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Literacy narrative  
ENG 1121-section D447

I am hispanic, i am bilingual and i am a student. I am someone that has always spoken two languages at home. When i was younger my days always consisted of speaking both languages or just combining them and speaking spanglish. The two languages i speak are english and spanish, beside the “broken english”. Growing up i knew that i had to speak spanish to my parent and speak english to my siblings. My parents have many years in the united states but can never get rid of that accent or speak “normal english”. They have a barrier that kinda sorts their life from many opportunities. Of Course these barriers were created by people who believe that they are illiterate.

Growing up, in middle school i was placed in esl class (English Second Language). When i was in this class i always felt out of space because i spoke english very well, better than most students in the class.They probably just placed me in the class because spanish was my first language and english wasn't. I never took an exam to be placed in this class or too test my english skills. I always felt like i didn't have a say because they just categorized me for being bilingual. This affected me in many ways, not being able to interfere with students of other cultures but just spanish speaking kids. Being in esl some of our classes were in spanish. But how were we supposed to “learn” more english if we kept speaking spanish? When i got to 7th grade i was able to tell my

parents that i wanted to get out of esl and be placed in a regular class. I took the placement exam and passed with an highscore. That exam was like for elementary students for me it was so easy. i knew i should of never been placed in esl.

Literacy is defined as the ability to read and write. For me literacy means to be able to understand what you read and write. Literacy experiences show us how we use the different techniques from languages and write and how we read and interpret it. Literacy is an important factor because if i would of never shown my ability to speak, read and write. I would never be in the place i am today. you should never be defined by the way you speak english or any language. The key to literacy is being able to show progress of reading abilities. To be able to understand code words and decode written words which will change the meaning of text. I learn new skills of understanding literacy but i yet need to teach it to my mother.

The english i do use at home is very different from the english i use at school and work. My english at home is a "broken " down english. English is my mother's second language so she does not know how to speak it well. When i go outside with my mother and she speaks gher fractured english people tend to offend her and act like they dont understand what she is saying. Obviously i understand when she does speak i to me because it is the english we use at home. I usually always get frustrated when i am out with her because she doesn't give up her english skills she doesn't care what anyone has to say about it. When she does say something incorrectly i do correct her. My moms english has limited her from many things. She tries her best to not go anywhere that she has to force her broken english . When receiving important calls she

makes sure that i speak for her. Some people may not understand any of my mother's english but i understand it pretty well. To me my mother's english is perfect even though it is a challenge for her i still tend to make her feel good and not ashamed of it. It was her point of view that made me really look into things. Took a me a while to actually realize how not only does she express thing this way but the way she sees things. When younger i used to get aggravated when i had to speak for my mother but now getting older i look at it as an learning experience. I am extremely grateful to be able to show my mother new things in the english world but still using the “messed up” english.

Coming from a hispanic household things aren't always to speak spanish or english. It isn't all nice or easy. There should not be this border line for english (learners)or the sense of treatment that bring them down. There should be not perception for limited english speakers. This limited english has impacted both of our possibilities. Early enough i knew that i shouldn't of been in a bilingual class just because of my background. My advice is to never give up always believe in yourself. My mother has also learned to express her english the best she can. She has me to teach her and not judge her how many people tend to do. She has taught me no matter how many consequences get in your way if that's the path you want you will go through it.