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## **Language Ideology and Racism: The Case of Middle-Class Latinos in Bloomington, Illinois**

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Oral Presentation O4.1

**LANGUAGE IDEOLOGY AND RACISM: THE CASE OF  
MIDDLE-CLASS LATINOS IN BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS**

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Language ideology asserts that languages are imbued with certain social, political, and moral values. In the US, many scholars have suggested that the English-speaking majority uses language ideology to reinforce racial, political, and economic domination of Latinos. The present study seeks to replicate the study of Cobas and Feagin (2008) “Language Oppression and Resistance: The Case of Middle Class Latinos in the United States.” Using interviews with several middle-class Latinos working at State Farm in Bloomington, IL, this study documents their personal experiences with perceived language oppression. By extrapolating these case studies of Latinos in Bloomington, IL, to the larger body of literature on language ideology and racism, this work continues the conversation on how language ideology in a Midwestern city of the US may maintain racial (in)equality and if the preservation of the Spanish language and culture of Spanish-speakers is threatened.

Cobas, Jose A., and Joe R. Feagin, 2008. The Case of Middle Class Latinos in the United States. Ethnic and Racial Studies 31.2: 390-410.