

Reflection

When learning Spanish, I had expected it to be harder than anticipated. Learning a new language can always prove to be challenging but I was confident that I would focus on the content of the language to learn the languages structure easily. Since I took French in high school, and Spanish has some similarities with French, it was easily to understand the basics of the language but there were man challenges faced along the way.

The beginning of learning the language was easy to grasp. Most of what we were learning was the structure of Masculine and Feminine which is what I compared to French and used as a similarity. We learned basic conversation starters and about how to great each other and talk about ourselves as well as our families and things we like do. The most difficult task for me was the pronunciation of certain letters that sound different then the English alphabet. With Spanish, many words are meant to roll off the tongue and some can easily be unheard or misinterpreted. It took me a bit to grasp the speaking portion of the language and understand how certain letters go in certain words or phrases but with a lot of hard work and practice, I will be able to speak the language smoothly.

For writing, it was mainly focused on writing formally and informally as well as structure. In English, things are said exactly how they are meant. In Spanish, it's a bit different, what someone may mean might be said in a different way/order depending on if the words are possessive or descriptive. Grammar has defiantly been a struggle but understanding how to use possessive adjectives/words and studying on how to format sentences, it's gotten easier to write out in descriptions. For example, in our composition 1 writing, we were asked to describe our families by using nouns and adjectives. I've had many errors but learned to overcome them. One of my strengths, I would say, is being able to conjugate words correctly and understand what the changes mean and how to interpret it.

From the perspective of reading, my struggles were similar to those I've had with my writing. When reading Spanish, it can't be read exactly how it is worded. With many phrases in Spanish, some words are not read literally and are interpreted into other words in the sentence. For example, the phrase "¿Qué hay de nuevo?" the English translation is "What's new?" yet not every word in that is translated directly. A lot of our online assignments were reliant on being able to read and understand sentences to help with our vocabulary and conjugation. Practicing reading and understanding sentences helped on being able to translate phrases from Spanish to English properly without misconception of words and made it easier to remember certain vocabulary that was needed frequently in our activities.

Spanish has help me broaden my ideas of language and culture. There are many Spanish speakers in America which makes me feel more confident in being able to speak this language outside of the course I will be taking and use to engage in the outside world. Working retail, I encounter many Spanish speakers who I would love to be able to conversate with thoroughly and help them with getting their task done. Going through this course has helped me understand the differences and similarities in different languages. Many translations, words, even formatting can

be found in the basics of other languages. This helps with having the skills and knowledge to learn a new language, if one were to do so, making it easy to comprehend.