

Note on Language

The work you are about to read was conducted mostly in Spanish. Almost all the interviews and informal talks conducted during my fieldwork were in that language, as were the notes I took from my observations. A few interviews were conducted in Quechua (Ancash variant), a language predominant in many places of the Callejón de Huaylas, and were later translated into Spanish with the help of César Vargas Arces and Viankor Cashpa. The interviews conducted in Spanish were transcribed by Maite Borda Labra, Francisca Figueroa Vidal and myself. I am deeply grateful to all of them for their support in this regard.

Working in a bilingual region presents some linguistic challenges. Many of the Quechua words used in daily life by a good part of the population have been adapted to Spanish and vice versa – what Carolyn Dean (2010) beautifully defines as a heterographic rather than an orthographic language system. The common plural form in Quechua, for example, is built with the suffix *-kuna*—e.g., *runakuna* for people. However, it is common to hear words like *huaca* (sacred entities and places) pluralised in Spanish as *huacas*, rather than *huacakuna*. I attempted to maintain the common usage of words as they are applied in their specific settings. Consequently, some Quechua words are pluralised with *-kuna* and others with *-s*, depending on the context.

Many of the quotations presented in this work are the product of informal talks that I captured in my notebooks. *Italics* are used where quoted passages have been recreated from my notes, which I tried to do in the most reliable and accurate way. Statements transcribed verbatim from audio recordings are set within quotation marks.

All translations from Spanish to English are my own, including interviews and informal talks, as well as books and also historical sources such as newspaper articles, technical reports, poems and songs. *Italics* are used in the main text to indicate words or phrases in their original language. Any errors in this regard are mine alone.



Figure 1: Huaraz, the cosmopolitan city
(Usón 2024)