
THE DEPARTMENT OF LINGUISTICS &
ASIAN/MIDDLE EASTERN LANGUAGES
IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE
A FACULTY CANDIDATE TALK BY

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Wednesday, February 1st
9:00-10:00am BioScience Center

THE INTEGRATION OF ENGLISH NOUNS
INTO BILINGUAL SONORAN SPANISH

This study furthers our understanding of lone other language items (LOLIs) in bilingual discourse and their status as either borrowings or codeswitches by measuring degree of incorporation as an indicator. Following Torres Cacoullos and Aaron (2003), I test determiner realization in noun-headed NPs based on several linguistic factors: specificity, grammatical function, presence of a modifier, string position, polarity, and semantic class. A total of 2,399 nouns from 40 sociolinguistic interviews from 8 Spanish monolinguals from Sonora, Mexico, 8 English monolinguals from Arizona, and 24 Spanish-English bilinguals from Arizona (from Sonoran families) are compared. The results show that LOLIs act morphosyntactically like Spanish nouns. Also tested is the correlation between morphosyntactic and phonological (based on a perception experiment involving the investigator and 19 monolingual English participants) integration of LOLIs. Spanish phonology LOLIs are morphosyntactically similar to Spanish nouns and LOLIs with English phonology are similar to English nouns. These findings suggest that phonological integration is a factor that should be brought back into the classification of LOLIs.