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## **Language Status of Native Spanish-Speakers in Bloomington, IL: A Replication Study**

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**LANGUAGE STATUS OF NATIVE SPANISH-SPEAKERS IN BLOOMINGTON, IL:  
A REPLICATION STUDY**

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In larger cities throughout the United States, the increase of Hispanic communities has given rise to concerns of foreign language dominance. Immigrants and second generation Hispanics of Miami and New York have been questioned about their daily use of Spanish to determine language maintenance, which is the continual use of an inferior language in the environment of a different, dominant language. Younger generations are shown to use less and less Spanish in and out of the home, equaling language loss. The present study is a replication of Stone (1987) and measures to what extent Spanish is being maintained in Bloomington, Illinois. Ten members of the Hispanic community were interviewed concerning their daily use of Spanish and English. Spanish was shown to be the dominant language. The participants have a strong desire to learn English and a wish for their children to be bilingual. This study shows the current attitudes of first generation Spanish-speakers towards language retention plus positive attitudes towards learning English. Information concerning positive attitudes towards learning English is helpful in supporting the use of Spanish in regards to the English-Only debate.

Stone, G. (1987). Language choice among Mexican-American high-school students in Saint Paul, Minnesota: Some preliminary findings. *Language and Language Use: Studies in Spanish* (pp. 147-159). Lanham, MD: University Press of America.