

## **Unveiling Authenticity: Narrowing Linguistic Patterns among Spanish Heritage Speakers in the USA.**

This abstract discusses the importance of identifying and narrowing common linguistic patterns among Spanish heritage speakers to assess the authenticity of their written assignments in educational settings. Spanish heritage speakers, who possess varying levels of proficiency in both English and Spanish, face unique challenges when expressing their authentic voice and cultural background in their essays. By employing linguistic analysis, it becomes feasible to evaluate the authenticity of their written work, promoting linguistic and cultural integrity.

Understanding and distinguishing linguistic patterns commonly found among US Spanish heritage speakers (Escobar and Potowsky 2015, Klee and Lynch 2009, Sánchez Abchi y De Mier 2017) is crucial in accurately assessing the authenticity of their essays. By narrowing down these patterns, a benchmark can be established for differentiating authentic content from non-native or machine-generated content.

The importance of identifying these patterns lies in promoting cultural preservation, individual expression, and academic integrity. By recognizing and valuing unique linguistic features, educational institutions, teachers, and evaluators can create an inclusive environment that fosters linguistic diversity and respects the rich cultural heritage of Spanish-speaking communities. This presentation aims to narrow some of these linguistic patterns using authentic writing assignments from students, ultimately supporting Spanish heritage speakers in refining their writing skills and expressing their ideas authentically.

Collaboration among linguists, educators, and AI experts is vital to ensure the development of robust and fair assessment frameworks that capture the authenticity and individuality of Spanish heritage speakers' essays.

**Keywords:** linguistic patterns, heritage, Spanish, writing assignments

### **References**

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