

Spanglish

Spanglish, also known as Broken Spanish, began in the 1960s and consists of a mix of Spanish and English terms within the same sentence or phrase. Spanglish can be viewed as an example of a cultural phenomenon of how languages interact and combine over a period of time.

Spanglish is mostly used in parts of the United States such as in California, Texas, Arizona, New York City, Florida and New Mexico where the population is a combination of both Anglo and Hispanic speakers. In Mexico, especially within areas that are near the Mexican-American border, this occurs due to the constant contact of both languages and cultures.

Spanglish is commonly used when a native Spanish speaker forgets a certain word or phrase in his/her second language and uses a familiar term within the native language in order to fill in the blank. An example of this is when a native speaker of Spanish states, "I am going to the store to buy some *zapatos*." Obviously, the speaker forgot the word for shoes and turned to his/her native language to assist within completing the sentence.

Spanglish can also be used to demonstrate creativity, humor and/or exaggeration. This dialect contains lone words from both English and Spanish such as taco, chocolate and restaurant, and the bilingual person is able to switch back and forth between either language.

Several parts of society perceive Spanglish in a negative manner due to false cognates and the belief that this linguistic phenomenon denotes and even suppresses both languages, especially Spanish which is a very expressive language. Several speakers of Spanish believe that their language is being subjugated by combining it with English terms. Also, many Hispanics that live in the United States fear that their Spanish culture will disappear amongst the large amount of English influence within America.

What many people do not realize is that many words in the English vocabulary are derived from the Spanish language and vice-versa.

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