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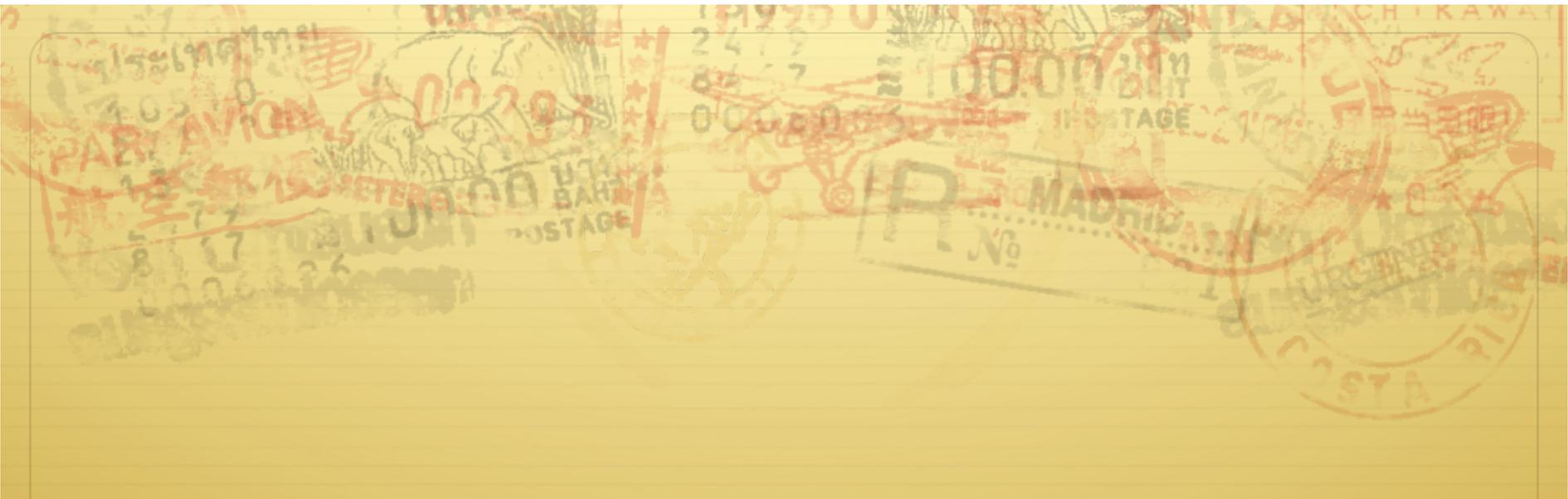
Temporary Migrants: coping with language barriers... temporarily?

Maria Eugenia De Luna Villalón, *University of Western Ontario*



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Temporary migrants:

Coping with language barriers... temporarily?

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Background



Seasonal Migration

✦ “a great variety of movements usually short-term, repetitive or cyclical in character, but all having in common the lack of any declared intention of permanent or long-standing change of residence” (Zelinsky, 1971 in Kerswill, 2006, 8).

Some examples

- ✦ Roma population
- ✦ International Students
- ✦ Business People
- ✦ Agricultural Seasonal Workers
- ✦ Etc.

Seasonal Migration in Canada

- ✦ Addresses the, short and long term, market labor demand.
 - ✦ Not all the labor needs are permanent
- ✦ The Temporary Foreign Workers Program (TFWP) allows Canadian employers to hire national foreign workers to shorten the market labor demand.
 - ✦ Seasonal Working Agricultural Program (SWAP)
 - ✦ Sand oil program in Alberta
 - ✦ 2010 Olympic Games in Vancouver
- ✦ In 2008, 251,235 temporary workers entered Canada (CIC, 2009)

Can temporary migrants become permanent residents in Canada?

Requirements for Temporary Foreign Workers

Program:

- ✦ Experience in qualified jobs
- ✦ Proficiency in English or French
- ✦ Canadian credentials (optional)

