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THE LANGUAGE CONTACT PROFILE

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Efforts to gather data of various sorts—demographics, language-learning history, contact with native speakers, use of the language in the field—as they relate to participants in SLA research studies are inherent to understanding more about language acquisition and use. Scholars frequently develop questionnaires of their own, which are rarely shared widely in the profession. Consequently, much time and effort is invested in reinventing the process of gathering the types of data that are commonly needed.

The document we present here—a questionnaire to assess second language contact for students entering and completing language study programs in various contexts of learning (academic classrooms, intensive domestic immersion, and study abroad)—has proven useful to us, our colleagues, and students in a variety of projects. The form in which it appears here has evolved over the last decade since our first adaptation of prior language-learning questionnaires developed by a series of SLA researchers. A document entitled "The Language Contact Profile" was used by Seliger (1977). A year later, Bialystok (1978) adapted this questionnaire for her work, and Spada subsequently adapted it for her own use in 1986. In 1985, Day used some form of a language contact profile for his research.

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In 1990, Freed refined and expanded what she came to call the Language Contact Profile (LCP) in her first project on the effects of language learning in a study abroad context and used it again in 1995. Since then, it has been continuously fine-tuned and has been used in a number of complementary studies. In 2001 we explored the best possible ways to elicit information that we deemed useful for students studying in a variety of contexts. This version has since been used by colleagues and students in a number of projects (Paige, Cohen, Kappler, Chi, & Lassegard, 2002; Dewey, 2002; Kohro, 2001; Mendelson, in preparation).

Because we are asked with great frequency to share copies of the LCP and because it was an integral research instrument in the studies reported in this issue (Freed, Segalowitz, & Dewey; Segalowitz & Freed), numerous anonymous *SSLA* reviewers requested a detailed version of it. In the following pages, two versions of the LCP are presented: a pretest version to be used at the beginning of a study, and a posttest version to be given at the conclusion of a study abroad project. We welcome communications from colleagues as to the use they have made of the LCP and productive changes that they have made to it.

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PRETEST VERSION OF THE LANGUAGE CONTACT PROFILE

PROJECT: ACQUISITION OF SPANISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

The responses that you give in this questionnaire will be kept confidential. This cover sheet is to allow the researcher to associate your responses with your name if needed. However, only the people entering your responses into the computer will see this name. An identification number will be used in place of your name when referring to your responses in publications. Every effort will be made to keep your responses confidential.

Thank you for your cooperation. The information that you provide will help us to better understand the backgrounds of students who are studying Spanish in various contexts. Your honest and detailed responses will be greatly appreciated.

Name: _____

Part 1: Background Information

1. Gender: Male / Female
2. Age: ___
3. Country of birth: _____
4. What is your native language? 1) English 2) Spanish 3) Other _____
5. What language(s) do you speak at home? 1) English 2) Spanish 3) Other _____
5a. If more than one, with whom do you speak each of these languages? _____
6. In what language(s) did you receive the majority of your *precollege* education?
   1) English 2) Other _____
6a. If more than one, please give the approximate number of years for each language. _____
7. Have you ever been to a Spanish-speaking region *for the purpose of studying Spanish*?
   Circle one: Yes / No
7a. If yes, when? _____ 7b. Where? _____
7c. For how long? ___1 semester or less ___2 semesters ___more than 2 semesters
8. Other than the experience mentioned in Question 7, have you ever lived in a situation where you were exposed to a language other than your native language (e.g., by living in a multilingual community; visiting a community for purposes of study abroad or work; exposure through family members, etc.)? Circle one: Yes / No

   If Yes, please give details below. If more than three, list others on back of this page.

	Experience 1	Experience 2	Experience 3
Country/region			
Language			
Purpose			
From when to when			

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9. In the boxes below, rate your language ability in each of the languages that you know. Use the following ratings: 0) Poor, 1) Good, 2) Very good, 3) Native/nativelike.

   How many years (if any) have you *studied* this language in a *formal school* setting?

