Linguistic Factors Affecting the Social Status of the Hispanic Immigrant Population in Dayton, OH

Alexandra M. VanLoon
University of Dayton, stander@udayton.edu

Follow this and additional works at: http://ecommons.udayton.edu/stander_posters

Recommended Citation
http://ecommons.udayton.edu/stander_posters/365
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.

**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.

**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.