Context



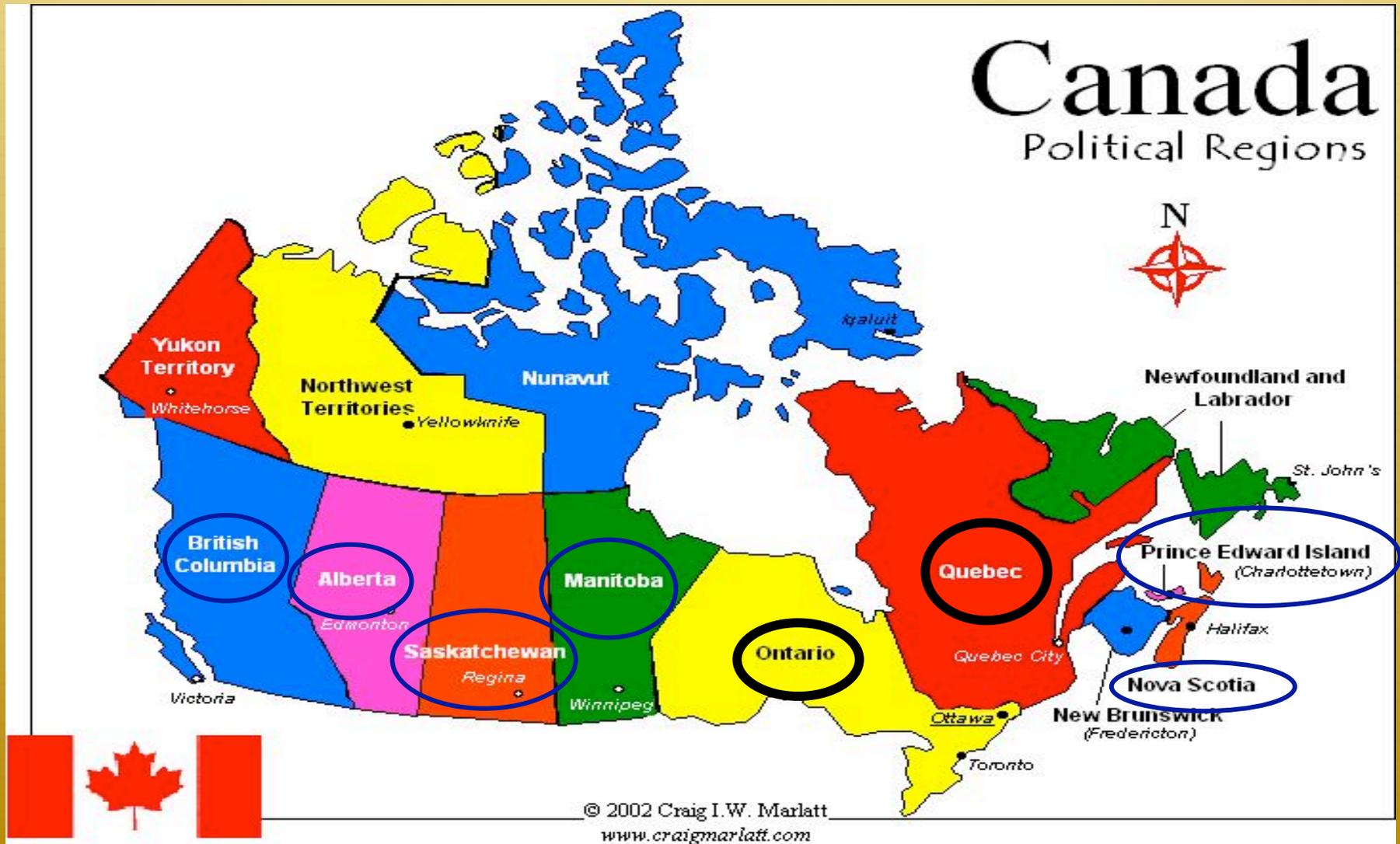
SWAP



SWAP

- ✦ The program has strengthened the bilateral relation of the involved countries.
- ✦ It has become an international cooperation model.
- ✦ It has demonstrated to have the possibility to sustain migratory working flows:
 - ✦ Regulated
 - ✦ Worthy
 - ✦ Ordered
 - ✦ (Embajada de México en Canadá, 2006).

