

Christian Waldon

Profesorra Alfaro

Span101F

7/29/2022

Artifacts

Cheek Kisses in the states were a very foreign concept to me for a long time. I grew up seeing actors in movies doing things like that. Still, it was usually dramatized by the film as being something rich people did.. When I entered a Hispanic household in middle school, my friend's mom greeted me with two kisses on the cheek, and I felt so acquired. Like I had done it wrong. Like am I supposed to kiss her cheek or make a smooching noise. I think it's pretty funny when it happens because I always wonder if I'm doing it correctly to respect other people's cultures. It's something that's just not familiar to me or my cultural upbringing, but I don't see any issues with it outside of health concerns because of the recent pandemic. The coolest part is that you feel more instantly connected with people because it's like an instant interaction. I cant image being on a sports team and the first thing you do is give your team mates cheek kisses then a pep talk right after! They'd probably jump back like 50 feet!

I know that in America, we have plenty of holidays that are spent celebrating joyfully, such as the passing of the fourth of July. Come to think about it though, many of our holidays usually arent spent around people we don't know but rather just close friends and family. Watching all of the celebrations in Spain was just an excellent five minutes. Hanging out with everyone in the entire community and from afar celebrating some traditions that date back hundreds of years, some of which are more formal than others, but people of all ages participate. I don't know how id feels about drinking from feet in grapes, but hey, I eat my grandma's food, and it tastes like she puts her foot in it; that's what people say in the black community, haha. My favorite tradition that I saw on the list would have been the carnival in Tenerife. This is the carnival held after the weekend of ash Wednesday. Held in February in Santa Cruz, individuals worldwide come to celebrate. People are looking to break the chains lose after celebrating lent! Mi gusta carnaval tenerife en febuareo. Para, Mi familias fiestats favoritas es el vintecincio en decembre. Navid mi familia y yo abrimos un regalo el día anterior.

Exploring Culture

My understanding of Hispanic and Latin cultures has juristically changed over the short course of 6 weeks. I learned about traditional holidays from Hispanic countries that highlight the ability of communities to come together to celebrate century-old traditions. Some modern practices celebrate more as what Americans call a party. Others encompass traditional clothing and objects that highlight the past. You can see that history is not just a party. Regardless of its Carnaval, individuals enjoy celebrating with people they do not know but have a common goal. This is different from America. We spend most of our time celebrating with people we are familiar with, which is not bad. It is just a diverse cultural standpoint. This can be found even in how we greet people in the United States vs. Hispanic countries.

Cheek kisses were a topic of one of my prior Discussion boards writing this past semester. Cheek kisses are held and only given to close family members in the United States. In so, it is typical for only children to do with grandparents and stop shortly after a certain age. In Latino and Hispanic countries, cheek kisses are a greeting, a way of being close to one another, and becoming more personal. I delved into how I had experienced cheeked kisses before; it was so new and foreign. That is what it was like this semester to learn about Hispanic cultures. It is fresh and unfamiliar, opening your mind to ideas and ways of thought that you have never looked at before. I see the world more as a place to want to explore something that you cannot understand fully from behind a computer screen. This is silly, but one stereotype I had was that chipotle was real Hispanic food. I learned this was not the case when working with my jefe. Issac invited me to his casa for dinner and let me taste freshly made tortillas, hand rolled out of the

oven. The difference between processed food and those made authentically by its culture was eye-opening.

Engaging in Communities

Engaging in your community and globally is essential as it grows your scope of how you view the world. Learning to speak, understand, and read Spanish allows you to engage with a more sizable portion of people worldwide. Some enjoy spending their time traveling for pleasure while others for work. If you need to speak to someone for direction, where to find food and clothing, or get home, you become more self-sufficient when making decisions. My patriation involving the community deals with the community service I have done with children and young adults. I have spent time engaging with high school students to teach them about education opportunities, why grades are important, and understanding magnificent work ethics. I have coached middle school wrestling teams to inspire the next generation of great athletes. When patriating in Hispanic communities, this is one area I wish to seek improvement. I have worked in a Hispanic majority environment where I was the only English speaker. I learned more rapidly how to pick up the conversation, although being a mentor turned me into a student of culture and language. Although I never touched on this in a writing assignment, the first disruptor talks about the first time I received cheek kisses, learning how to become familiar with concepts outside of my own. Something I would have never known if I never decided to engage further outside my boundaries

Interpersonal Communication

Though the Spanish 101f course was so beneficial in the success of my understanding of conversations outside the classroom, I am a part of a boxing gym where a large majority of

Hispanic individuals are. When listening to conversations, I try to understand the words they are saying in Spanish before asking for help deciphering them in English. Over the past week, I decided to bring one of my Spanish books and vocabulary to the boxing gym. As I was studying, a guy we will call Mr. walked over and corrected the way I was saying Vivo. Notifying me that the “V” sounds like a “B.” more so, telling me more efficient ways to learn Spanish if I am serious. Repeat words ten times a row each time you see something you do not know, watching your favorite movie in Spanish with American subtitles. He allowed me to practice conversing with him, asking me questions like what time it was, my name, or pronouncing a specific number. I thought I did pretty with the more fundamental questions! I was still unconverted because it was not just for a computer screen; it was happening in real-time. I learn to relax, let the words come to me, and my thoughts translate into Spanish.

