Lenguas, Dialectos, e Identidades
A Sociolinguistic Unit for High School Students

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Have your students ever wondered why Spanish and English are spoken differently all over the world? Why the Spanish taught in school is different from the Spanish learned at home? This 6-8 week sociolinguistic unit is the result of a high school Spanish teacher’s quest to engage Heritage and advanced Spanish students in the exciting history of how, what, and why we speak.

Link to this Presentation: bit.ly/PresentationLenguas
Folder with Unit Materials: bit.ly/CABE2018Adamcikova

Topics of study included in the unit:

- Language Families and the Indo-European Language Tree
- A Brief History of the Spanish Language: Iberian Peninsula
- A Brief History of the Spanish Language: the Americas
- Origins of Spanish words
- A Brief History of English
- Linguistic Definitions of Language and Dialect
- Language Community and Idiolect
- Spanish and English Dialectical Variations
- Slang
- “Standard” and “Non-Standard” Dialects
- What is Spanglish?
- Linguistic Prejudice and Prestige

Activity 1: Find a partner and describe the languages that you speak.

How did you learn each language?
Where did you learn each language?
What different accents do you use?
Do you talk to different people with different styles?

In which situations do you use slang? In which situations do you use formal language? Professional or academic language?

Do you like how you and your family speak? Do you like how people speak somewhere else?

Activity 2: Gentilicios

- In this activity, you will walk around the room and meet new people.
- Introduce yourself, then give the person half of the colored piece of paper you were given.
- Each time you meet a new person, tear all the papers you have in half, and give that person the other halves.
- That person will give you half of all of their papers in return. When you have 16 pieces of paper (or 32), please sit down.
Unit overview and goals:
- Descripción de cómo hablo y con quiénes
- Lista de Vocabulario

Part 1: A brief history of the Spanish language
- Gentilicios activity
- Búsqueda de Personas que . . . Día de la Raza
- Una historia breve de la lengua española
- Una historia breve de la lengua española Student Notes Packet
- Línea de tiempo

Part 2: Geography of the Spanish speaking world
- Geografía - Proyecto del Mapa Mundial

Part 3: Dialectical variations of Spanish
- Dialectos vs Lenguas - Definiciones
- Indo-European Language Families Diagram (in English)
- Palabras y significados distintos según el país
- Proyecto Final: ¿Cuál de los dialectos de español se debe enseñar en San Mateo?

Part 4: Language Pride and Language Maintenance
- Polyglot Mexican student speaking nahuatl, Spanish, Portuguese, French, and English as he discusses his linguistic identity and how he learned his 5 languages.
- Video sobre Lenguas Maternas en México

Part 5
- Linguistic Prestige and Prejudice
- Escritura en una Experiencia de Prejuicio Lingüístico con Rúbrica

Experiences of Linguistic Prejudice - student samples