of Qieyun phonology. The rime tables document a variety of sound changes that occurred over the centuries following the publication of the Qieyun. Linguists sometimes refer to the Qieyun system as Early Middle Chinese, while the rime table variant is Late Middle Chinese.



The dictionaries and tables describe pronunciations in relative terms but do not include the actual sounds. Karlgren was the first to attempt to reconstruct Middle Chinese sounds, comparing their categories to modern Chinese varieties and Sino-Xenic pronunciations used in neighbouring countries' reading traditions. Other scholars have used similar methods to create their own reconstructions.

The Qieyun system is frequently used as a framework in Chinese dialectology. Except for Min varieties, which show independent developments from Old Chinese, modern Chinese varieties can be broadly classified as divergent developments from it. The study of Middle Chinese also helps to improve understanding and analysis of Classical Chinese poetry, such as Tang poetry. The reconstruction of Middle Chinese phonology is largely based on detailed descriptions in a few original sources.



The most significant of these is the Qieyun rime dictionary and its revisions. The Qieyun is frequently paired with interpretations from Song dynasty rime tables such as the Yunjing, Qiyin lüe, and later Qieyun zhizhangtu and Sisheng dengzi. The documentary sources are supplemented by comparisons with modern Chinese varieties, pronunciation of Chinese words borrowed by other languages—particularly Japanese, Korean, and Vietnamese—translation of foreign names into Chinese characters, transcription of Chinese names in alphabetic scripts such as Brahmi, Tibetan, and Uyghur, and evidence of rhyme and tone patterns from classical Chinese poetry. Chinese scholars during the Northern and Southern dynasties were concerned with the correct recitation of the classics. Various schools created dictionaries to standardise reading pronunciations and the rhyme conventions of regulated verse.

The Qieyun was an attempt to combine the distinctions of six previous dictionaries, which were overshadowed by its success and are no longer in existence. It was accepted as the standard reading pronunciation during the Tang dynasty and underwent several revisions and expansions over the centuries that followed. Thus, the Qieyun is the primary source for Early Middle Chinese character pronunciation and the oldest rhyme dictionary still in existence.

The phonetic differentiation categories are identified by the rime dictionaries and rime tables; however, the pronunciations of these categories are not given. Modern Chinese dialects differ in how they pronounce words, which might be useful, but most modern dialects come from a Late Middle Chinese koiné and are not very useful for figuring out how Early Middle Chinese is pronounced. Vietnamese methodically adopted large volumes of Chinese vocabulary, Korean, and Japanese throughout the Early Middle Chinese period (together known as the Sino-Xenic pronunciations). However, in the process of mapping Chinese phonology onto foreign phonological systems, many distinctions were unavoidably lost.

A wealth of source material for the study of Middle Chinese grammar may be found in the vast corpus of extant Middle Chinese literature of all genres. Grammatical study of Modern Chinese tends to concentrate on the characteristics and meanings of individual words as well as the syntactic rules that govern how words are arranged in sentences to convey meaning, due to the absence of morphological development.

Standard Chinese is the modern form of Mandarin Chinese that was first arranged during the republican area. The official language of mainland China, it is mostly based on the dialect of Beijing, the capital of China, and is a tonal language with subject-verb-subject organisation. After the establishment of the Republic of China, the national language was further promoted from the publishing of the 'Dictionary of National Pronunciation' in 1919, eventually becoming the language spoken over 730 million people today.

Lemon/orange posset: an English recipe

Ingredients:

double cream/heavy whipping cream, measure how much you need by pouring into the serving container
180g granulated sugar,
Juice of 3 lemons,
zest of 2 lemons

Recipe:

Zest 2 lemons

Cut your lemons in half and scoop out the flesh (OPTIONAL: you can use the lemon skin as a bowl or any other container)

Cut the lemon flesh and juice it through a sieve

Heat double cream with sugar and lemon zest on a low heat for roughly 10 minutes or until it starts bubbling.

Take it off the heat then pour the lemon juice and stir

Strain the mixture through a sieve to remove lumps

Pour into the bowl

Refrigerate them for 3 hours or overnight

to make orange posset, replace the word lemon in this recipe with orange.

