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## **The Effects of Contact with Natives on Developing the Ability to Perform Speech Acts**

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Oral Presentation O12.3

**THE EFFECTS OF CONTACT WITH NATIVES ON DEVELOPING THE  
ABILITY TO PERFORM SPEECH ACTS**

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This study investigates the effects that (1) contact with natives during a study-abroad experience and (2) the length of time after said experience have on the ability of the student to use speech acts, specifically requests and refusals. Participants are past study-abroad students from IWU with varying self-reported experiences. These participants took part in a role-play activity in Spanish, testing their ability to perform requests and refusals, and completed a questionnaire about their contact with natives during and since their study abroad experience. Data is expected to show that higher contact with natives leads to a better use of speech acts; due to the fact that those students used more negotiation of meaning, which leads to a more developed language ability.