Language	Listening	Speaking	Reading	Writing	Number of years of study
English					
Spanish					
Other					

10. Have you studied Spanish in school in the past at each of the levels listed below? If yes, for how long?
    a) Elementary school: _No _Yes: _less than 1 year _1–2 years _more than 2 years
    b) Junior high (middle) school: _No _Yes: _less than 1 year _1–2 years _more than 2 years
    c) Senior high school: _No _Yes: _less than 1 year _1–2 years _more than 2 years
    d) University/college: _No _Yes: _less than 1 year _1–2 years _more than 2 years
    e) Other (Please specify) _____:
    _No _Yes: _less than 1 year _1–2 years _more than 2 years
11. What year are you in school? (circle one):
    Freshman Sophomore Junior Senior Graduate student Other
12. What is your major?

Part 2: All of the Questions That Follow Refer to Your Use of Spanish, Not Your Native Language, Unless the Question Says Otherwise

13. On average, how often did you *communicate* with native or fluent speakers of Spanish *in Spanish* in the year prior to the start of this semester?
    0) never 1) a few times a year 2) monthly 3) weekly 4) daily
14. Use this scale provided to rate the following statements.
    0) never 1) a few times a year 2) monthly 3) weekly 4) daily
    Prior to this semester, I tried to speak Spanish to:
    ___ a. my instructor outside of class
    ___ b. friends who are native or fluent speakers of Spanish
    ___ c. classmates
    ___ d. strangers whom I thought could speak Spanish
    ___ e. a host family, if living in a Spanish-speaking area
    ___ f. service personnel (e.g., bank clerk, cashier)
15. For each of the items below, choose the response that corresponds to the amount of time you estimate you spent on average doing each activity *in Spanish* prior to this semester.
    a. watching Spanish language television
    0) never 1) a few times a year 2) monthly 3) weekly 4) daily
    b. reading Spanish language newspapers
    0) never 1) a few times a year 2) monthly 3) weekly 4) daily
    c. reading novels in Spanish
    0) never 1) a few times a year 2) monthly 3) weekly 4) daily
    d. listening to songs in Spanish
    0) never 1) a few times a year 2) monthly 3) weekly 4) daily

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e. reading Spanish language magazines
0) never 1) a few times a year 2) monthly 3) weekly 4) daily
f. watching movies or videos in Spanish
0) never 1) a few times a year 2) monthly 3) weekly 4) daily

16. List any other activities that you commonly did using Spanish prior to this semester.
17. Please list all the Spanish courses you are taking this semester. This includes Spanish language courses as well as content area courses taught in the Spanish language.

Course name	Course number	Brief description

POSTTEST VERSION OF THE LANGUAGE CONTACT PROFILE

PROJECT: ACQUISITION OF SPANISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

The responses that you give in this questionnaire will be kept confidential. This cover sheet is to allow the researcher to associate your responses with your name if needed. However, only the people entering your responses into the computer will see this name. An identification number will be used in place of your name when referring to your responses in publications. Every effort will be made to keep your responses confidential.

The information that you provide will help us to better understand the learning experiences of students of Spanish. Your honest and detailed responses will be greatly appreciated.

Name: _____
Please indicate the Spanish language courses you are taking this fall semester:

Course name	Course number	Brief description

1. Which situation best describes your living arrangements in Spain during the past semester?
   a. ___ I lived in the home of a Spanish-speaking family.
      i. List the members of the family (e.g., mother, father, one 4-year-old daughter, one 13-year-old son).
      ii. Did they speak English? Circle one: Yes / No
      iii. Were there other nonnative speakers of Spanish living with your host family? Circle one: Yes / No

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b. ___ I lived in the student dormitory.
   i. ___ I had a private room.
   ii. ___ I had a roommate who was a native or fluent Spanish speaker.
   iii. ___ I lived with others who are NOT native or fluent Spanish speakers.
c. ___ I lived alone in a room or an apartment.
d. ___ I lived in a room or an apartment with native or fluent Spanish speaker(s).
e. ___ I lived in a room or an apartment with others who are NOT native or fluent Spanish speakers.
f. ___ Other. Please specify: _____

For the following items, please specify:
(i) How many *days per week* you typically used Spanish in the situation indicated, and
(ii) on average how many *hours per day* you did so.

Circle the appropriate numbers.

