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## Immigrant language and identity: A story of contact across time in Londombia

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## **Immigrant language and identity: A story of contact across time in *Londombia***

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In London, Ontario, Spanish is the second most common immigrant language, and Colombian-Canadians compose the largest Hispanic community. For this reason the city is sometimes affectionately nicknamed *Londombia*. In situations such as this, effects of contact between cultures and languages are inevitable. It is these effects that my research investigates. For example, I investigate how the use of Colombian Spanish changes across generations in Canada. Specifically, I focus on the use of Spanish subject pronouns (SPs). In English, the use of SPs is usually mandatory; for example, if you attempted to read this paragraph without the words “you” and “I”, the text would be ungrammatical. However, in Spanish SPs are often optional. In my study, I determine whether contact with English has triggered a higher frequency use of SPs among Colombian-Canadians. I also consider how second generation speakers construct their national identities and how identity influences their use of Spanish.

(Word count: 150 words)



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