

2014

Bilingualism and Latinos in the United States

Rigoberto Gutierrez-Pinon
Eastern Washington University

Follow this and additional works at: http://dc.ewu.edu/srcw_2014



Part of the [Chicana/o Studies Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Gutierrez-Pinon, Rigoberto, "Bilingualism and Latinos in the United States" (2014). *2014 Symposium*. Paper 39.
http://dc.ewu.edu/srcw_2014/39

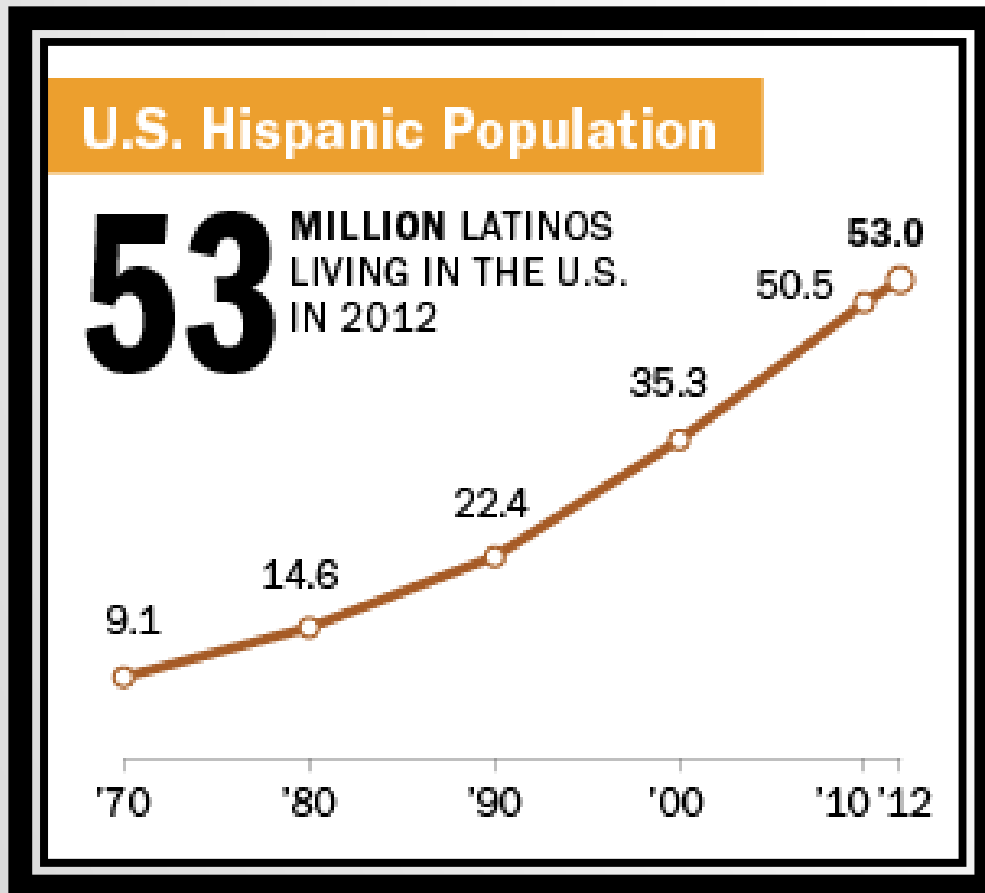
This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the EWU Student Research and Creative Works Symposium at EWU Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in 2014 Symposium by an authorized administrator of EWU Digital Commons. For more information, please contact jotto@ewu.edu.



BILINGUALISM AND LATINOS IN THE UNITED STATES

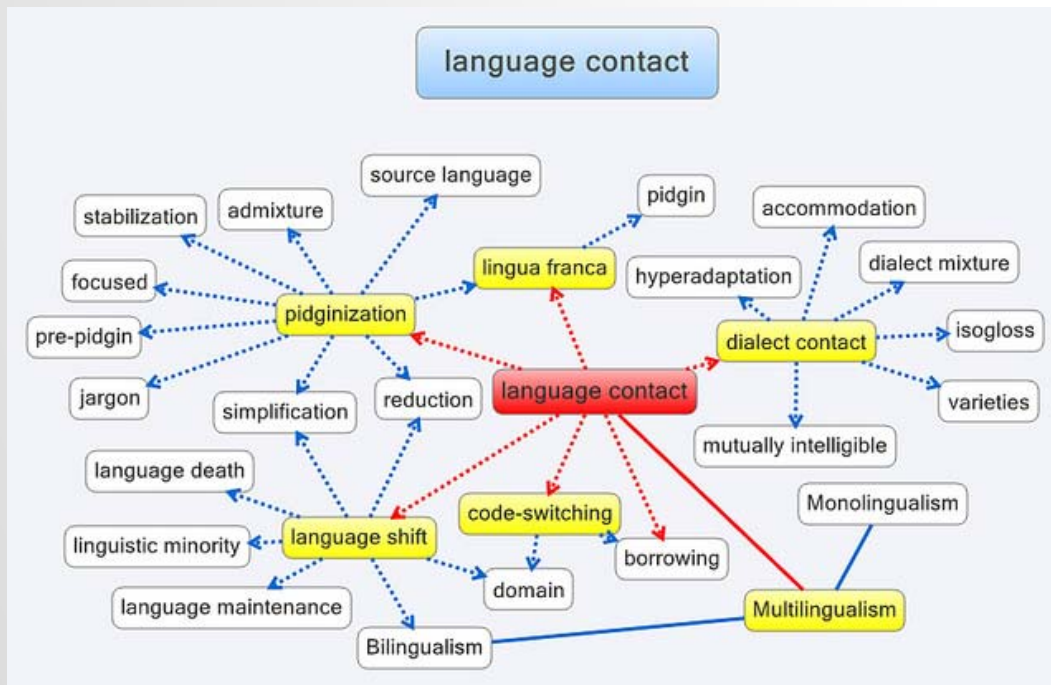
Rigoberto Gutiérrez-Piñón
Eastern Washington University
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Martin Meráz García