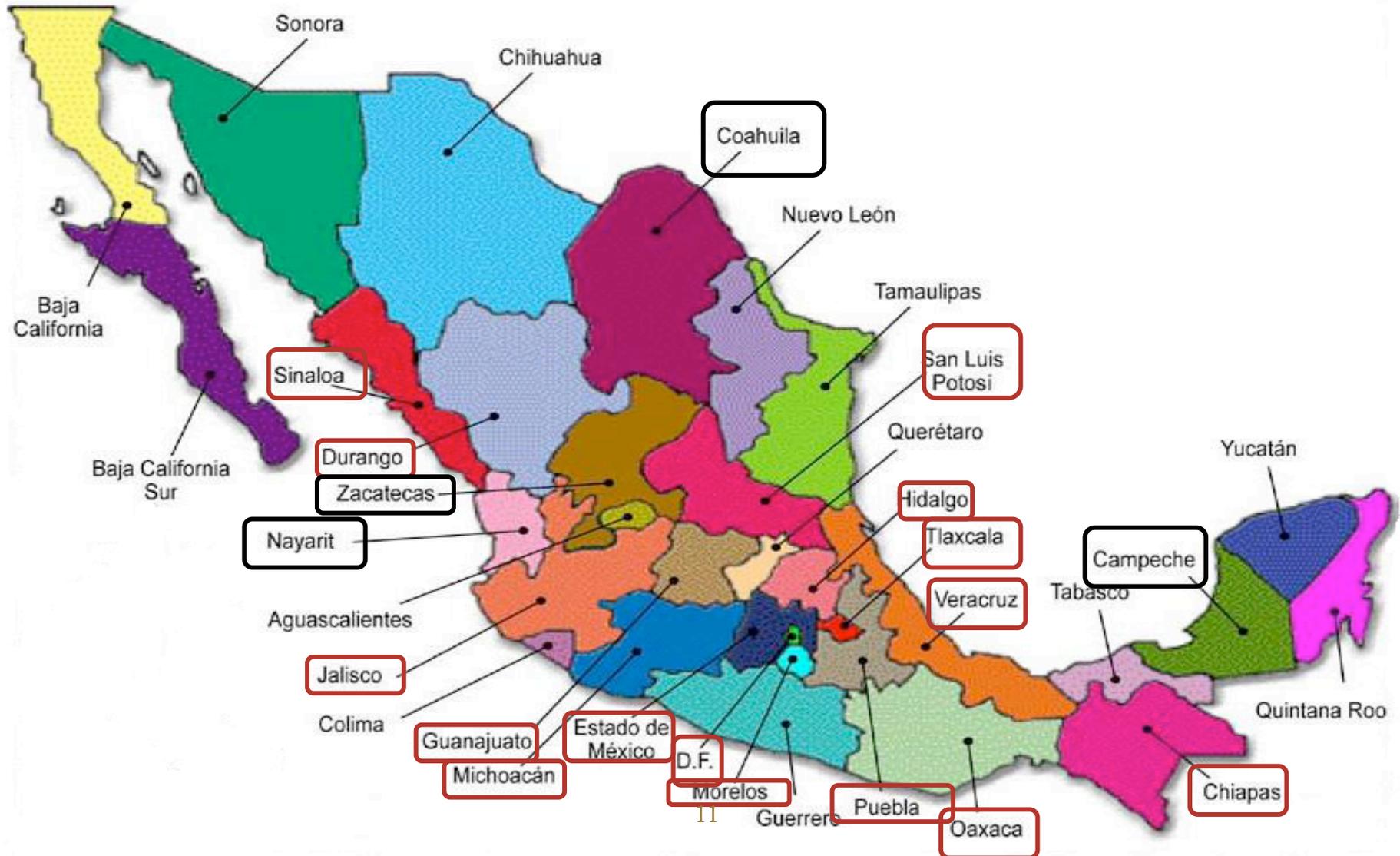
Participating Provinces



SWAP 1974-2006



Mexican States that participate in the SWAP



The problem

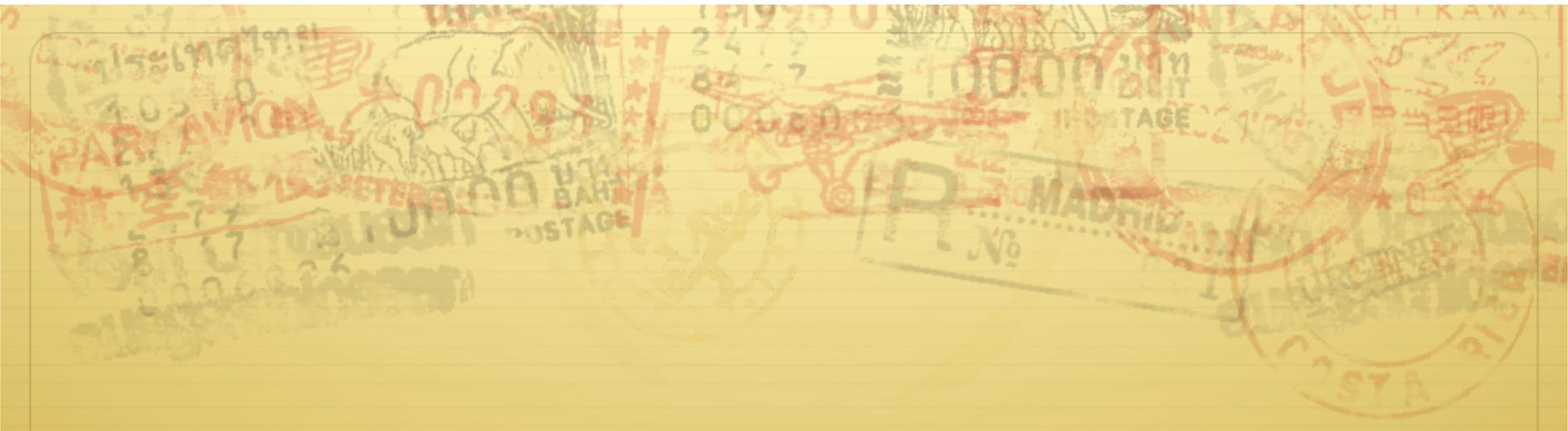


Some characteristics of temporary migrants in context

- ✦ Lack of participation in the social and civic life of Canada.
- ✦ Lack of orientation and/or knowledge of their social, health and working benefits.
- ✦ Tendency to regroup with other minority members, either linguistic or demographic, to seek a 'belonging feeling'.
- ✦ Long working days.

- ✦ Communication Problems
- ✦ Living in diaspora 'here' and 'there'
- ✦ Fragmented identities
- ✦ Segregated as individuals and group





