

Journey With Language – Variations in Spanish (5) USA

●Destination - USA

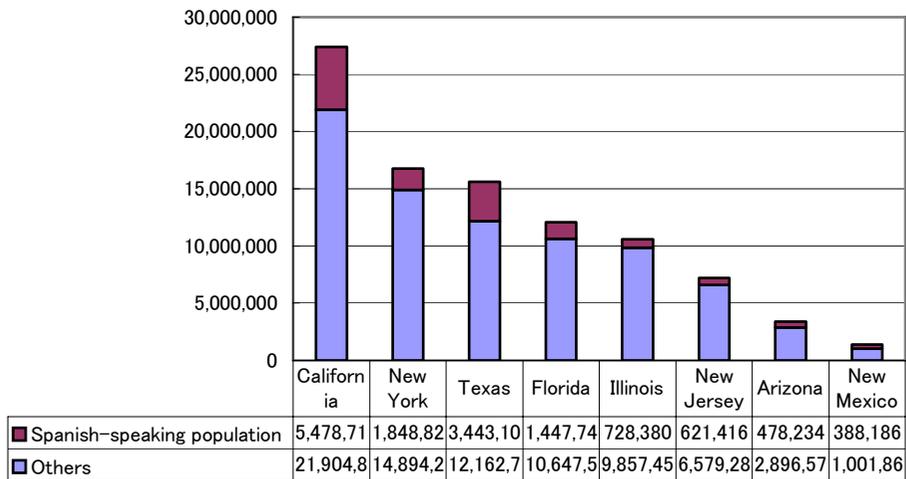
The United States is another Spanish-speaking country. According to its 1990 census, the Spanish-speaking population is 13 million in the Southwest; California (California), New Mexico (Nuevo México), Texas (Texas), Colorado (Colorado) and Arizona (Arizona). This vast area of land used to belong to Mexico until 1848, and there are still many people migrating from Mexico today. There are also as many as 1.8 million immigrants from Puerto Rico etc. in the state of New York (Nueva York), followed by 1.45 million Cubans in Florida (Florida) and 730 thousand Spanish-speakers in Illinois (Illinois).



【Picture 1: In Miami】

The graph (U.S. Census Bureau) below shows states with large Spanish-speaking populations.

<http://www.census.gov/ipc/www/>



【Graphic 1: States with large Spanish-speaking populations】

The total number of Spanish-speakers in the United States has reached approximately 26 million, occupying 10% of the population (*El País*, June 3, 1998). Some say Spanish will become another official language in the United States, and Spanish will be as important a language as English in order to understand the country.

Spanish is unquestionably the most popular foreign language studied in high schools and universities in the United States. There are 3.5 million high school students (65%) and 600 thousand university students (62%) studying Spanish under 40 thousand teachers (*El País*, June 18, 1996).

Carmen Silva-Corvalán, a leading researcher of Spanish language at University of Southern California has reported that there is a frequent language switching of Spanish and English among the conversation of Spanish speakers in the United States ("El Español actual en Estados Unidos", en C. Hernández Alonso (ed.) *Historia y presente del español de América*, Junta de Castilla y León, 1992). Here are some examples:

Me dijeron que podía go ahead, y so pues me fui. Y como cuarta milla alguien estaba coming down at me. Nadie lo paró y me, me machucó de frente.

I was told that I could “go ahead”, so I did. And after about a quarter mile, someone is “coming down at me”. No one stopped me, so we ran into each other.

Y la señora que my grandmother worked for tenía twenty-seven rooms, you know, and we had our own house - in the back, where we lived at, y - mi abuelito no pagaba renta.

The woman “my grandmother worked for” had “twenty-seven rooms, you know, and we had our own house – in the back, where we lived at”, and – my aunt didn’t pay the rent.

This type of language switching (code-switching) is different from English loanwords (extranjerismos) taken into Japanese in scale and characteristics. It is called Spanglish (Spanglish), and is not considered Spanish nor English.

Spanish + English = Spanglish

There are numerous Web sites written in Spanglish on the Internet, and many feature lively discussions and cultural activities.



【Graphic 2: Website in Spanglish】

<http://www.el-castellano.com/spanglis.html>

On the right hand side of this screen, there is a cartoon of a computer with the comment “¿DELETEAR? (Delete?)”. “Deletear” is a Spanglish expression coming from “delete” in English, and “borrar” would be the word in standard Spanish.

●Pursuit of Language --Power of Spanish

According to research conducted in 1999 (Jaime Otero, 1999, "Demografía de la lengua española", en *Español en el Mundo*, Instituto Cervantes, http://cvc.cervantes.es/obref/anuario_99/oteró), the total number of Spanish-speaking population in Spanish-speaking countries is 333 million. The following chart is a list of countries with more than 10 million Spanish speakers.

