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Lexical and Morphological Variations of Verbal Forms in the Spanish of Bilingual Youth in Bloomington-Normal, Illinois

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Oral Presentation O10.2

**LEXICAL AND MORPHOLOGICAL VARIATIONS OF VERBAL FORMS IN THE
SPANISH OF BILINGUAL YOUTH IN BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL, ILLINOIS**

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This study examines the lexical and morphological variations of verbal forms from standard Spanish among bilingual youth in the Bloomington-Normal community. The research questions are: What variations exist between the Spanish of Bloomington-Normal youth and standard Spanish? Are there any differences that are distinct from other U.S. Spanish varieties? Do variations differ depending on the speaker, or are there shared variations which have become a norm? The participants are 10-18 year old Spanish and English speaking students enrolled in an after school program. Data will be collected orally and audiotaped through a series of translation activities that focus on lexical and morphological aspects that are known to differ in U.S. Spanish from standard Spanish. The findings of this study will indicate how Spanish is developing in a less commonly studied, rural area in the U.S. and give insight to the probability of dialect formation distinct from standard Spanish or other U.S. Spanish varieties.