



RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE

M.Ed. In TESL Program Language Group Specific Informational Reports

Produced by Graduate Students in the M.Ed. In TESL Program
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Language Group Project



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Spanish - A Romance Language

- Latin origin
- Enriched by other languages
- Indo-European
- Spanish in U.S.
 - Two major dialects
 - Caribbean
 - Southwestern

Regional Varieties

- Vocabulary
- Pronunciation
 - *Seseo*
 - *Yeísmo*
 - *Debuccalization*
- Writing System
 - *Ñ letter n with a tilde*
 - *Phonetic language*
 - *Alphabet has 29 letters*
 - *Diagraphs: ch, ll, and rr*
 - *Dieresis ü: pingüino, cigüeña, and bilingüe.*

Communication Styles

- It's physical
- "psssst"
- Children
- Don and Doña

Pragmatics-system of how language is used in society

- Greetings
 - Hand-shake vs. hugs and kisses
 - Males showing affection
 - Children kissing adults
- Baby-talk
- Directness vs. diplomacy

Difficulties with English Language

Phonology-sound system

- 5 vowels vs. 14 vowel sounds
- Vowel substitutions
 - *ee/I – peeg/pig*
 - *e/ae- pet/pat*
 - *ah/ae – Stahn/Stan*
- Devoicing final consonants
 - *dose/doze*
- Other Substitutions
 - *b/v berry/very*
 - *"th" tin/think*
 - *Ch/sh chew/shoe*
- Schwa
 - *Eskate/skate – espend/spend*

Morphology- system in which words are built

Spanish

- Plural endings-gender and article agreement
 - *Las amigas Los amigos*
- Nouns-gender marked
 - *Table- mesa* (feminine form)
 - *Book-libro* (masculine form)
- Article precedes and adjective follows noun
 - *El libro rojo esta en la mesa pequeña.*
The book red is on the table small.

Syntax-system in which words are arranged in sentences

- Negation- *no* placed before first verb
 - *Juan. no tiene un televisor.*
Juan no has a television
- Capitalization
 - *days*
 - *months*
 - *National adjectives (boliviano)*

Semantics-system of word meanings

- Idiomatic expressions
 - *It is raining cats and dogs.*
- Formal/familiar
 - *Usted (you-formal/respect)*
 - *Tu (you-familiar)*

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