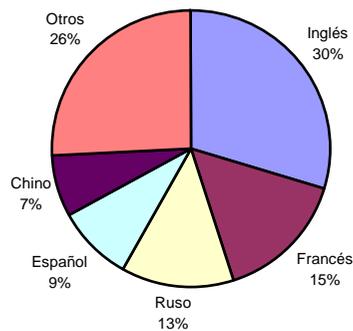
【Chart: Spanish-speaking Population (Top 9)】

Country	Spanish-speaking population	Total Population	%
México	92, 890, 000	94, 275, 000	98. 5
España	38, 969, 000	39, 323, 000	99. 1

Colombia	35, 850, 000	36, 200, 000	99. 0
Argentina	35, 300, 000	35, 409, 000	99. 7
Venezuela	22, 060, 000	22, 777, 000	96. 9
Perú	19, 440, 000	24, 371, 000	79. 8
Chile	13, 080, 000	14, 583, 000	89. 7
Cuba	11, 190, 000	11, 190, 000	100. 0
Ecuador	11, 100, 000	11, 937, 000	93. 0

As you can see, the United States (26 million Spanish-speakers) is a world **level 5** Spanish-speaking country after Mexico, Spain, Columbia and Argentina. If the United States were included, the Spanish-speaking population in the world would be as many as 360 million.

Population-wise, Spanish is indeed an extremely important language, and is it also true geographically? The total area of Spanish-speaking lands accounts for 9% of all land area in the world, almost 12 million square kilometers. The following pie graph shows the ratio.



【Graphic 3: Language and Area】

Adding the United States to the above figure, more than 10% of all land on Earth would be Spanish-speaking.

●Language Variations --“Computer”

“Internet” is *Internet*, and “multimedia” is *multimedia* in any Spanish-speaking region, but there is a clear difference between Spain and Latin America in the preference for the word “computer”. *Ordenador* (Or in map) is generally used in Spain, and *computadora* (Ca) is common in Latin America, *computador* (Cr) is also found in Columbia, Venezuela and Chile. This reflects the French (*ordinateur*) influence in Spain, and English (*computer*) influence in Latin America coming from the United States.



【Map: “Computer”】

*Assignment -5a

Read the following Web page, and explain the transition of Spanish-speaking population in the United States between 1990 and 2000.

<http://www.census.gov/prod/2003pubs/c2kbr-29.pdf>

***Assignment -5b**

Read the following examples of “Spanglish”, and discuss what you have noticed.

tiquete [boleto, billete] (13), chou [espectáculo] (13), yarda [patio, solar] (12), troca [camioneta] (12), soda [refresco] (12), seil [venta] (12), raid [aventón] (12), cash [efectivo] (12), cherri [cereza] (12), cora [cuarto, 25 centavos] (12), bil [cobro] (12), yonque [desgüesadero] (11), sinc [fregadero] (11), ponchar [perforar] (11), overtime [tiempo extra] (11), movis [películas] (11), lonche [comida] (11), yins [pantalones de dril] (11), fríser [congelador] (11), e-mail [correo electrónico] (11), chequear [examinar] (11), babysit [cuidar niños] (11), tax [impuesto] (10), chopin [compras] (10), parti [fiesta] (10), liquear [gotear] (10), daime [diez centavos] (10), cliquer [oprimir] (10), breik [descanso] (10), appointment [cita] (10), guachar [observar, mirar] (9), puchar [empujar] (9), parquear [estacionar] (9), marqueta [mercado] (9), librería [biblioteca] (9), joni [querida] (9), dil [trato] (9), beibi [bebé] (9), bloque [cuadra] (9), sain [letrero] (8), cuitear [dejar] (8), lóquer [casillero] (8), carpeta [alfombra] (8), mopear [trapear] (7), taipear [escribir a máquina] (6), trainear [entrenar] (6), parqueadero [estacionamiento] (6), fild [campo] (6), breca [freno] (6), trai [bandeja] (5), sainear [firmar] (5), pompear [bombear] (5), ganga [pandilla] (5), espelear [deletrear] (4), esquipear [faltar a clase] (4), dar para atrás [regresar, devolver] (4), bompe [tope] (3), brif [modelo de trabajo] (3), sortear [clasificar] (2), mailear [enviar correo] (2), cuquetear [cocinar] (2), guachatería [lavandería] (1), vacunar [aspirar] (1), soquetines [calcetines] (1), startear [prender] (1), rufo [techo] (1), grocería [alimentos] (1), gasolín [gasolina] (1), ben [arcón] (1), glaso [vaso] (0).

- * 13 university students in Los Angeles were given the above list of Spanglish vocabulary. The numbers in parentheses indicate the number of students who used the word. (e.g. (10): 10 out of 13 students used the word.)

***Assignment -5c**

Study regional variations of the word “computer” in Spanish.

Varilex: <http://gamp.c.u-tokyo.ac.jp/~ueda/varilex/>