2. On average, how much time did you spend speaking, *in Spanish*, outside of class with native or fluent Spanish speakers during this semester?
   Typically, how many *days per week*? 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7
   On those days, typically how many *hours per day*? 0–1 1–2 2–3 3–4 4–5 more than 5
3. This semester, outside of class, I tried to speak *Spanish to*:

3a. my instructor
   Typically, how many *days per week*? 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7
   On those days, typically how many *hours per day*? 0–1 1–2 2–3 3–4 4–5 more than 5

3b. friends who are native or fluent Spanish speakers
   Typically, how many *days per week*? 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7
   On those days, typically how many *hours per day*? 0–1 1–2 2–3 3–4 4–5 more than 5

3c. classmates
   Typically, how many *days per week*? 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7
   On those days, typically how many *hours per day*? 0–1 1–2 2–3 3–4 4–5 more than 5

3d. strangers whom I thought could speak Spanish
   Typically, how many *days per week*? 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7
   On those days, typically how many *hours per day*? 0–1 1–2 2–3 3–4 4–5 more than 5

3e. a host family, Spanish roommate, or other Spanish speakers in the dormitory
   Typically, how many *days per week*? 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7
   On those days, typically how many *hours per day*? 0–1 1–2 2–3 3–4 4–5 more than 5

3f. service personnel
   Typically, how many *days per week*? 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7
   On those days, typically how many *hours per day*? 0–1 1–2 2–3 3–4 4–5 more than 5

3g. other; specify:
   Typically, how many *days per week*? 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7
   On those days, typically how many *hours per day*? 0–1 1–2 2–3 3–4 4–5 more than 5

4. How often did you use Spanish outside the classroom for each of the following purposes?

4a. to clarify classroom-related work
   Typically, how many *days per week*? 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7
   On those days, typically how many *hours per day*? 0–1 1–2 2–3 3–4 4–5 more than 5

4b. to obtain directions or information (e.g., “Where is the post office?”, “What time is the train to . . . ?”, “How much are stamps?”)
   Typically, how many *days per week*? 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7
   On those days, typically how many *hours per day*? 0–1 1–2 2–3 3–4 4–5 more than 5

4c. for superficial or brief exchanges (e.g., greetings, “Please pass the salt,” “I’m leaving,” ordering in a restaurant) with my host family, Spanish roommate, or acquaintances in a Spanish-speaking dormitory
   Typically, how many *days per week*? 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7
   On those days, typically how many *hours per day*? 0–1 1–2 2–3 3–4 4–5 more than 5

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4d. extended conversations with my host family, Spanish roommate, friends, or acquaintances in a Spanish-speaking dormitory, native speakers of English with whom I speak Spanish
Typically, how many *days per week*? 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7
On those days, typically how many *hours per day*? 0–1 1–2 2–3 3–4 4–5 more than 5

5a. How often did you try deliberately to use things you were taught in the classroom (grammar, vocabulary, expressions) with native or fluent speakers outside the classroom?
Typically, how many *days per week*? 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7
On those days, typically how many *hours per day*? 0–1 1–2 2–3 3–4 4–5 more than 5

5b. How often did you take things you learned outside of the classroom (grammar, vocabulary, expressions) back to class for question or discussion?
Typically, how many *days per week*? 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7
On those days, typically how many *hours per day*? 0–1 1–2 2–3 3–4 4–5 more than 5

6. How much time did you spend doing the following *each week*?

6a. speaking a language other than English or Spanish to speakers of that language (e.g., Chinese with a Chinese-speaking friend)
Typically, how many *days per week*? 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7
On those days, typically how many *hours per day*? 0–1 1–2 2–3 3–4 4–5 more than 5

6b. speaking *Spanish* to native or fluent speakers of *Spanish*
Typically, how many *days per week*? 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7
On those days, typically how many *hours per day*? 0–1 1–2 2–3 3–4 4–5 more than 5

6c. speaking *English* to native or fluent speakers of *Spanish*
Typically, how many *days per week*? 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7
On those days, typically how many *hours per day*? 0–1 1–2 2–3 3–4 4–5 more than 5

6d. speaking *Spanish* to nonnative speakers of *Spanish* (i.e., classmates)
Typically, how many *days per week*? 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7
On those days, typically how many *hours per day*? 0–1 1–2 2–3 3–4 4–5 more than 5

6e. speaking *English* to nonnative speakers of *Spanish* (i.e., classmates)
Typically, how many *days per week*? 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7
On those days, typically how many *hours per day*? 0–1 1–2 2–3 3–4 4–5 more than 5