**How does this relates to
language?**

Magnifies health problems

Increases the lack of knowledge about working rights and obligations

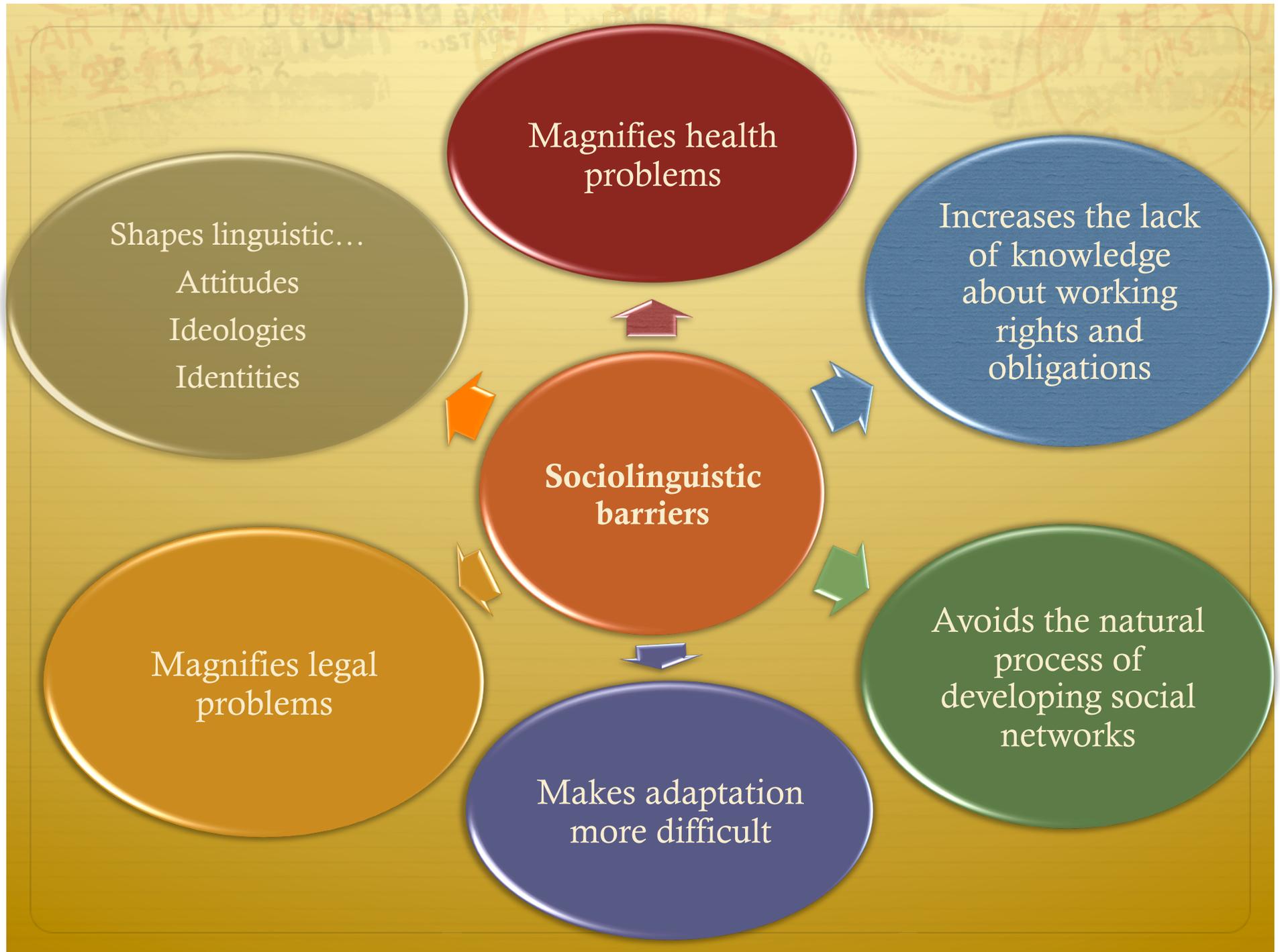
Shapes linguistic...
Attitudes
Ideologies
Identities

Sociolinguistic barriers

Avoids the natural process of developing social networks

Magnifies legal problems

Makes adaptation more difficult



Justification and Purpose



- 
- ✦ Address the lack of sociolinguistic research about temporary migrants through a language and migration study.
 - ✦ Reunite, and analyze sociolinguistic facts of the Mexican Temporary Migrants that come each year to Ontario and Quebec through the SWAP.

Critical Linguistic Perspective

Tries to explain the manifestations of language contact and their functional distribution.

It's interested in the use of two languages as a reflect of the ideology system, dominant or subordinated that reinforces the social hierarchies.

Involves the study of factors as identity, ideology, ethnicity, race, political goals, and more, to study language contact.

Ethnographic Methodology and Approach



Transnational Orientation

Design

Sociolinguistic Questionnaire
90 Questions
20 Participants in each city

Ontario

Quebec

Leamington

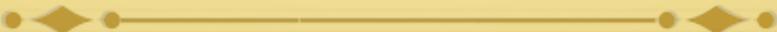
Simcoe

Virgil

Brantford

St. Remi

The Questionnaire Asks:

