Introduction

ACTFL and the U.S. Senate have designated 2005 as the "Year of Languages" (Res. 28)\(^2\).

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?

Materials and Methods

- 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?"

Discussion

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.

To Summarize

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

References


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

Affirmative Responses (Granada vs. Birmingham)

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

Granada: 53.33% Yes; 46.67% No
Birmingham: 22.33% Yes; 77.67% No

Negative Responses (Granada vs. Birmingham)

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

Granada: 53.33% Yes; 46.67% No
Birmingham: 22.33% Yes; 77.67% No

Percentage of Affirmative vs. Negative Responses: Granada and Birmingham

el porcentaje de respuestas afirmativas vs. las negativas

Granada: 53.33% Yes; 46.67% No
Birmingham: 22.33% Yes; 77.67% No