POTATO PANCAKES: from Poland & Germany

Should make 8

Ingredients

1 pound of potatoes

1 small onion

Pinch of salt

Pinch of pepper, if you want savoury pancakes

3 tablespoons flour

1 medium-sized egg

Oil for frying

Spices of your choice

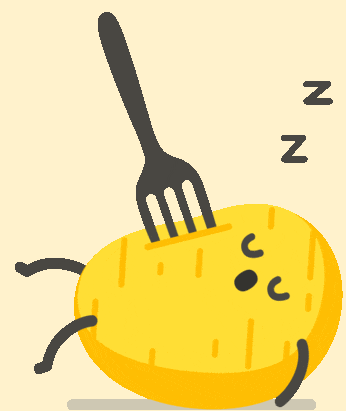
Cutlery

a pan

A grater/knife

A peeler

Wooden spoon



Instructions

1. Wash and peel one pound of potatoes and peel one small onion.
2. Grate the potatoes into a bowl using the grating side (the side used to grate cheese) of a four-sided grater. Grate the onion, too. If grating the onion doesn't work, you can very finely chop it with a knife.
3. If there is excess water in the potatoes (it drips out when squeezed in the hand), drain some of the potato water.
4. Add one pinch of salt, the spices, a pinch of pepper if you want the pancakes savory, flour, and the egg.

6. Mix everything together until the batter is well mixed. This works best if you do it with your (clean) hands, or if not, use a wooden spoon.
7. Heat two tablespoons of oil in a pan and add two tablespoons of batter per pancake. Make sure the pancake is not too thick or too large to make sure it's cooked properly.
8. Cook until both sides are golden brown (3-4 minutes per side), then remove them from the pan. Put them on a paper towel to drain the oil. You can then put the pancakes in a preheated oven to keep them warm.
9. Repeat the process with the rest of the batter. Add more oil as needed.
10. Serve immediately with a sauce of your choice.

Notes

- Definitely eat these potato pancakes hot because they just taste best hot out of the pan.
- If you're making it savory, feel free to add spice as you see fit.



Le Français et L'Espagnol...

- **Firstly, here are some fun facts about 'L'Hexagone':**
- . In France, it is illegal for supermarkets and groceries to throw away food which is still edible. This law was introduced in 2016 as a part of France's zero waste policy, and, since then, plastic packaging on certain fruits and vegetables have also been banned.
- . In medieval times, bakers would save a baguette for executioners once they'd finished working, by turning one upside down on their shelves. For this reason, the French deem it unlucky to imitate this, as they associate it with death and bad fortune
- . Back in 1910, couples were forbidden from kissing at train stations, to avoid delays and overly-busy stations. However, this has long since been revoked
- . French was actually the official language of England for around 300 years, from the time of the Norman Conquest in 1066, until the end of the 14th century
- . In France, about 30,000 tonnes of snails are consumed every year
- . Snails must be bought their own ticket in order to travel on French trains

Françoise Hardy

By Lucy R, 10P

Elle était une chanteuse française pendant les années soixante, et une icône de la mode. Les Français considèrent qu'elle est un trésor national. Moi, je la chéris aussi, parce que sa musique est si touchante, si belle, et, bien sûr, car elle m'apprenait tellement de mots en français ! (Parfois, je trouve que je cite ses paroles dans ma tête en lieu de les pensées anglais.)

Les chansons plus connues de Françoise sont ses débuts, comme '*Tous les Garçons et les Filles*' et '*Le Temps de l'amour*' : des chansons pop influencée par le rock n roll qui la définissaient comme un éminente 'yé-yé' fille. Le nom 'yé-yé' viens de l'anglaise, "Yeah! Yeah!" et ce genre présent les thèmes innocentes et mélancoliques. Cependant maintenant, Françoise décrit ces albums comme limites par une industrie patriarcale qui ne faisait pas confiance à elle d'écrire sa propre matière.

L'apogée de sa carrière artistique est l'album de 1971 qui s'appelle '*La question*' : une collaboration avec l'artiste brésilienne Tuca. C'était plus mûr, plus sexuel ; par exemple, '*Chanson d'O*' n'a pas des paroles mais des vocalisations extatiques. En plus, l'album était presque interdit à cause du lien entre '*la chanson d'O*' et le roman érotique '*l'histoire d'O*'.

She was a French singer in the '60s, and a fashion icon. The French consider her a national treasure. Me, I treasure her too, because her music is so touching and beautiful, and of course, as she has taught me so many French words! (Sometimes, I find that I quote her lyrics in my head instead of thinking in English!)

The most known songs of Françoise are her early ones, like '*all the boys and girls*' and '*the time of love*': pop songs influenced by rock'n'roll that defined her as a leading 'yé-yé girl'. The name 'yé-yé' comes from the English, "Yeah! Yeah!" and this genre uses innocent and melancholy themes. However, now, Françoise describes these albums as limited by a patriarchal industry which didn't trust her to write her own material.

The peak of her artistic career is the 1971 album called '*The question*': a collaboration with the Brazilian artist Tuca. It was more mature, more sexual; for example, '*Song of O*' has no lyrics but ecstatic vocalisations. Moreover, the album was almost banned due to the link between '*the song of O*' and the erotic novel '*the story of O*'.

