Linguistic Erasures and Brownface: Span(gl)ish in Mainstream Television

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The growing influence of a diverse U.S. Latinx population is changing both the quantity and quality of their representations on TV. However, the limited inclusion of Latinx writers, producers, and actors on television has meant that their identities and language continue to be caricatured, misrepresented, or omitted entirely. To examine these trends, I analyze the content of 10 TV shows that feature Latinx characters in recurring roles, integrating theory and methods from linguistics, anthropology, and media studies. With linguistic discrimination continuing to fester across the U.S., this project is motivated by a commitment to fostering ethnolinguistic pride among Latinx and stemming the intergenerational loss of Spanish.