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## Language Choice of High School Students in Central Illinois

Jaclyn Morrison

*Illinois Wesleyan University*

Christina Isabelli, Faculty Advisor

*Illinois Wesleyan University*

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Oral Presentation O4.2

**LANGUAGE CHOICE OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS IN  
CENTRAL ILLINOIS**

Jaclyn Morrison and Christina Isabelli\*  
Hispanic Studies Department, Illinois Wesleyan University

Numerous studies have investigated the maintenance and loss of the Spanish language in metropolitan cities with a large Hispanic population. Few studies of this type have been conducted in smaller cities with a high prevalence of Spanish speakers. This study will explore the language use among Spanish-speaking high school students in Bloomington/Normal, Illinois. The data will be collected via a questionnaire similar to the one used in Stone (1987) with minor changes to accommodate the population. The goal of this study is to gain an understanding of the language usage, domains of usage, and attitudes toward English and Spanish among high school students in the community. A description of the use of English and Spanish among Spanish-speaking students may be an important factor in the maintenance or loss of Spanish in Bloomington. Furthermore, the conclusions of this study may provide ideas about the attitudes that these students preserve about these two languages.

Stone, Gregory. (1987). Language choice among Mexican-American high-school students in Saint Paul, Minnesota: Some preliminary findings. In J. Matluck, T. Morgan, J. Lee, & B. VanPatten (Eds.), *Language and language use: Studies in Spanish* (pp. 147-159). Lanham, MD: University Press of America.