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Heritage Language Maintenance: A Study of Central Illinois Teacher Attitudes

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Oral Presentation O5.2

**HERITAGE LANGUAGE MAINTENANCE: A STUDY OF CENTRAL
ILLINOIS TEACHER ATTITUDES**

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This article presents a study of teachers' attitudes toward students' maintenance of the home language, and also examines concordance of these attitudes with teacher practices when dealing with language minority students. The sample consisted of 48 teachers with varying levels of experience teaching language minority students. Participants were recruited from two school districts in Bloomington-Normal, Illinois, and were asked to complete an online questionnaire. In a 2006 study carried out in California, Lee and Oxelson found that teachers who taught in a bilingual or ESL classroom and teachers that had experience with a language other than English had more positive attitudes toward bilingualism and heritage language maintenance. This study replicates Lee and Oxelson's survey and will determine whether the findings maintain their validity in this Central Illinois community.

Lee, J., & Oxelson, E. (2006). "It's not my job": K-12 teacher attitudes toward students' heritage language maintenance. *Bilingual Research Journal*, 30(2), 453-477.