

Instrument: What Do You Think? Language and Culture Questionnaire (1988)

Purpose: To measure attitudes of students in elementary school language programs towards the target language and culture

Target grade level: Grades 4, 5, and 6

Language: Spanish

Description: This cultural attitudes questionnaire, adapted from the work of Gardner and Smythe (1974) and Snow (1985), addresses students' cultural awareness, sensitivity to other ethnic groups, and desire to study other languages. This questionnaire was developed as part of a federally-funded research project to answer the question "How do different language programs (FLES, FLEX, and immersion) contribute to the development of attitudes towards other languages and cultures?" The questionnaire includes 53 Statements that students must rate on a 5-point Likert scale ranging from disagree a lot to agree a lot, as well as 20 multiple choice questions. Categories covered in the questions include: the need for achievement, attitudes towards Hispanics, interest in foreign language, interest in Spanish, parental encouragement, instrumental motivation (i.e., usefulness of Spanish), and Spanish class anxiety. Sample Statements to rate include: Learning Spanish is fun, I would like to know Spanish-speaking people better, and I would rather spend my time on subjects other than Spanish.

Materials needed: Language and Culture Questionnaire

Time needed: 25-30 minutes

Test administrator: Classroom teacher

Availability: Available from CAL at cost + shipping and handling on an individual basis if schools agree to provide test results to CAL for research purposes.

Additional information:

Rhodes, N. Thompson, L., and Snow, M. A. 1989. *A Comparison of FLES and Immersion Programs. Final Report to the U.S. Department of Education.* Washington, DC: Center for Applied Linguistics. ERIC Document ED 317 031.

What do YOU Think?

Language and Culture Questionnaire

PLEASE PRINT

Name _____

Grade _____

School _____

Birthdate _____
 month day year

Place of birth _____
 city state country

Circle one: Girl Boy

Note: Your responses to this questionnaire and your identity will be kept confidential.

Center for Language Education and Research, Center for Applied Linguistics, Washington, DC, 1988.

This questionnaire has been adapted with permission from R.C. Gardner and P.C. Smythe's *National Test Battery, Language Research Group*, University of Western Ontario, 1974, and M. A. Snow's *Student Questionnaire*, 1984.

PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

1. Circle the grades in which you have studied Spanish:

Kindergarten 1st 2nd 3rd 4th 5th 6th

2. Did anyone in your family learn Spanish **before** they learned English?

Yes___ No___ If yes, who? _____

Did you? Yes ___ No ___

3. Do you speak Spanish **at home**? Yes___ No___

4. Do you speak Spanish **outside** your home? Yes___ No___

If yes, **where**?

Restaurants___ Stores___ On the street___ Church___

With Spanish-speaking friends___ Other (give an example)_____

If yes, **how often**?

Always___ Often___ Sometimes___ Not a lot___

5. Did anyone in your family learn another language **before** they learned Spanish or English?

Yes___ No___ If yes, what language?_____

How about you? Yes___ No___

6. Have you ever traveled to a country where the people speak Spanish? Yes___ No___

If yes, **which country or countries**?_____

If yes, **how many times**? 1___ 2-3___ 4-5___ more than 6___

Section A

Directions

In this booklet there are a number of statements that some people agree with and others disagree with. There are no right or wrong statements since many people have different opinions. We would like you to give us your opinion (tell us what you think) about each statement. Circle the choice below each statement that best indicates the extent to which you disagree or agree with it.

Here is a sample item. Circle the choice below the statement that best shows your feeling.

1. Michael Jackson is the best singer who has ever lived.

Disagree a lot

Disagree a little

Don't know

Agree a little

Agree a lot

The choice you circled may be different from what other children circled because it indicates your own opinion about Michael Jackson based on everything you have seen or heard. **There is no right or wrong choice.** All that is important is that you indicate what your personal opinion is.

For each of the items on the following pages we want you to indicate what your opinions are. Read each statement carefully and give us your immediate feeling. Please be sure that you understand the statement before you answer it because we really want to find out your true feelings.

