Podium Presentation

Linguistic Politeness Strategies of Second Language Speakers when Interacting with Native Spanish Speakers vs. Other Spanish Speakers such as Second Language Speakers vs. Heritage Speakers

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This study in progress aims to investigate politeness strategies used by second language learners of Spanish when communicating with native Spanish speakers, as well as other speakers of Spanish (heritage speakers and second language speakers of Spanish). The purpose of this research is to promote understanding of patterns of speech of bilinguals within situations in which politeness normally occurs. In this study, politeness is defined as conversational strategies that occur within human interactions to eliminate or mitigate possible conflicts, offenses, impositions, etc. (Pinto, Derrin and Pablos-Ortega, 2014). This pilot study specifically focuses on politeness strategies when offering, accepting and refusing invitations, as well as requesting, accepting and refusing favors. The data is being collected through two formats: video recording of proposed role-play situations in Spanish, as well as a discourse completion task questionnaire in Spanish. The role-play situations intend to produce spontaneous oral linguistic expressions, while the discourse completion tasks intend to produce thought-out, written linguistic expressions. Subjects are being recruited from the Spanish major students within the Foreign Languages and Cultures department. After the data has been collected, the goal will be to determine which politeness strategies second language learners of Spanish favor in these contexts. This study will provide insight into how second language learners of Spanish utilize advanced pragmatic strategies in the target language.