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Language Patterns and Attitudes of Hispanic University Students

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Oral Presentation O4.2

LANGUAGE PATTERNS AND ATTITUDES OF HISPANIC UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

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This study was designed to understand the Spanish and English language patterns and language attitudes of three Hispanic students at a small university in the Midwest. Participants completed an online questionnaire, which collected information on demographics, language use with different individuals, in various activities, and language attitudes towards English and Spanish. Patterns emerged concerning positive language attitudes toward Spanish but there was some variation in terms of background and the subsequent language use with different individuals and in different situations. This study indicates that there is language maintenance among this group. When these results are compared to a previous study of Hispanic High School students in a large city, there are both similarities and differences. In both studies, English was widely used to communicate with younger people. However, in this study participants reported using more Spanish now than when they were younger and also plan on using Spanish in the future. Therefore, this study may indicate that university students display somewhat different language patterns and attitudes.