1. I hate to do an assignment with less than my best effort.

Disagree a lot Disagree a little Don't know Agree a little Agree a lot

2. Spanish speakers are very sociable, warm-hearted and creative people.

Disagree a lot Disagree a little Don't know Agree a little Agree a lot

3. I enjoy meeting and listening to people who speak other languages.

Disagree a lot Disagree a little Don't know Agree a little Agree a lot

4 People don't usually think of me as a hard worker.

Disagree a lot Disagree a little Don't know Agree a little Agree a lot

5. I enjoy learning Spanish.

Disagree a lot Disagree a little Don't know Agree a little Agree a lot

6. My parents feel that I should really try to learn Spanish.

Disagree a lot Disagree a little Don't know Agree a little Agree a lot

7. I would like to learn a lot of foreign languages.

Disagree a lot Disagree a little Don't know Agree a little Agree a lot

8. Studying Spanish is important because I think it will some day be useful in getting a good Job.

Disagree a lot Disagree a little Don't know Agree a little Agree a lot

9. My parents try to help me with my Spanish.

Disagree a lot Disagree a little Don't know Agree a little Agree a lot

10. I think Spanish is boring.

Disagree a lot Disagree a little Don't know Agree a little Agree a lot

11. I am afraid that the other students will laugh at me when I speak Spanish.

Disagree a lot Disagree a little Don't know Agree a little Agree a lot

12. I enjoy hard work.

Disagree a lot Disagree a little Don't know Agree a little Agree a lot

13. Spanish speakers are considerate of the feelings of others.

Disagree a lot Disagree a little Don't know Agree a little Agree a lot

14. For the most part, Spanish speakers are sincere and honest.

Disagree a lot Disagree a little Don't know Agree a little Agree a lot

15. Spanish speakers are trustworthy and dependable.

Disagree a lot Disagree a little Don't know Agree a little Agree a lot

16. Studying Spanish can be important for me because other people will respect me more if I have knowledge of a foreign language.

Disagree a lot Disagree a little Don't know Agree a little Agree a lot

17. When I leave school, I will try to continue the study of Spanish.

Disagree a lot Disagree a little Don't know Agree a little Agree a lot

18. I want to read books in a foreign language.

Disagree a lot Disagree a little Don't know Agree a little Agree a lot

19. I plan to learn as much Spanish as possible.

Disagree a lot Disagree a little Don't know Agree a little Agree a lot

20. Spanish speakers are very friendly and hospitable.

Disagree a lot Disagree a little Don't know Agree a little Agree a lot

21. I don't stick to goals which turn out to be hard to reach.

Disagree a lot Disagree a little Don't know Agree a little Agree a lot

22. My parents encourage me to practice my Spanish as much as possible.

Disagree a lot Disagree a little Don't know Agree a little Agree a lot

23. My parents have stressed the importance Spanish will have for me when I leave school.

Disagree a lot Disagree a little Don't know Agree a little Agree a lot

24. I don't usually make goals that are difficult for me to reach.

Disagree a lot Disagree a little Don't know Agree a little Agree a lot

25. Spanish is an important part of any school's program.

Disagree a lot Disagree a little Don't know Agree a little Agree a lot

26. Studying Spanish can be important for me because I will be able to participate more freely in the activities of Spanish speakers.

Disagree a lot Disagree a little Don't know Agree a little Agree a lot

27. My parents think that it is worth my time to study Spanish.

Disagree a lot Disagree a little Don't know Agree a little Agree a lot

28. Some of our best citizens come from families that were Spanish speaking.

Disagree a lot Disagree a little Don't know Agree a little Agree a lot

29. I hate Spanish.

Disagree a lot Disagree a little Don't know Agree a little Agree a lot

30. I always feel that other students speak Spanish better than I do.

Disagree a lot Disagree a little Don't know Agree a little Agree a lot

31 . I never feel quite sure of myself when I am speaking in our Spanish class.

Disagree a lot Disagree a little Don't know Agree a little Agree a lot

32. Learning Spanish is fun.

Disagree a lot Disagree a little Don't know Agree a little Agree a lot

33. I get nervous and confused when I am speaking in my Spanish class.

Disagree a lot Disagree a little Don't know Agree a little Agree a lot

34. I love learning Spanish.

Disagree a lot Disagree a little Don't know Agree a little Agree a lot

35. My parents encourage me to study Spanish.

Disagree a lot Disagree a little Don't know Agree a little Agree a lot

36. My parents show considerable interest in anything to do with my studying Spanish.

Disagree a lot Disagree a little Don't know Agree a little Agree a lot

37. Spanish Speakers are very kind and generous people.

Disagree a lot Disagree a little Don't know Agree a little Agree a lot

38. It is important for Americans to learn foreign languages.

Disagree a lot Disagree a little Don't know Agree a little Agree a lot

39. Learning Spanish is a waste of time.

Disagree a lot Disagree a little Don't know Agree a little Agree a lot

40. If I planned to stay in another country, I would make a great effort to learn the language even if I could get along in English.

