

WHICH SCENARIO FOR HISPANICS?

EXPERTS SEE THREE BROAD POSSIBILITIES FOR HISPANICS ' ROLE IN AMERICAN LIFE:

1. MELTING IN [ASSIMILATION]

HISPANICS FOLLOW THE PATH OF ALL OTHER IMMIGRANT GROUPS AND GRADUALLY MELD INTO AMERICAN LIFE, GIVING UP SPANISH AND MARRYING NON-HISPANICS.

2. ACCULTURATION

MOST LATINOS SPEAK BOTH LANGUAGES AND RETAIN MUCH OF THEIR OWN CULTURE AND TIES TO THEIR HOME COUNTRIES, EVEN AS THEY ADAPT TO U.S. LIFESTYLES.

3. MEXIFORNIA

MANY REMAIN IN SPANISH-SPEAKING ENCLAVES AND SET THE CULTURAL AND POLITICAL AGENDA IN SOON-TO-BE MAJORITY-HISPANIC STATES LIKE CALIFORNIA AND TEXAS.

BIDIALECTICAL

--THE USE OF TWO FORMS OF SPOKEN LANGUAGE:

1) **MAINSTREAM STANDARD** (AMERICAN STANDARD ENGLISH)

2) **DIALECT**: A VARIETY OF A LANGUAGE THAT IS DISTINGUISHED FROM OTHER VARIETIES OF THE SAME LANGUAGE BY FEATURES OF:

A. **PHONOLOGY** (PHONETICS [Speech Sounds] & PHONEMICS [the distinctive "utterance" unique to a particular dialect])

B. **GRAMMAR** (Words, Inflections, Syntax, Rules)

C. **VOCABULARY** (Lexicon, Terms, Codes, Wordsets)

AND BY ITS USE BY A GROUP OF SPEAKERS WHO ARE SET OFF FROM OTHERS GEOGRAPHICALLY OR SOCIALLY.

BILINGUALISM IS DEFINED AS A PERSON'S ABILITY TO PROCESS TWO LANGUAGES.

BICULTURALISM

--THE CAPACITY TO FUNCTION EFFECTIVELY AND COMFORTABLY WITHIN TWO DISTINCT CULTURAL CONTEXTS.