THE LATINO PRESENCE IN THE UNITED STATES



- 16% of population, 53 million, is Latino
- Projected to reach 30%, roughly 103 million, by the year 2050

LANGUAGE CONTACT



- Often referred to as hybrid languages
- When two or more languages interact and exist in close proximity
- Common along borders
- Examples in world: Gibraltar (English and Spanish, Brazil and neighboring countries (Portuguese and Spanish), Sub-Saharan countries

SPANISH AND ENGLISH IN CONTACT

Non-English Languages Spoken in U.S. Homes, 2011

(in millions among persons ages 5 and older)

Spanish 37.6

Among Spanish speakers

Hispanics 34.8

Non-Hispanics 2.8

Other non-English languages

Chinese 2.8

Hindi, Urdu or other Indic 2.2

French 2.1

Tagalog 1.7

Vietnamese 1.4

German 1.2

Korean 1.1

Note: Chinese includes Mandarin and Cantonese. Hindi, Urdu or other Indic includes Bengali, Panjabi, Marathi, Gujarati, Sinhalese, Kannada, and other unspecified Indic languages. French includes Creole French. Only languages with more than one million speakers shown.

Source: Pew Research Hispanic Center analysis of the American Community Survey (1% IPUMS)

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

- Most widely spoken non-English language in U.S.
- Roughly 38 million Spanish speakers in U.S.
- 35 million are Latino, 3 million non-Latino

SPANISH AND ENGLISH IN CONTACT



Laying out of St. Augustine.

- First European language spoken in future U.S. is Spanish
- Spanish settlements at St. Augustine in Florida and Chesapeake Bay predate Jamestown and Plymouth
- 1848 annexation of southwest after U.S. victory over Mexico

SPANISH AND ENGLISH IN THE UNITED STATES



- Mixing of English and Spanish, mostly in Latino communities
- Common among 2nd and 3rd generations
- Referred to as Spanglish
- Four main characteristics

THE STRUCTURE

- Language contact can be observed in single a single level (phonology, morphology, lexicon or syntax)
- Most cases involve more than one linguistic aspect
- There are four basic characteristics
 1. Borrowings
 2. Semantic extensions
 3. Literal translations
 4. Code-switching

BORROWINGS

- Consists of borrowing a word from language A and adapting it to language *B*
- Word can retain characteristics of language of origin or can adapt to the phonological and morphological rules of the new language
- Example: The word 'parquear', refers to parking a car
- Standard Spanish word for this is 'estacionar'
- In this case, word has adapted to phonology and morphology of Spanish
- The 'ar' ending is a common word ending, very easy to conjugate and adheres to Spanish grammatical structure

SEMANTIC EXTENSIONS

- Consists of extending definitions from language *A* to *B* due to similarities
- Bilingual speakers recognize similar spellings and sounds
- Example: The word 'apply', as in 'To apply for a job.'
- Many heritage speakers use word Spanish word 'aplicar'
- In this instance, standard Spanish word used should be 'solicitar'

LITERAL TRANSLATIONS

- Closely linked to extensions
- Heritage speakers literally translate a word or phrase into the other language
- Example: 'I had a good time.' heritage speakers would use verb 'tener' (to have) when standard Spanish form would employ use of verb 'pasar' (to pass)
- Instead of 'Tuve un buen tiempo.' standard Spanish form is 'Pasé un buen tiempo.'

CODE-SWITCHING

- Occurs in an inter-sentential and intra-sentential manner
- Inter-sentential- Speaker makes one statement in language (A), switches to language (**B**) for an entire statement and then reverts to language (A)
 - ❑ Example: "I did not go to school yesterday. *Estaba enfermo*. (I was sick.) but I feel better today."
- Intra-sentential- Speaker begins in language (A), switches to language (**B**) mid-sentence, then reverts back to language (A) all within same statement.
 - ❑ Example: "I went to the store *pero no tenían* what I wanted so *me fui*." (I went to the store but they did not have what I wanted so I left.)"

WHY SHOULD WE CARE?

STIGMAS

- Speakers are lazy
- Not as intelligent
- Do not comprehend either language properly
- Cannot, or will not, separate the language
- Poses threat to cultural and linguistic vitality
- Seen as refusal to integrate

REALITY

- Speakers demonstrate a high understanding of both languages
 - ❑ Lexically
 - ❑ Phonologically
 - ❑ Morphologically
- Sign of proficient bilingualism
- Bilinguals are not one monolingual plus one monolingual
- Permeation is normal

**Yes,
I'm bilingual.**

I speak Spanglish.

www.OurLatinoPride.com