Disagree a lot Disagree a little Don't know Agree a little Agree a lot

41. It embarrasses me to volunteer answers in our Spanish class.

Disagree a lot Disagree a little Don't know Agree a little Agree a lot

42. I would like to know Spanish-speaking people better.

Disagree a lot Disagree a little Don't know Agree a little Agree a lot

43. Studying Spanish can be important for me because it will allow me to meet and talk with different types of people.

Disagree a lot Disagree a little Don't know Agree a little Agree a lot

44. I would like to know more Spanish speakers.

Disagree a lot Disagree a little Don't know Agree a little Agree a lot

45. I would rather spend my time on subjects other than Spanish.

Disagree a lot Disagree a little Don't know Agree a little Agree a lot

46. Studying Spanish can be important for me because it will make me a more knowledgeable person.

Disagree a lot Disagree a little Don't know Agree a little Agree a lot

47. My parents feel that I should continue Studying Spanish all through school.

Disagree a lot Disagree a little Don't know Agree a little Agree a lot

48. The more I get to know Spanish speakers, the more I want to be fluent in their language.

Disagree a lot Disagree a little Don't know Agree a little Agree a lot

49. I am not really very certain what I want to do when I'm older.

Disagree a lot Disagree a little Don't know Agree a little Agree a lot

50. If I were visiting a foreign country I would like to be able to speak the language of the people.

Disagree a lot Disagree a little Don't know Agree a little Agree a lot

51. If I had to make a choice, I would prefer to do a Job that was very hard for me, rather than one that was very easy.

Disagree a lot Disagree a little Don't know Agree a little Agree a lot

52. The more I learn about Spanish-speaking people the more I like them.

Disagree a lot Disagree a little Don't know Agree a little Agree a lot

53. I often wish I could read newspapers and magazines in another language.

Disagree a lot Disagree a little Don't know Agree a little Agree a lot

End of Section A. Please go on to Section B.

Section B

Directions

Please complete each of the following sentences by circling the letter of the **one** choice that you agree with. We want to remind you that no teacher will see your questionnaire or any of your answers.

1. If there were a Spanish Club in my school, I would:

- a) not join.
- b) attend meetings regularly.
- c) attend meetings once in a while.

2. I find studying Spanish:

- a) very interesting.
- b) about as interesting as most subjects.
- c) not interesting.

3. If Spanish were not taught in school, I would:

- a) not bother learning Spanish at all.
- b) try to obtain lessons in Spanish somewhere else.
- c) pick up Spanish in everyday situations (for example, read Spanish books and newspapers, try to speak it whenever possible, etc.).

4. If it were up to me whether or not to take Spanish, I:

- a) don't know whether I would take it or not.
- b) would definitely take it.
- c) would drop it.

5. When it comes to Spanish homework, I:

- a) just read it over very quickly.
- b) put some effort into it, but not as much as I could.
- c) work very carefully, making sure I understand everything.

6. After I get my Spanish assignments back, I:

- a) throw them in my desk and forget them.
- b) always rewrite them, correcting my mistakes.
- c) look them over, but don't bother correcting mistakes.

7. When I have a problem understanding something we are learning in Spanish class, I:

- a) just forget about it.
- b) immediately ask the teacher for help.
- c) only seek help just before the test

8. Compared to my other classes, I like Spanish:

- a) the most.
- b) least of all.
- c) about the same as all the others.

9. If I had the opportunity and knew enough Spanish, I would read Spanish magazines and newspapers:

- a) as often as I could.
- b) not very often.
- c) never.

10. I can honestly say that I:

- a) will do well in Spanish on the basis of sheer luck or intelligence because I really do very little work.
- b) really try to learn Spanish.
- c) do just enough work to get along.

11. During Spanish class, I would like my teacher and classmates to speak:

- a) only Spanish.
- b) a combination of Spanish and English.
- c) as much English as possible.

12. If my teacher wanted someone to do an extra Spanish assignment, I would:

- a) definitely not volunteer.
- b) only do it if the teacher asked me directly.
- c) definitely volunteer.

13. If I had the opportunity to speak Spanish outside of school, I would:

- a) never speak it.
- b) speak it occasionally, using English whenever possible.
- c) speak Spanish most of the time, using English only if really necessary.

14. If the opportunity arose and I knew enough Spanish, I would watch Spanish T.V. programs:

- a) never.
- b) sometimes.
- c) as often as possible.

15. I actively think about what I have learned in my Spanish class:

- a) hardly ever.
- b) once in a while.
- c) very frequently.

16. If I had the opportunity to see a Spanish play, I would:

- a) definitely go.
- b) go only if I had nothing else to do.
- c) not go.

17. When I hear a Spanish song on the radio, I:

- a) change the Station.
- b) listen to the music, paying attention only to the easy words.
- c) listen carefully and try to understand all the words.

18. If there were Spanish-speaking families in my neighborhood, I would:

- a) speak Spanish with them as much as possible.
- b) speak Spanish with them sometimes.
- c) never speak Spanish with them.

19. If there were a local Spanish T.V. Station, I would:

- a) never watch it.
- b) try to watch it often.
- c) turn it on occasionally.

20. When I am in Spanish class, I:

- a) never say anything.
- b) answer only the easier questions.
- c) volunteer answers as much as possible.

The End... Thank you very much!