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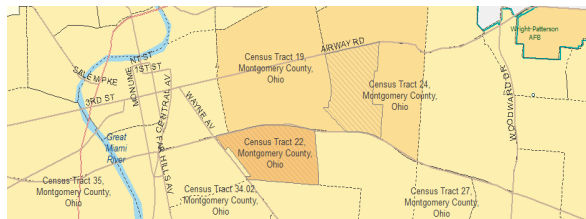


# Linguistic Factors Affecting the Socioeconomic Status of Hispanic Immigrants in Dayton, OH

By Ali Van Loon, advised by Laura Villa, Ph.D.

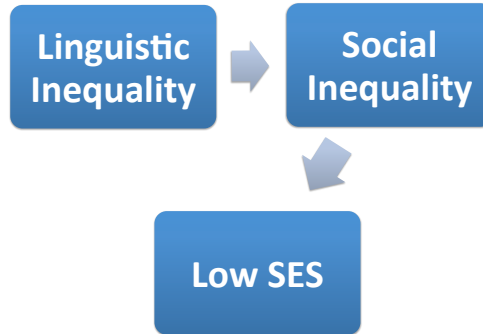
## The Problem

*Welcome Dayton* endorses ESL classes to promote linguistic commonality. Of the students currently enrolled in these courses, approximately half are native Spanish-speakers. Without ESL instruction, the success of these Spanish-speakers would be hindered; thus, they would fall in danger of becoming the bottom of the social hierarchy.



## Significance

- Some census tracts: up to 13% Hispanic.
- Immigrant investment can augment economy.
- Drs. Majka and Majka's focus group study: lack of English competency biggest obstacle.



## Methodology

- Linguistic survey: 36 native Spanish-Speakers.
- Interviews: select group of informants; some who work with Hispanic community.

## Hypothesis

The socioeconomic status of Dayton's native Spanish-speakers is significantly affected by their English ability. Additionally, based on implications of previous research, length of time in the United States has the highest correlation with English ability.

Level of English?

