Do You Speak English? A Study of Adult Learners of English and ESL Programs in the Latino Community

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ABSTRACT

English as a Second Language (ESL) programs provide valuable instruction to individuals seeking opportunities for which knowledge of the English language proves useful. For immigrants to the United States, learning English can lead to a broader range of employment opportunities, easier access to goods and services, and better communication with the majority of the U.S. population. This study examined the effectiveness of ESL programs for Latino adults in the Southeastern U.S. and the obstacles that this population has encountered in its efforts to learn English. The study addressed the issues facing Latino immigrants as they adjusted to life in the United States, including economic, cultural, and individual circumstances that affected participation in ESL programs. Also taken into account were current methods of instruction and ESL program structure.