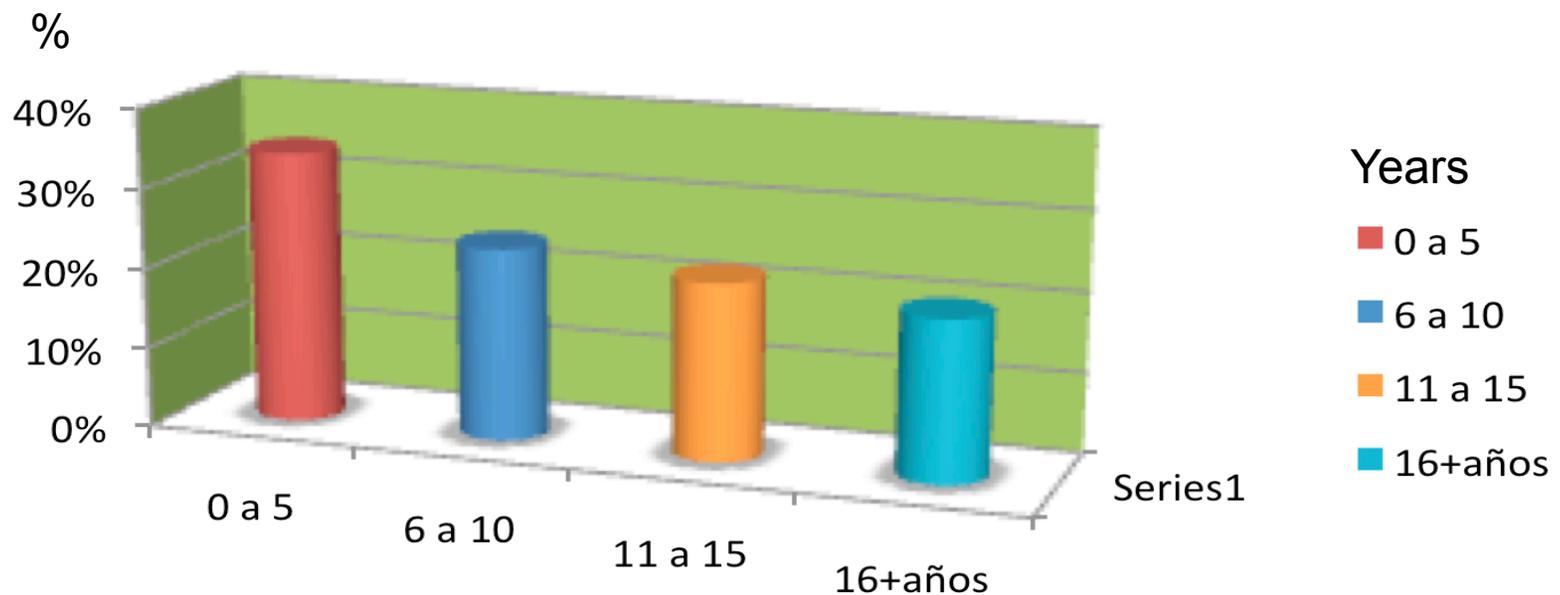


- ✦ Demographic data
- ✦ Education and literacy data
- ✦ Language data
- ✦ Housing in Canada
- ✦ Work communication data
- ✦ SWAP's data
- ✦ Data about the family in Mexico



Some preliminary results

Length of participation in the program

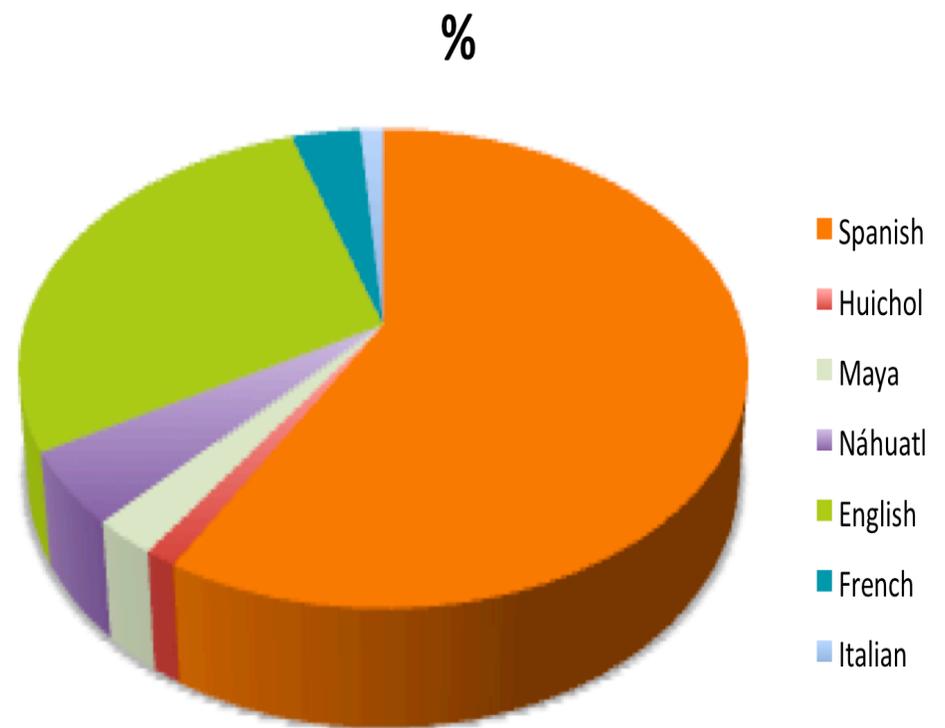
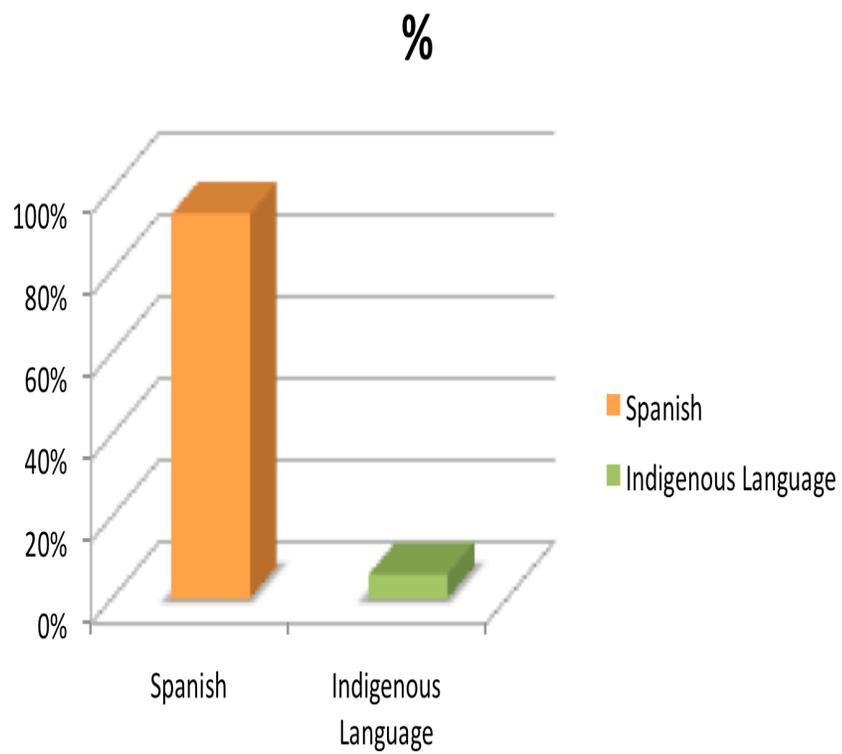


