

# Re: Question about Spanish

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- *From:* "Peter T. Daniels" <[grammatim@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:grammatim@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Thu, 09 Mar 2006 15:27:10 GMT
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Felix Rawlings wrote:

On Wed, 08 Mar 2006 13:42:20 -0500, Harlan Messinger wrote:

Felix Rawlings wrote:

On Wed, 08 Mar 2006 09:53:23 +0000, Felix Rawlings wrote:

On Tue, 07 Mar 2006 22:41:58 +0000, Peter T. Daniels wrote:

foggytown wrote:

Dear Group,

I am doing  
some  
research for  
a short story  
and perhaps  
I can find  
some  
assistance  
in here.  
Question:  
are there  
countries  
once  
colonized  
by  
Spain where

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the daily  
spoken  
language is  
now a form  
of Spanish  
which  
has so  
degraded  
that it  
would not  
be  
understood  
by  
Spaniards  
or other  
(former)  
colonies?

Please don't say "degraded."  
It suggests that the language  
is somehow  
inferior or inadequate.  
Whatever the social  
circumstances of its  
speakers, the language is  
fully as expressive as that  
spoken by any  
Castilian.

Two things: One, must you be so thoroughly  
politically correct all  
the time? And two, where is the data to  
support your assertion in the  
last sentence? Or is this a case of PC dogma  
first, scientific evidence  
afterwards?

It's interesting to notice that replies so far have just focused  
on  
chastising me, for daring to wonder if the original poster was  
motivated  
by political correctness,

Well, gee, now I dare to wonder if you're being motivated by the Forces of  
Darkness conspiring to wreak havoc on a defenseless universe. Does that  
make sense?

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Peter's motivation, as he stated explicitly, is that your characterization of other languages as "degraded" is misguided.

Where in this thread did I use the word "degraded"?

It's not clear whether "foggytown" and "Felix Rawlings" are the same or different persons. Would you care to clarify? They appear to be; see how in the string of attributions above, "Felix Rawlings" springs to the defense of "foggytown."

People aren't motivated by political correctness.

What's this? Another assertion that we are supposed to take in faith?

"Political correctness" is a canard invented by rightwingnutcases to attempt to sully those with whom they disagree — those who prefer not to use degrading vocabulary of fellow humans.

I find it risible, to say the least, for evidence on the contrary is abundant: e.g. why would anyone talk about dark colored, African natives as "African-American"?

I haven't seen that referred to as "political correctness" before; the reasons for it would appear to be threefold: analogy; false generalization; or ignorance.

Which of those is "PC," o rightwing speechmonitor?

> and have confirmed that his opinion is correct,

again without producing any solid, scientific data to support it.

Solid evidence to support what? That languages don't "degrade"? You're the one using the term "degraded". If you're going to use such a term, you must have an idea what metric you're using to assess the degree of degradedness of any given language. So why don't you tell us what that metric is and try to convince us that it's of interest?

All this paragraph is irrelevant because, probably in the heat of the moment, you couldn't be bothered to tell who said what. Let me insert here

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the assertion that I want to discuss:

Whatever the social circumstances of its speakers, the language is fully as expressive as that spoken by any Castilian.

OK, let's see the scientific support for that. That's all I am asking. Where is it?

No, sir. When you assert something, er, ridiculous, it's up to you to provide evidence for your assertion. What is the evidence that some human language is unable to express something that some other human language is able to express?

You may consult Wittgenstein if you wish.

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Peter T. Daniels [grammatim@xxxxxxx](mailto:grammatim@xxxxxxx)

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