



A Note on Translation

This work is filtered through three languages: the English of this writing, the Spanish of the majority of interviews, interactions, and texts I analyzed, and the Quechua—Peru’s most-spoken indigenous language—that the majority of my interlocutors use daily. The rural migrants to Ayacucho with whom I spoke are generally bilingual in Spanish and Quechua. I can operate in either language. My Quechua is passable (although my tentative statements were always revised, in complimentary fashion, in hilarious retellings); I studied Quechua for three consecutive years at the University of Michigan and took intensive Quechua in Cuzco in 1999. In Spanish, though, I am essentially fluent. My father, a theater professor, brought his wife and daughters along on his 1987 Fulbright to Costa Rica. I’ve spoken Spanish ever since, with reinforcement in high school courses, an undergraduate major, and an undergraduate semester abroad in Spain.

I tried to let informants choose what language they wished to speak in. The preference to speak in Spanish likely reflected both my own language abilities, and the historical and social meanings of speaking one language over another, which I address in the introduction. Though I rarely held conversations of any substantial length in Quechua, my familiarity with the language meant I could better understand the sometimes accented and idiomatic Spanish spoken by my migrant interlocutors. It also meant I was attuned to the multiplicities of meaning that bilinguals bring to the key

words under discussion (for instance, the importing of the Spanish *familia* or “family” into Quechua as *phamillay*). Most importantly, my knowledge of and obvious appreciation for Quechua helped me to achieve a good rapport with my subjects.

All translations in the text, whether from Spanish-language books or from interviews, are my own, unless otherwise noted. I include in footnotes the Spanish originals of passages used from recorded interviews. If a quoted passage is not footnoted with the Spanish original, this indicates it was reconstructed from memories of conversations and from jotted notes; in these passages, I include only (and only occasionally) translations of key words because the original reconstruction may not be precisely accurate.