

Group 4:
**Immigrant Culture and Language survival and Decision - Making
in New Communities**

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Immigrant Culture, Language survival and Decision - Making in New Communities

Nowadays language diversity in the United States has grown as the immigrant population has increased and become more varied. Today, about 85 percent of the foreign-born population speaks a language other than English at home. The most prevalent language (other than English) is by far Spanish: 62 percent of all immigrants speak Spanish at home. This is because most of the parents from Spanish country don't speak English.

However, a more accurate measure of language integration is English-language proficiency, or how well people say they speak English. Today, many immigrants arrive already speaking English as a first or second language. Currently, about 50 percent of the foreign-born in surveys report they speak English "very well" or "well," while less than 10 percent say they speak English "not at all." I think it is for the reason that nowadays is more easy to learn English than before. Nowadays there is so much technology where you can learn English so fast. There are significant differences in English proficiency by region and country of birth: immigrants from Latin America and the Caribbean generally report lower rates of English-language proficiency than immigrants from other regions, and they are most likely to say they speak English "not at all."

The second generations are generally acquiring English and losing their 'ancestors' language at roughly the same rates as their historical predecessors, with English monolingualism usually occurring within three generations. Spanish speakers and their descendants, however, appear to be acquiring English and losing Spanish more slowly than other immigrant groups. This is because of the fact that many parents don't teach their children to speak Spanish. Even though the large Spanish-speaking concentration in Southern California, Mexican Americans' transition to English dominance is all but complete by the third generation; only 4 percent still speak primarily Spanish at home, although 17 percent reported they can speak Spanish very well. Many people they really know Spanish but their do not want to speak it.

Many people have a difference opinion about the immigrant population in the US and I know that the topic was about the benefit that with contribute to the US. However, after reading the book “A history of Latinos in America” by Juan Gonzalez, I decided to write about it. I know this is a hard topic for many of us because the treatment that the immigrants receive when we came here. We know that the United States is a country of immigrants, but some people considered themselves to be more important than others. As immigrants with experience many issues in the United States. How I told you as immigrants we are seeing less important than the people who were “born” here. Also, as immigrants we are in the poor class, involved in more conflicts, to have injurious behavior, or to have works less important than the white people. At the beginning of the class my professor said something that really makes” sense and I could never forget. He said that the immigrants do not have the same opportunity like the white people because we immigrated here and most of the time we do some jobs that take our time and do not let us to grow as a person, but at the same time when we are doing that job we are helping others to be study or prepare themselves to have the better job, ex. while a person is doing the nanny job, the parents have freedom to make more money.

Furthermore, most of immigrants from the Caribbean speak Spanish, but when the people from there started to come to the United States, they want to control who immigrate here and named us as Hispanic, so in 1972 this name were expanded to identified us. The United States never treat immigrants as same as white people or the people who are from “here”, so the first thing that they did us to named us and you know what Hispanic means? “land of rabbits”. So, they are telling us that we reproduce as animals. My lovely friend, American really do not care about our nationality or if we can do something good, they found the way to make us to look less than them. Another thing that the book talked about is how the Latinos(as) are represents in the media.

We always watch a variety of documental in class very informative, but the most important for me was one that was talking the rolls that the Latinos(as) must represent to be part of the media. The ladies are always seeing as a sexual thing and the man are the villains or alcoholic. I do not like that because that a way to show everybody that the Latinos(as) cannot be part of the white world because their behaviors. Is curious and what most impress myself is that even today we can see that the Latinos and Latinas are representing the same characters in the media.

My beloved friend, I also want to share with you about the immigration of Puerto Ricans, Cuban, and Dominican to the United States. You know that Cubans, Puerto Ricans, and Dominicans are color mix, but browner than any other colors, so the term Latinos and Hispanic appeared after we started to immigrate to the United States, how I told you before. Something that surprised me is that in the history of the United States they do not tell you that the Latinos participated in the wars like white people. The war that I am going to focus on is the war world II against Japan. In this war not only the Latinos, but also the Latinas participated. My dear friend maybe you think that everybody was equal during the war, but the reality is that the Latinos were not considered full-fledged American, even though half a million of Latinos(as) fought in WWII. In addition, the Latinas were accepted as volunteers to be nurses during the war. Is surprising how the United States used the Latinos (as) for their benefits, but never give back what they received. When the veterans came back from the war world II, a new law came out, too. This law was known as The G. I. Bill of rights, this law provided the veterans some benefits as house, jobs, education, health care, but the curious thing is that the Latinos(as) did not received those benefits.