Elle avait plus de la liberté créative dans cet album, donc les paroles étaient plus personnelles ; elles explorent la douleur, le désir, et les 'saudades' - un mot portugais qu'elle utilise qui décrit un 'sentiment mélancolique mêlé de rêverie et d'un désir de bonheur imprécis'. Ce sont évident surtout dans la dernière strophe de 'Mer', où elle chante :

“Dans la mer magique, originelle

Dans son rythme essentiel

Je voudrais que la mer

Me reprenne pour renaître

Ailleurs que dans ma tête

Ailleurs que sur la terre

Où sans mon amour

Je ne peux rien faire”

Si l'air de ces paroles vous intéresse, je demandais que vous écoutiez à Françoise Hardy bientôt. Même si vous ne comprenez pas la française, elle a des albums en allemand, anglais, et italien (mais sa musique française est beaucoup mieux). D'ailleurs, on tombera amoureux de sa voix enchanteresse avant de penser à qu'est-ce qu'elle dit.

Je finis cet article avec les liens de la musique mentionnée, et une séance de photos jolis d'elle sur le processus créatif :

She had more creative freedom in this album, so the lyrics were more personal; they explore sorrow, desire, and 'saudades' -- a Portuguese word she uses which describes a 'melancholy feeling mixed with daydreams and a desire for imprecise happiness'. These are especially evident in the last stanza of 'Sea', where she sings:

“In the magical, primordial sea

In its essential rhythm

I would like it if the sea

Took me back to be reborn

Somewhere else than my head

Somewhere else than the earth

Where without my love

I can do nothing”

If the vibe of these lyrics interest you, I would ask that you listen to Françoise Hardy soon. Even if you do not understand French, she has albums in German, English, and Italian (but her French music is way better). Besides, one will fall in love with her enchanting voice before thinking about what she is saying.

I finish this article with the links of the mentioned music, and a pretty photoshoot of her about the creative process



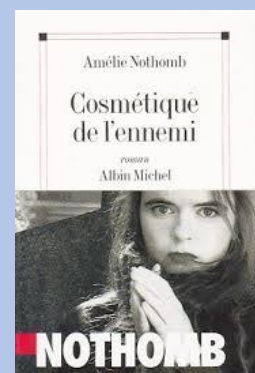
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UrsdRTslzlw> - tous les garçons
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fCad6sFrj50> - temps de l'amour
https://youtube.com/playlist?list=OLAK5uy_kKuX1n8H0FBaTORKrdos88D0TXXT97wC4&feature=shared - La Question album

