

# New Mexican Spanish

## Gauging Attitudes and Possibilities of Dialect Restoration



by Joe Garcia :D

### Background

The variety of Spanish spoken in New Mexico, best detailed by Bills and Vigil (2008), faces extinction for numerous reasons. From standardized Spanish teaching (Woodrum, 2009) to drastic negative attitudes (Vigil and Bills, 2022), the variety's future appears quite bleak. With prior works having taken place or used data from years ago, though, how might that future truly be?

### Methodology

- Six interviews (as of writing) from residents of Las Vegas, NM
- Discussions on language ideologies
- Emphasis on NM Spanish and thoughts on it, pre-existing or newfound

### Findings (as of writing)

None of my participants expressed distaste toward NM Spanish:

- Interviewees expressed nostalgia toward it, especially associating the variety with older/deceased relatives
- Non Spanish-speaking participants regret never learning Spanish
- Younger participants point to the rigid standard curriculum or perceived uselessness as their cause of not learning Spanish

### Conclusion

Although the variety is moribund and unlikely to find to regular usage anywhere, there is grounds to believe that at the very least, attitudes could be improved and maintained to give respect to the variety. If not a localized approach to Spanish instruction, an education program in the vein of Wolfram and Schilling-Estes (1995) may be good to spread knowledge of NM Spanish throughout northern NM or the state as a whole.

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#### References:

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