

# Year of Languages<sup>1</sup> Attitudinal and Aptitudinal Overview of Language in Granada (Andalusia), Spain and Birmingham (Alabama), USA

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To Summarize  
*para resumir*

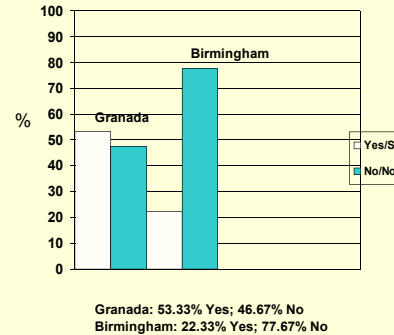
## Introduction *introducción*

- ACTFL and the U.S. Senate have designated 2005 as the "Year of Languages" (Res. 28)<sup>2</sup>
- The EU promoted a similar initiative in 2001
- Within two cities of comparable size-- Birmingham, Alabama and Granada, Spain--how is a foreign language treated?



City proper population 237,663 (2003)

## Percentage of Affirmative vs. Negative Responses *Granada and Birmingham el porcentaje de respuestas afirmativas vs. las negativas*



- 30.67% more English speakers were unable to respond
- 4.33% more Spanish speakers displayed animosity than English speakers

## Discussion *discusión*

This investigation was done in order to better clarify the language needs of our society through comparison to the **sociolinguistic** makeup of a Spanish-speaking community.

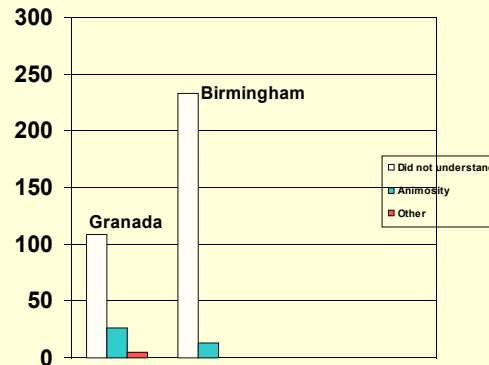
Birmingham **monolingualism** appears to derive from provincialism

Granada animosity due to greater exposure to  
1) English (education, popular culture, tourism)  
and 2) religious **linguicentrism**

## Materials and Methods *materias y métodos*

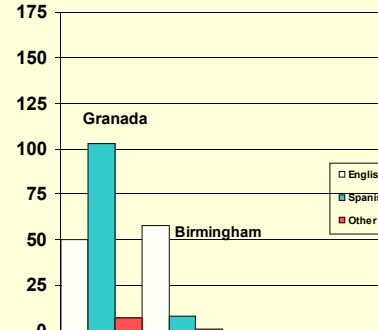
- 600 random members from Spanish and English communities (300 from each)
- Three locations in each respective study sample: place of recreation, campus, shopping center.
- Spanish community: Ask in English (without physical cue): "Perdona. What time is it?"
- English community: Ask in Spanish (without physical cue): "Excuse me. ¿Qué hora es?"

## Negative Responses (Granada vs. Birmingham) *las respuestas negativas*



"Animosity" includes rude looks, comments, or blatant apathy. "Other" includes preoccupation or confusion

## Affirmative Responses (Granada vs. Birmingham) *las respuestas afirmativas*



"Other" includes gestures and answers given in a third language. More native tongue responses vs. foreign language (scaled to 175 from 300)

## References *referencias*

- American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages. "Year of Languages." <http://www.actfl.org/i4a/pages/Index.cfm?pageid=359>. Accessed March 2005.
- Dodd, et al. Res 28, 109th Cong, 1st Sess., 2004.

## Acknowledgments *agradecimientos*

- McNair Program through UAB Graduate Affairs
- Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures
- Dr. Sheri Spaine Long
- Dr. Fran Carrisondo