'Cosmetique de l'ennemi'- a French book review

By Madeline B, 12S



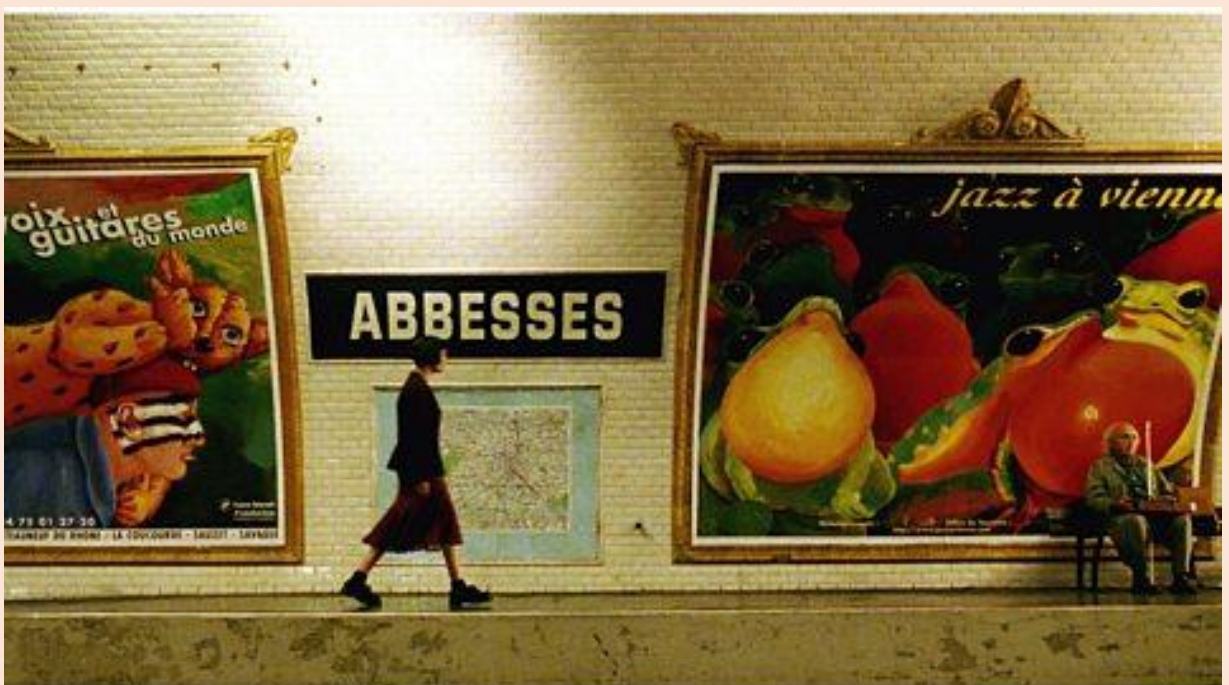
- 'Cosmetique de l'ennemi' by Belgian novelist Amelie Nothomb- an absurd yet gripping tale crafted in just over 100 pages. The story is deceptively simple- two men waiting for a delayed plane at an airport, one trying to read, the other stopping him with an incessant stream of talk. Yet, as the dialogue unfolds, the novel's bizarre nature is made more and more apparent, as strange secrets and disturbing memories are revealed, and the reader finds themselves as baffled as Jerome August, the hindered reader, himself. The almost exclusive use of dialogue is fascinating, particularly considering the story's short length. Despite the near complete lack of descriptive passages, Nothomb manages to place her readers right alongside August, feeling the same frustration, horror and disbelief as the accosted man, and evoking more suspense than any amount of similes or colour imagery could achieve. In addition to this, Nothomb succeeds in eliciting in her readers a range of emotions towards each character, which, coupled with the Greek tragedy-esque unity of time and space, serves to create a gripping, suspenseful and all-round enjoyable (if a little strange) read. From a French student's point of view, the range of vocabulary is useful without being overly-difficult, and it is possible to complete the story without having to reach for the translator too often.



French film recommendation: Le fabuleux destin d'Amélie Poulain, dir. Jean-Pierre Jeunet

By Lucy R, 10P

'Flâner' is a French verb with no English equivalent, but, like many 'untranslatable words', can be understood by recalling similar experiences and emotions in one's own culture. It describes that languorous stroll through a new city, the savouring of its beauty, the pointless pleasure of a promenade in Paris. But as Amélie dashes through Montmartre, she certainly is not without aim, meticulously scheming to improve the lives of her father and neighbours. The film is a satisfying story about these strange interferences, encompassing the larger theme of Amélie's personal loneliness and, later, her romance. For any melomaniacs, the soundtrack is sublime: a warm-sounding composition of pianos and accordions straight out of a French cafe. Of course, it is shot as beautifully as it is written, with vibrant, vintage visuals for the viewer to feast on for the two hours. Indeed, there is a feeling of being present in Jeunet's Paris yourself that makes me rewatch this masterpiece time and time again – I hope you will like *flâner* through the world of Amélie as much as I do.



Spain- the Cataluña

issue

By Madeline B, 12S

- Currently, there is much going on in the Spanish political scene, largely surrounding the Socialist Prime Minister, Pedro Sánchez. Despite his eventual victory in gaining a second term as Spain's Prime Minister, many Spanish socialists feel resentful towards him, and a major reason for this is his proposed amnesty agreement with the Separatists of Cataluña.
- Cataluña is an autonomous region of Spain located on the North-Eastern boarder. Many Catalans long for separation from Spain, believing they receive unfair treatment, and have a right to self-determination. Cataluña lost its political independence back in 1714, after a defeat in the Spanish War of Succession. Since then, it has retained its own culture, language and identity, and re-gained a degree of regional autonomy in 1932. Despite its identity being all but removed again under General Franco's dictatorship from 1939-1975, it regained a statue of autonomy in 1979, an improved version of which was granted in 2006. However, in 2010, the Spanish Constitutional Court altered and even nullled elements of the statute, triggering a widespread desire for total independence.
- Back in 2017, a proposed independence referendum in Cataluña was banned by the Spanish Government, under Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy, who stated that it violated Spain's 1978 constitution. Puigdemont, who was president of Cataluña at the time, declared that the referendum would still go ahead, despite measures taken by the Spanish government to deter voters, such as threats of financial takeover and criminal investigations on around 700 local mayors who gave the vote their public support. The height of the conflict occurred in Barcelona on 20th September, when Operation Anubis commenced, in which 14 Catalan officials were arrested, and heated protests ensued. The referendum was eventually held, amidst violent police intervention, and 90% voted for independence, according to the Catalan government, however over half of Cataluña's population did not vote at all. On October 10th 2017, Puigdemont gave a speech which neither declared nor fully halted the movement for independence from Spain, claiming he instead aimed to begin 'talks' with the Spanish government. After being asked to clarify on more than one occasion, the Catalan Government- The Generalitat- hinted that the independence movement would continue if Spain 'continued its repression', referring to the imprisonment of various Catalan groups labelled guilty of sedition due to their role in the September disturbances. On October 27th, a clandestine vote took place in the Catalan Parliament, aiming to declare unilateral independence. However, this greatly backfired as the Spanish government took control of Cataluña, calling an election for a new Parliament. Puigdemont promptly fled for Belgium, leaving accusations of sedition, rebellion and misuse of public funds in his wake.