Minimum = 2 years
Maximum = 32 years

Language

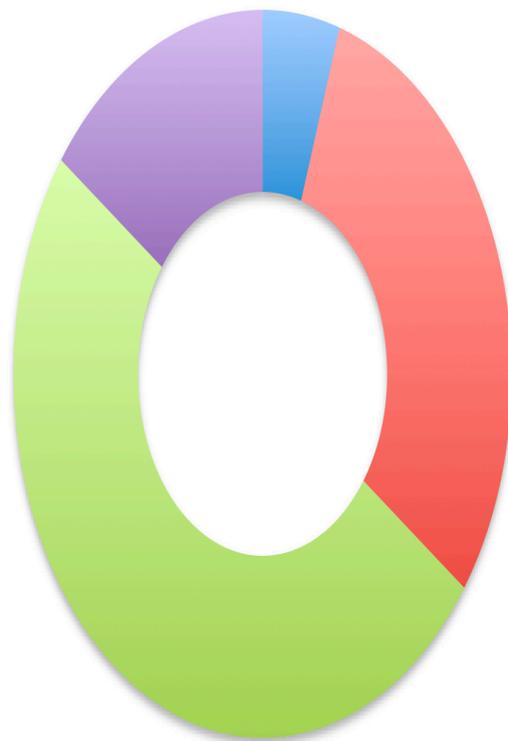
L1

Linguistic Diveristy



L1 self reported literacy skills

Reading



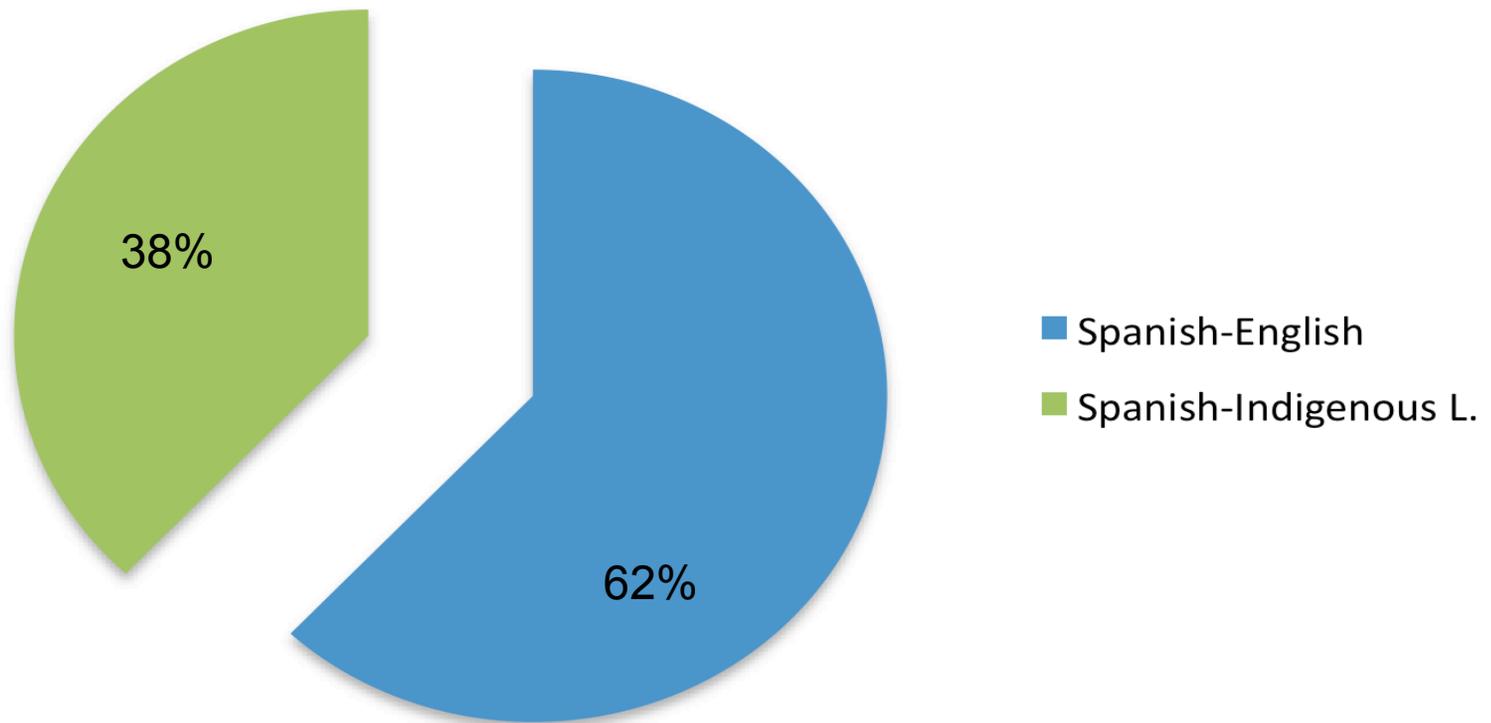
- Muy bien
- Bien
- Mas o menos
- Mal

Writing

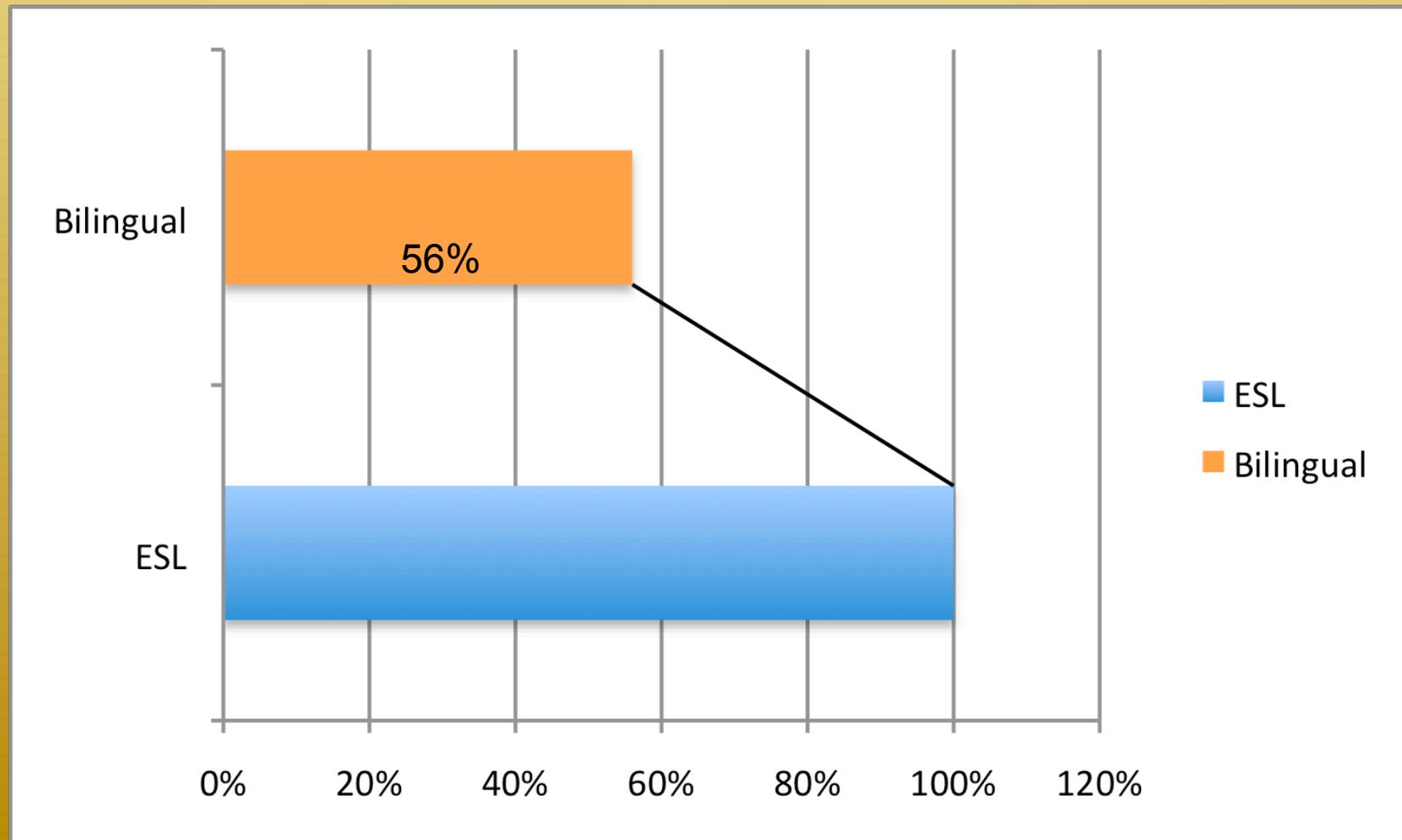


- Muy Bien
- Bien
- Mas o menos
- Mal

Bilingualism Composition



ESL and Self reported bilinguals



What is the ESL lessons problematic?

- ✦ Workers' Working hours
- ✦ Distance
- ✦ Access
- ✦ ESL program
- ✦ Teachers
- ✦ Workers' Age
- ✦ L1 Literacy skills, etc.

Temporary migrants...

Temporary linguistics demands?







¡Hemos Regresado!

¡Ven aprender inglés con “Frontier College”!

Las clases empezarán pronto

¿Cuándo? Se puede empezar cualquiera de estas fechas:

marzo 22- agosto 20/09

- *domingo, 7pm – 9pm*
- *lunes, 7– 9pm*
- *martes, 7-9pm*
- *miércoles, 7pm – 9pm*
- *jueves, 7pm – 9pm*

¿Dónde? **99 Talbot St. East (en la esquina de Talbot y Victoria)**

¿Cuánto cuestan los cursos de inglés? ¡**Nada, son gratuitos!**

Bienvenidos a

LECCIONES GRATIS DE INGLES

Donde?: En el edificio de los “Knights of Columbus (“Caballeros de Colon”)

En la calle #43 Kent

Esquina de la calle Peel y la calle Kent.
Enfrente de la oficina de TAX 2000.

