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Native Spanish Speakers and Their Quest for English in the U.S.: Do They Want to Learn?

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Poster Presentation P48

**NATIVE SPANISH SPEAKERS AND THEIR QUEST FOR ENGLISH IN THE U.S.:
DO THEY WANT TO LEARN?**

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This descriptive study analyzes the motivation to learn English and Spanish by Hispanic blue-collar workers in Waukegan, Illinois. The research questions are: Are they willing to learn English? What means have they taken to improve their English language skills? What opportunities and or resources are available to improve their language skills? What obstacles do they face in learning English? With data collected through a questionnaire and interview I hope to find that these native Spanish speakers want to learn English and to show the difficulties and obstacles they have in achieving that goal. The conclusions of this study may explain the misguided goals of the “English Only” movement, an effort to legally make English the official language of the US. One of the main arguments is that native Spanish speakers are refusing to learn English which is causing deterioration of the English language. This study will examine the validity of that argument by discovering the motivation to learn English of a sampling of native Spanish speakers.