Presentational Speaking

I am a member of the Virginia Advance Speakers Club (VAST). Toastmaster is an organization that allows initials to train and work on their public speaking skills. VAST is a club filled with a diverse group of members who are very well talented speakers. Individuals may have thicker accents that they choose to work on and ask for feedback from English speakers on pronunciation. This is like the reflection in interpersonal communication but with reverse roles. Individuals can help those trying to learn English speak and perform better diction. In a judgmental-free zone that allows for growth. I experienced similar difficulties when working through the congressional assignments, in which we were asked to record our voices. I would listen to the voice recording that I had recorded and then to how the pronunciation was supposed to be pronounced. Continuously having trouble but persisting to practice is what helped me,

Presentation Writing

As shown on page one, both writings were written on discussion boards for Span101f. Writing the discussion boards caused me to expand my writing skills while incorporating more of who I am inside my script. I enjoy making writing personal and not robotic so that the reader can flow with what is being read coherently; it became easier to write in Spanish as my vocabulary knowledge has grown, and it was difficult to use the correct tenses in writing. In English, we would say that the intelligent woman; in Spanish, we say women are wise. Understanding the grammatical structure was a significant difficulty for me, but as the class moved to chapters four and five, these became a lot more fluent but needed more work.

Interpretive Listening

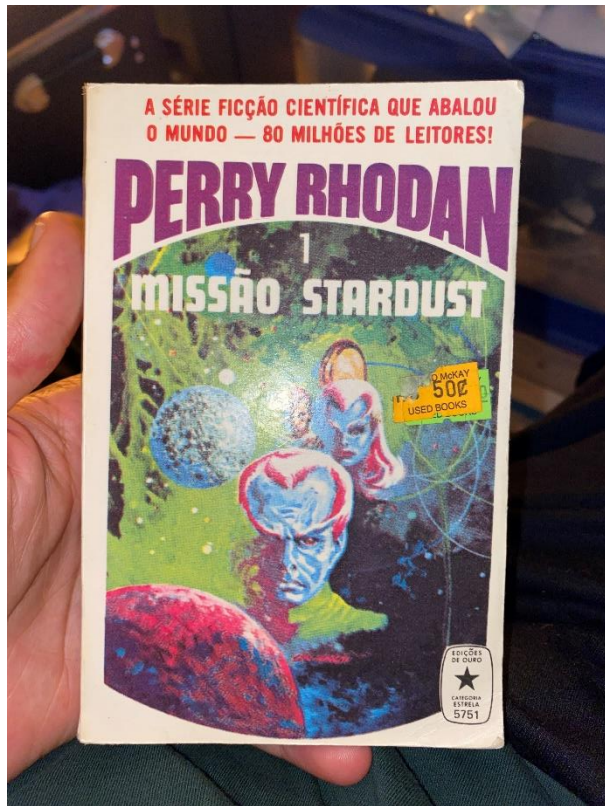
This semester I completed multiple interpretive learning activities both inside the classroom and outside. The most practical learning came from using the current forms of verbs and adjectives on the lingo learning website. Hearing the word being spoken and picking up the tense in which the verb was being said was a foundation block that transferred to my reading (see next section). Outside of just the lingo learning activities, I also decided to watch some of my favorite television shows in Spanish and YouTube videos of different people having conversations in Spanish. I did this to become more familiar with the different speeds, accents, and word choices those Hispanic cultures speak. Watching my favorite show provided an interactive way for me to be compelled by what was being said.



The artifact above is from a YouTube short of the television show the amazing world of gumball. This episode is about a secret that the children find inside of their house. This show is created for children so it uses more basic words and grammar structure which makes it a lot easier for viewers to follow along with. One way communication is one of the best ways for me to pick up and learn Espanola

Interpretive reading

This semester the lingo learning assignment provided prompted reading for students to develop a greater understanding of professional and no professional communication. The fact that communication we read in class was used in texting or email formats made the content much more relatable. I was seeing how people may talk over text vs. professional emails for nominations. This semester I also purchased my first Spanish book about space generals, a science fiction book. I am having a tough time reading it, and that's okay. I will search up words I do not know and read the same page four or five times to understand what's going on. Also, when watching television shows in Spanish, ill care them twice, so I may go back and have the complete episode in Spanish with Spanish subtitles to place the words with what is spoken.



The artifact above is called “missao Stardust” otherwise known as mission stardust. A sci0fi adventure where a team of astronauts goes to the moon to rescue an alian and her dying race. They are attacked by robots and must fend for themselves. This book introduces a lot more terms centered around military, weaponry, and space crafts, so it’s really cool! It causes me to grow my vocabulary a lot and be patient when reading.