Spain- the Cataluña issue contd

The movement has since weakened for multiple reasons, such as disputes between the leaders of various independence groups, blaming each other for all that went wrong, as well as the Spanish government's measures to reduce the cost-of-living crisis. Now, Spanish president Pedro Sanchez aims to grant the independence protesters political amnesty, despite his previous affirmation to not do so. Many Spaniards accuse him of acting in his interests, as gaining one of the independence parties- Junts'- support was crucial in his government own triumph over opposition Feijoo. However, his recent amnesty bill was blocked by members of the Junts party themselves, who believed it wouldn't provide them with sufficient protection. Thus, the bill will return to Parliament, before a re-vote in a few weeks. The Catalan President, Aragonès, states that, although he desires independence from Spain himself, the separatists must be willing to work with the current government, which at least allows more opportunities for discussion than the previous right-wing leaders. The current right-wing People's Party have used the event to attack Sanchez in Brussels, the location of the bill's discussion. However, Aragonès affirms that they are mistaken in attempting to turn the independence movement into a polarizing issue, particularly as they refused to consider the EU's input on the issue previously, when they were in power. In all, the ongoing issue of Catalan independence has not only exacerbated the fragility of the current Spanish government, which has only recently been formed, but it hints at greater problems for both sides in the foreseeable future.



Sophie's top 5 words in Spanish

By Sophie R, 10F

5. ¡Oye!

One of Shubhya's favourite words (as well as 'sobresaliente' and 'saltar')! It means 'listen!' and is a good way to get someone's attention. It sounds like such a quintessentially Spanish word.

4. mantequilla

The Spanish word for 'butter', this word feels so fun to speak aloud; it is pronounced 'man-tuh-kee-ya'. Fun fact: a double L is pronounced as 'y'.

3. desafortunadamente

Meaning 'unfortunately', this word makes whoever speaks it sound like a fluent Spanish speaker. It looks intimidating to say, but like with other words, you can split it into separate components to make it easier. 'des' is the equivalent to 'un'. 'afortunada' means 'fortunate'. 'mente' is the equivalent to English's '-ly' ending. How simple!

2. vergüenza

This exotic sounding word looks fascinating to read - the 'ü' (dieresis) in this word is utilized so that the word is pronounced as 'ver-gwen-tha' (since Z is pronounced as 'th'). This is Adaeze's favourite Spanish word :)

1. gobierno

What language has a better word for 'government'? It rolls off the tongue and sparks joy every time I have the pleasure to speak it. It is undoubtedly my favourite word in Spanish.

The Spanish carnival period

By Madeline B, 12S

In February or March every year, Spain and many other Spanish speaking countries, such as Tenerife, celebrate huge pre-Lent festivals involving music, dance, and brightly-coloured costumes. Each city and town has its own specific traditions, but songs, flamboyant dressing up and float parades are key features in all. Cadiz, in Andalucía, holds a carnival that is best known for its humour, with musical groups singing parodies of current problems, as well as mocking public figures and Government decisions. In Santa Cruz de Tenerife, what is often labelled the world's best carnival is held, spanning over two weeks. It begins with an opening parade, in which thousands of people dress up, and dance and celebrate in the streets throughout the night, right up until the next morning. The region of Galicia, Spain, is home to the longest-lasting carnival in Spain: Entroido of Xinzo de Limia. The main carnival characters are the 'Pantallas', who wear masks and belts covered in bells, and ensure that everybody on the streets is sufficiently dressed up. Traditionally, anyone caught not in fancy dress is obligated to buy the 'Pantallas' drinks from the closest bar. They also carry at least two inflated, dried cattle bladders tied to strings, which they bang together to maintain liveliness and shock the participants. Other notable carnivals take place in Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Badajoz and Madrid, and all capture the fun-loving spirit of Spain, whilst retaining religious roots.