The reason was very clear, first ask yourself this question, do you want somebody from another house to become better than you? Of course not, so the United States did not provide those benefits to them because they did not want the Latinos to progress in their territory. Just think in

this way, if they do not give them the primary care, like health care the Latinos(as) who were veterans become sick, mentally sick because all the things that they went through in the war they could not be able to work and support their family or to be educated. So, this was a strategy from the United States just to used them to build their empire. The last thing that I want to share with you is that the Latinos(as) were a very clever piece to build the United States, the Puerto Ricans helped to build the Bronx, and the Cubans build Miami, but none of this is recognized by the United States. Moreover, we used to have good people my dear friend, like Cesar Chavez and Dolores Huerta who were Mexican-American. They used to work in the farmer and were recognized by participate in the Latinos Civil rights activism Chavez forced the growers to recognize the united farm worker (UFW) as the bargaining agent for 50,000 field workers in Florida and California. Diana, mentioning the UFW, Dolores Huerta also was a co-founder of the National farmer association that later become the United Farmer Workers. I just remember another thing that is very important in the United States' history, the Latinos Civil Rights Movement that made many important changes in the United States for us, the Latinos. This has many events, but I will mention to you only some of them, this movement start on 1903 in California.

At this time the Mexican and Japanese farm workers made the first worker union, the Japanese-Mexican Labor Association (JLMA) that was the first strike to win against the California agriculture industry. Also, in 1974, the Congress passes the Equal Educational Opportunity Act of 1974, so the bilingual education could be more widely available in the public school. My sweet heart, thanks to this movement, and this specify event you are going to be available to study in this country because they will go to teach English to communicate and study in this new country for you. I do not want to make you bore, so the last event that I will mention for you is the last event of the Latinos Civil Rights Movements that was in 2006. The U.S. Congress was debating the

legislation that could criminalize undocumented immigrants. Diana, these are some events that the Latinos have to fight, so we can have equality in this country. But, let me tell you something, the struggles of us, the Latinos did not end in the 2006 because we are still fighting against racism and all the things that the white people want to put us going through. Now, that you are here I hope that you watch the news and listen what the Politicians say, we are still fight for equality and rights in the United States. A country that our ancestor fought for and helped to build up.

As everybody knows, many economic elements of The United States has been influenced by an increasing number of immigrants that have entered. After the Immigrants arrived in this wonderful country, the whole growth has had a direct result on our economy. The rate of population increase because many people from different countries have decided to come to this country to progress, and thus be able to contribute to the economic, and how equip the United States is to handle this growth could have many different effects on the economy that could be considered productive. On the other words, some people may argue that foreigners have had an extreme effect on our job market and immigrants are trying to occupy works that should belong to American citizens. Either side of the argument on immigration contains valid points that are worth discussing and considering in the debate over economic effects that immigrants pose on this country. They always will people who argue again immigration, but most of the immigrants pay their taxes, they buy houses, building, some of the have they own business. In other words, immigrants are the best thing that this country could has, because it is difficult to see a white man working as waiter in a disc or working in a farm. However, there are some arguments and a few different viewpoints about immigration.

Fortunately, language can be a great part of some benefits that immigrants bring with their cultures. United States always benefits from immigrant's cultures. The diversity of different

languages brings great benefit to the US. As everybody knows every culture has its own language. Therefore, the culture of every country or group is beautiful and its worth appreciating. Today, United State is known as the world power and not for the number of immigrants it has, but rather because of the wonderful cultures and traditions the immigrants brought with them. People who came from different countries do not need to forget their mother tongue, significant celebrations or customs to become American. As usually to be socially accepted, immigrants should need to learn English to take part in celebrating national holidays and fulfill their patriotic duties Americans like every other U.S citizens.

Many people wonder if the immigration is a good or bad thing for the United States. Foreigners have helped this country in many way such as economic and labor. Immigrants have become fundamental piece to the economics of this great country, which helps the U.S. economy become more booming. As all we know the immigrants people helped stabilize the United States economy and provides that they have more of a positive hit than negative on the U.S. In the case of people who are not legal in this country, they should work for cheap labor and getting jobs helps the U.S. economy financially. Then people who came from other country called Immigrants bring in a positive influence and benefits not only to the economy, but to the country like everything. According to Bipartisan Policy Center, “showed how a major overhaul of immigrants could boost the economic recovery of the U.S. The study showed within the next 20 years, immigration would increase the economic growth by 4.8%. Also the immigration reform would reduce the country’s deficit by \$1.2 trillion, because immigrants would take jobs and pay taxes. Immigrants also create jobs for Americans, about 28% of the new businesses were started by immigrants”. In other hands, immigrants help this country to keep the economy high and because of them, this country has more diversity of race than other countries together.

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