7. How much time did you spend doing each of the following activities *outside of class*?

7a. overall, in reading in Spanish *outside of class*
Typically, how many *days per week*? 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7
On those days, typically how many *hours per day*? 0–1 1–2 2–3 3–4 4–5 more than 5

7b. reading Spanish newspapers *outside of class*
Typically, how many *days per week*? 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7
On those days, typically how many *hours per day*? 0–1 1–2 2–3 3–4 4–5 more than 5

7c. reading novels in Spanish *outside of class*
Typically, how many *days per week*? 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7
On those days, typically how many *hours per day*? 0–1 1–2 2–3 3–4 4–5 more than 5

7d. reading Spanish language magazines *outside of class*
Typically, how many *days per week*? 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7
On those days, typically how many *hours per day*? 0–1 1–2 2–3 3–4 4–5 more than 5

7e. reading schedules, announcements, menus, and the like in Spanish *outside of class*
Typically, how many *days per week*? 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7
On those days, typically how many *hours per day*? 0–1 1–2 2–3 3–4 4–5 more than 5

7f. reading e-mail or Internet web pages in Spanish *outside of class*
Typically, how many *days per week*? 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7
On those days, typically how many *hours per day*? 0–1 1–2 2–3 3–4 4–5 more than 5

7g. overall, in listening to Spanish *outside of class*
Typically, how many *days per week*? 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7
On those days, typically how many *hours per day*? 0–1 1–2 2–3 3–4 4–5 more than 5

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7h. listening to Spanish television and radio *outside of class*
Typically, how many *days per week*? 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7
On those days, typically how many *hours per day*? 0–1 1–2 2–3 3–4 4–5 more than 5

7i. listening to Spanish movies or videos *outside of class*
Typically, how many *days per week*? 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7
On those days, typically how many *hours per day*? 0–1 1–2 2–3 3–4 4–5 more than 5

7j. listening to Spanish songs *outside of class*
Typically, how many *days per week*? 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7
On those days, typically how many *hours per day*? 0–1 1–2 2–3 3–4 4–5 more than 5

7k. trying to catch other people's conversations in Spanish *outside of class*
Typically, how many *days per week*? 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7
On those days, typically how many *hours per day*? 0–1 1–2 2–3 3–4 4–5 more than 5

7l. overall, in writing in Spanish *outside of class*
Typically, how many *days per week*? 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7
On those days, typically how many *hours per day*? 0–1 1–2 2–3 3–4 4–5 more than 5

7m. writing homework assignments in Spanish *outside of class*
Typically, how many *days per week*? 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7
On those days, typically how many *hours per day*? 0–1 1–2 2–3 3–4 4–5 more than 5

7n. writing personal notes or letters in Spanish *outside of class*
Typically, how many *days per week*? 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7
On those days, typically how many *hours per day*? 0–1 1–2 2–3 3–4 4–5 more than 5

7o. writing e-mail in Spanish *outside of class*
Typically, how many *days per week*? 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7
On those days, typically how many *hours per day*? 0–1 1–2 2–3 3–4 4–5 more than 5

7p. filling in forms or questionnaires in Spanish *outside of class*
Typically, how many *days per week*? 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7
On those days, typically how many *hours per day*? 0–1 1–2 2–3 3–4 4–5 more than 5

8. On average, how much time did you spend speaking in *English* outside of class during this semester?
Typically, how many *days per week*? 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7
On those days, typically how many *hours per day*? 0–1 1–2 2–3 3–4 4–5 more than 5

9. How often did you do the following activities in *English* during this semester in Spain?

9a. reading newspapers, magazines, or novels or watching movies, television, or videos
Typically, how many *days per week*? 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7
On those days, typically how many *hours per day*? 0–1 1–2 2–3 3–4 4–5 more than 5

9b. reading e-mail or Internet web pages in English
Typically, how many *days per week*? 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7
On those days, typically how many *hours per day*? 0–1 1–2 2–3 3–4 4–5 more than 5

9c. writing e-mail in English
Typically, how many *days per week*? 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7
On those days, typically how many *hours per day*? 0–1 1–2 2–3 3–4 4–5 more than 5

9d. writing personal notes and letters in English
Typically, how many *days per week*? 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7
On those days, typically how many *hours per day*? 0–1 1–2 2–3 3–4 4–5 more than 5

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