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An Examination of the Perceptions of Cuban and Peninsular Spanish Varieties by Native, L2 Learners of Spanish, and Monolingual English Speakers

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Western Inspiring Minds
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An Examination of the Perceptions of Cuban and Peninsular Spanish Varieties by Native, L2 Learners of Spanish, and Monolingual English Speakers

An accent can tell a lot about a person, such as where they are from, but they can also allow others to form unconscious perceptions, judgments, and even stereotypes simply based on that way of speech. The purpose of this investigation is to examine the attitudes of a variety of individuals such as native Spanish speakers, those learning Spanish as a second language, and even monolingual English speakers towards Cuban and Peninsular varieties of Spanish. Specifically, I look to analyze the rate at which this cohort of individuals is able to correctly recognize the Cuban and Peninsular Spanish varieties and whether the perceptions of these speakers differ. After careful consideration, I chose these accents as they are quite distinct from one another, especially in the Spanish speaking world. Ultimately, this research aims to determine if there is a predominant stigma or notion of prestige attributed to either accent.

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