Cuando?: Todos los viernes de 5pm a 9pm

Are conditions for all the Temporary Workers the same?

✦ **NO!**

✦ The host society adapts to receive the Temporary Migrants only if there is a significant group.

✦ How do the host community adapts?

✦ Linguistic landscape

✦ Merchandise

✦ Bilingual employees

✦ Hispanic businesses

✦ Free services (Associations, Committees, Churches, NGOs, etc.)

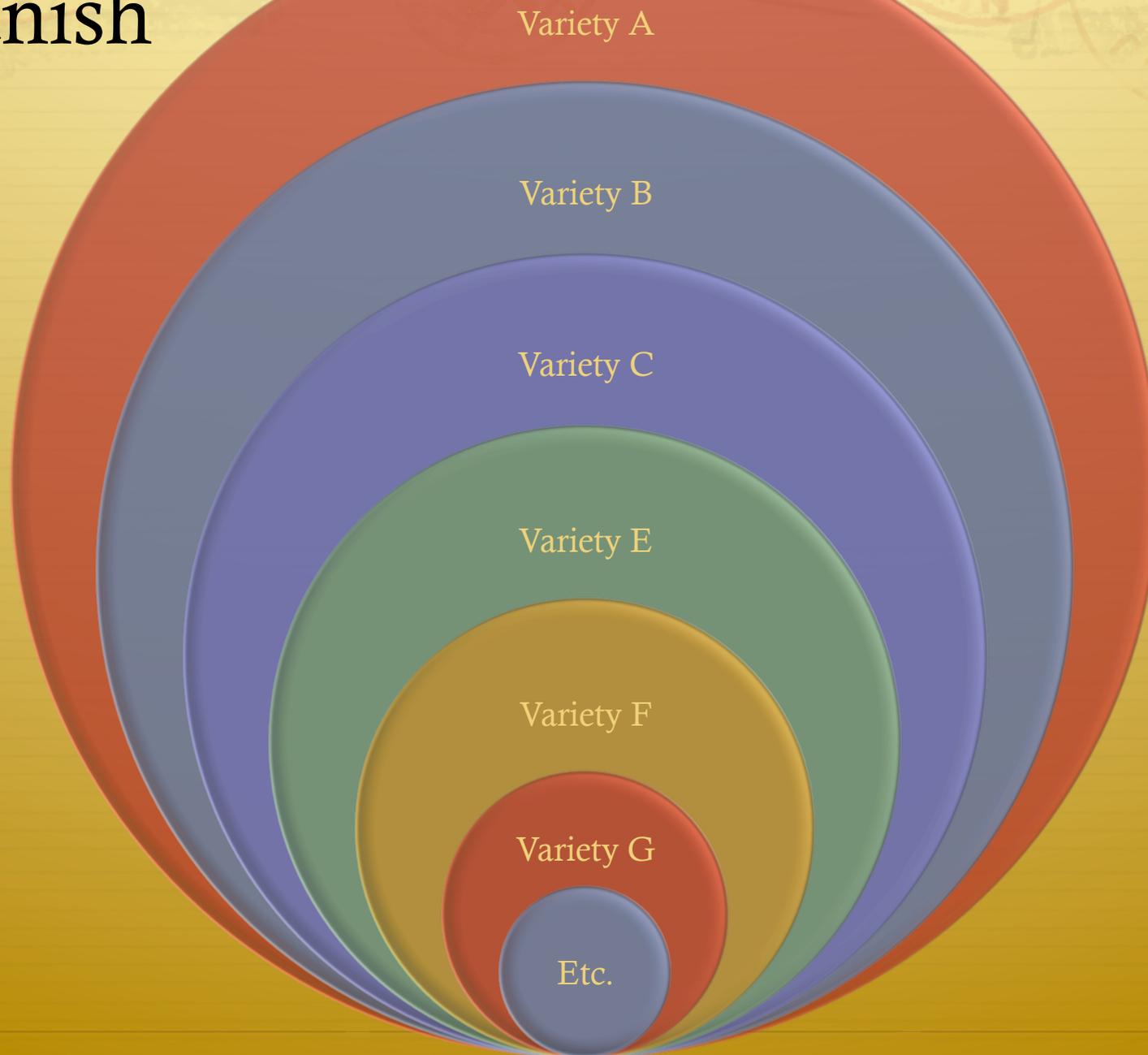
✦ Etc.

Research direction



Looking for dialect leveling and koiné, because of the contact between different dialects of Spanish

Spanish



References

- ✦ Boyd, M. y Vickers, M. (2000). 100 years of immigration in Canada. In Canadian Social Trends, Autumn 2000, Statistics Canada, pp. 1-13.
- ✦ Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC). (2005). Obtenido en mayo 24, 2008, de <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/immigrate/index.html>
- ✦ Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC). (2009). Obtenido en septiembre 24, 2009, de <http://www.cic.gc.ca>
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- ✦ Kerswill, P. (2006). Migration and language. In Klaus Mattheier, Ulrich Ammon & Peter Trudgill (eds.) Sociolinguistics/Soziolinguistik. An international handbook of the science of language and society, 2nd ed., Vol 3. Berlin: De Gruyter.



Thanks!