Spanglish: A Synthesis of Cultural Identity and Creativity

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What is Spanglish?

• A Combination of Spanish and English
• Spoken predominantly by Hispanic individuals
• Spanglish is NOT a language
• Spanglish is comprised of code-switching and borrowing
Why Spanglish?

Spanglish is used for a variety of reasons, for example:

• In the absence of a word that corresponds exactly to the borrowed word.
• When in Spanish, there are several potentially correct words, but none has the exact meaning.
• When a word has been learned in English first and the meaning is more directly accessible in English than in Spanish.
The incidents that allowed for the formulation of Spanglish began between 1803 and 1848 with the Louisiana Purchase and the signing of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, respectively.

The Mexican-American War as the cementing factor for replacing Spain with the U.S. as the dominant global power.

These events instigated contact between English and Spanish that was conducive to creating a “vital social code whose sheer bravura is revolutionizing both Spanish and, to a lesser extent, English.”
“Americans are proud to be in the USA. Real Americans speak English and live by our laws. Real Americans remember 9/11. Real Americans Support Our Troops in Iraqi.”
Attitudes Towards Spanglish

Everybody began using Spanglish!!!

\- RuFa = ceiling
\- Marketa = supermarket
\- Parquear = to park
\- Mopear = to mop
\- Faxear = to fax

Spanglish is often perceived as a derogatory term. It means a word or sentence that is part in Spanish and part in English.

Source: The Instituto of Spanglish Institute
“we are your linguistic nightmare, your linguistic aberration... Because we speak with tongues of fire we are culturally crucified. Racially, culturally and linguistically...we speak an orphan tongue” (80).
Don Quixote

“In un placete de La Mancha of which nombre no quiero remembrearme, vivía, not so long ago, uno de esos gentlemen who always tienen una lanza in the rack, una buckler antiquo, a skinny caballo y un greyhound para el chase.”
Latino writers make up for “the feeling of being attached to and torn between two languages” by utilizing Spanglish in various forms of writing. Spanglish acts as a bridge between the Spanish and English speaking worlds and also as a source of creativity.

Example:
“It happened to a plump fair daughter / of an honest campesino / who was caught on her knees pledging her soul / and her body to the devil” (from Judith Ortiz Cofer’s *Las Malas Lenguas*)
Sources

Works Cited


