

Bilingual Interview

By: Brenda Santana



Overview of Interview

3 Spanish- English Bilinguals



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graph TD; A[3 Spanish- English Bilinguals] --> B[Came to America in 2010 ( 12 years ago)]; B --> C[Different ages]; C --> D[Their experience as a bilingual];
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Came to America in 2010 (12 years ago)

Different ages

Their experience as a bilingual

Lizamy Edwards



Background Knowledge:

1. Born in the Dominican Republic
2. Visited America for a month when she was 2 years and 6 months old
3. Spoke Spanish as her first language.
4. Attended school in the Dominican Republic from age 2-5.
5. Moved to America when she was 5 years old
6. She only spoke Spanish when moving to America, only knew few English words like (napkins, bathroom, hello)
7. Started school a week after coming to America (1st grade)
8. Took ESL class from 1st grade- 3rd grade
9. Knows some French since she decided to take French in HS for 3 years instead of Spanish

Brailin Santana



- **Background Knowledge:**

1. Born in the Dominican Republic
2. Spanish is his first language
3. Attended school in the Dominican Republic from 2-12 years old. Finished 9th grade in DR.
4. Came to America when he was 12 years old
5. Only spoke Spanish no English knowledge at all
6. Started school a week after coming to America (8th grade) He got pushed back a year
7. Took ESL class from 8th grade- 10th grade

Yocaira Pujols



- **Background Knowledge:**

1. Born in the Dominican Republic
2. Spanish is her First Language
3. All her education was completed in the Dominican Republic. (Completed HS and some college)
4. Came to America when she was 34 years old
5. Attended night school to learn English for 6 months
6. No English-speaking abilities from 2010-2014
(only knew few words or phases but could not hold a conversation with a native speaker.
7. Met her Husband in 2014 who only speaks English
8. 2016-she is able to have simple conversations with native English Speakers
9. 2018- She can have conversations with English natives
10. 2022- She can have more complete and long conversations in English
11. Insertion of Spanish words
12. Grammatical issues

1st Interview Question:

What do you consider your dominant language, Spanish or English, explain why?

Lizamy's Answer:

Spanish (BF **ONLY**
speaks Spanish)

Brailin's Answer:

At first said, Spanish but
he reconsidered his
answer and said “ It's
English at this point”

Yocaira's Answer:

Spanish

2nd Interview Question: In what language do you think or dream in?

Lizamy's Answer:

Dreams in **Spanish**,

Thinks in **Spanish** now use to be English. Only listens to Spanish music, and watches TV shows only in Spanish

Brailin's Answer:

Both

Yocaira's Answer:

Both

*Quick Thinking:
What is the first thought that comes to mind when you see the following
picture*



- Lizamy's Answer: Casa
- Brailin's Answer: House
- Yocaira's Answer: House

*Quick Thinking:
What is the first thought that comes to mind when you see the
following picture*



- Lizamy's Answer: Papel
- Brailin's Answer: Napkins(
then said paper towels)
- Yocaira's Answer: Napkin

*Quick Thinking:
What is the first thought that comes to mind when you see the
following picture:*



- Lizamy's Answer: Platano
- Brailin's Answer: Platano
- Yocaira's Answer: Platano

*3rd Interview Question:
In which language do you express emotions easiest in?*

Lizamy's Answer:
English

Brailin's Answer:
Spanish
Funny Story: Analia ☐ Coño

Yocaira's Answer:
Spanish

Are you a stronger writer and reader in Spanish or English?

- Lizamy's Answer: **English**- No one taught her how to read or write in Spanish. She actually taught herself by talking to people in Spanish through WhatsApp and Facebook.
- Brailin's Answer: **English**- He doesn't really read and write in Spanish daily but he does in English.
- Yocaira's Answer: **Spanish**

How do you use each language now?

Lizamy's Answer:

- Speaks more **Spanish** because of her boyfriend. Only speaks English when she needs to, like at work since no one speaks Spanish or in school.
- Expressed that she code switches a lot and she doesn't see this in a negative way because she chooses to do this whenever she feels like it.
- Looks up words on google

• Brailin's Answer: He feels he speaks better **Spanish**

- He speaks Spanish at work, speaks a mixture of English and Spanish at home (mainly speaks English to his kids since they only speak English). On the phone with family he only speaks Spanish

Yocaira's Answer: uses **Both** 50/50. Speaks English at work and to her husband. Speaks Spanish to family.

Reflecting on your own experience, tell me about the pros and cons of bilingualism

- **Lizamy's Answer:**

- Pros- "It's great to be bilingual because I can tell people what to do in two different languages"
- Cons- Translating for others

- **Brailin's Answer:**

- Pros- He likes the ability he has to communicate with variety of people from different cultures. Its also easier to find work since he is fluent in both Spanish and English
- Cons- They look at Spanish bilinguals differently, like they are all Mexicans. There's many stereotypes when you are a Spanish and English bilingual. He said they think " I don't got my papers" (illegal immigrant).

- **Yocaira's Answer:**

- Pros- The ability to communicate with different people and help them when they need help
- Cons: "When you try to speak people laugh at you because of your accent", "sometimes they can't understand what I'm trying to say because of my accent".

How do you feel about being bilingual?



- Lizamy's Answer: "I love it, wouldn't have it any other way"
- Brailin's Answer: "I feel superior because I have community with different types of people"
- Yocaira's Answer: "I love being bilingual. Its better to be bilingual because you can communicate con people, you is more independent"

1. Was there anything shocking to you from the interview?

2. Did you relate to anything from the interview? For example answers that the interviewee shared

3. Do you feel like age or the desire to learn has more effect on a persons ability to learn a second language?

