NEITHER A BORROWER NOR A LENDER BE?

ENGLISH LOANWORDS IN PUERTO RICAN SPANISH

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Introduction

- Puerto Rican Spanish is known for incorporating words borrowed from English known as loanwords.
- This should not be surprising given its extended contact with the English language.
- With the heavy dependence on U.S. products and media comes the inevitable use of English words to refer to them.

96% Funky. 98% Entregaos.
100% Puertorriqueño.

Un récord para la historia

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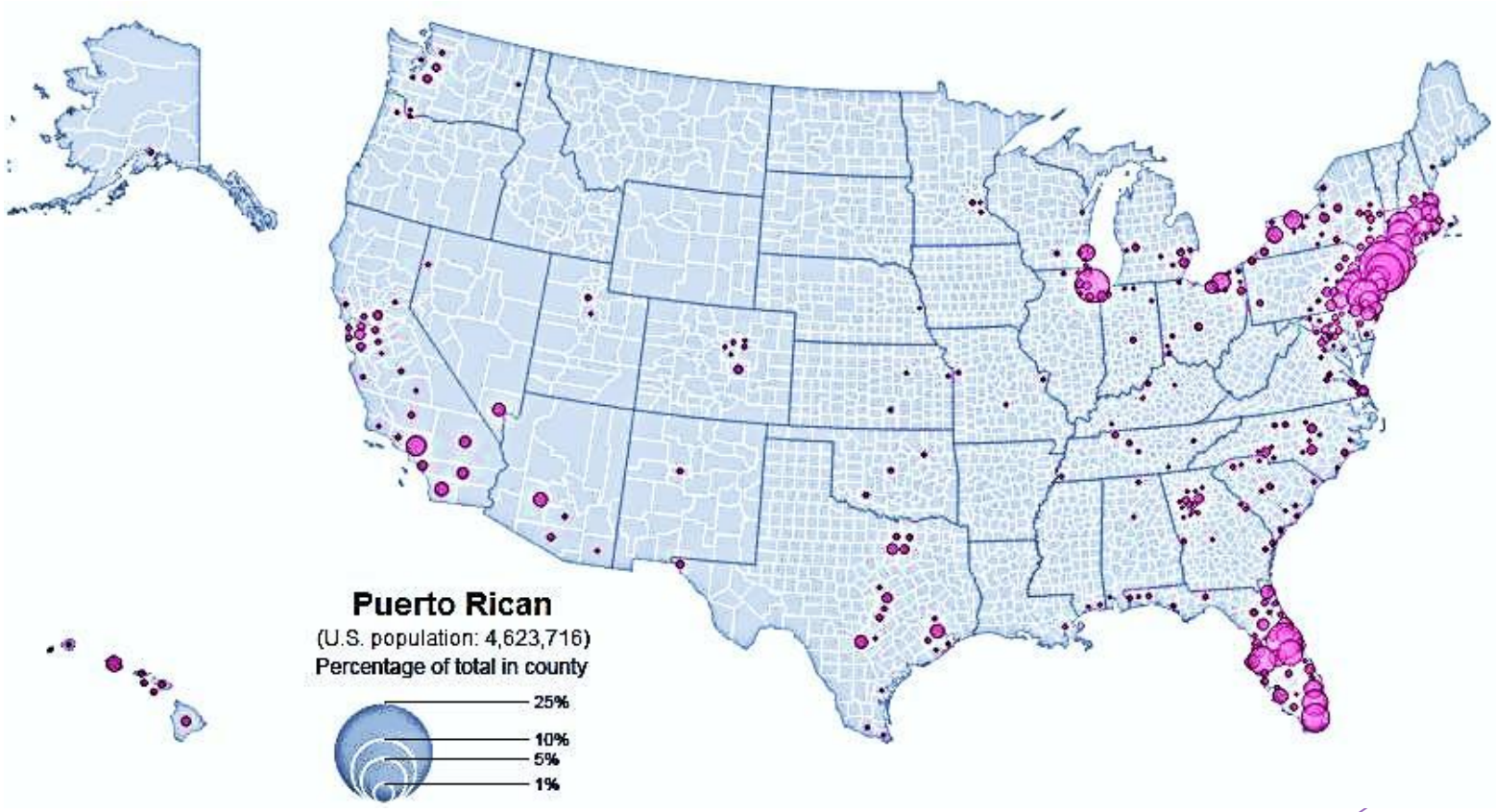
Why use English loanwords?

- Easier than inventing new Spanish word or searching for little used already existing Spanish word.
- Everyone else is doing it (English as global lingua franca).
- Difficult to avoid English in product names, company names, broadcast media, and Internet.
- Association of English with modernity, prestige, and being “cutting edge.”

- Sometimes the English loanword is just plain shorter than its Spanish equivalent:
  - *wiper* instead of *limpiaparabrisas*
  - *faxear* instead of *enviar un facsímile*
  - *suiche* instead of *interruptor*
  - *CD* instead of *disco compacto*
  - *tape* instead of *cinta adhesiva*

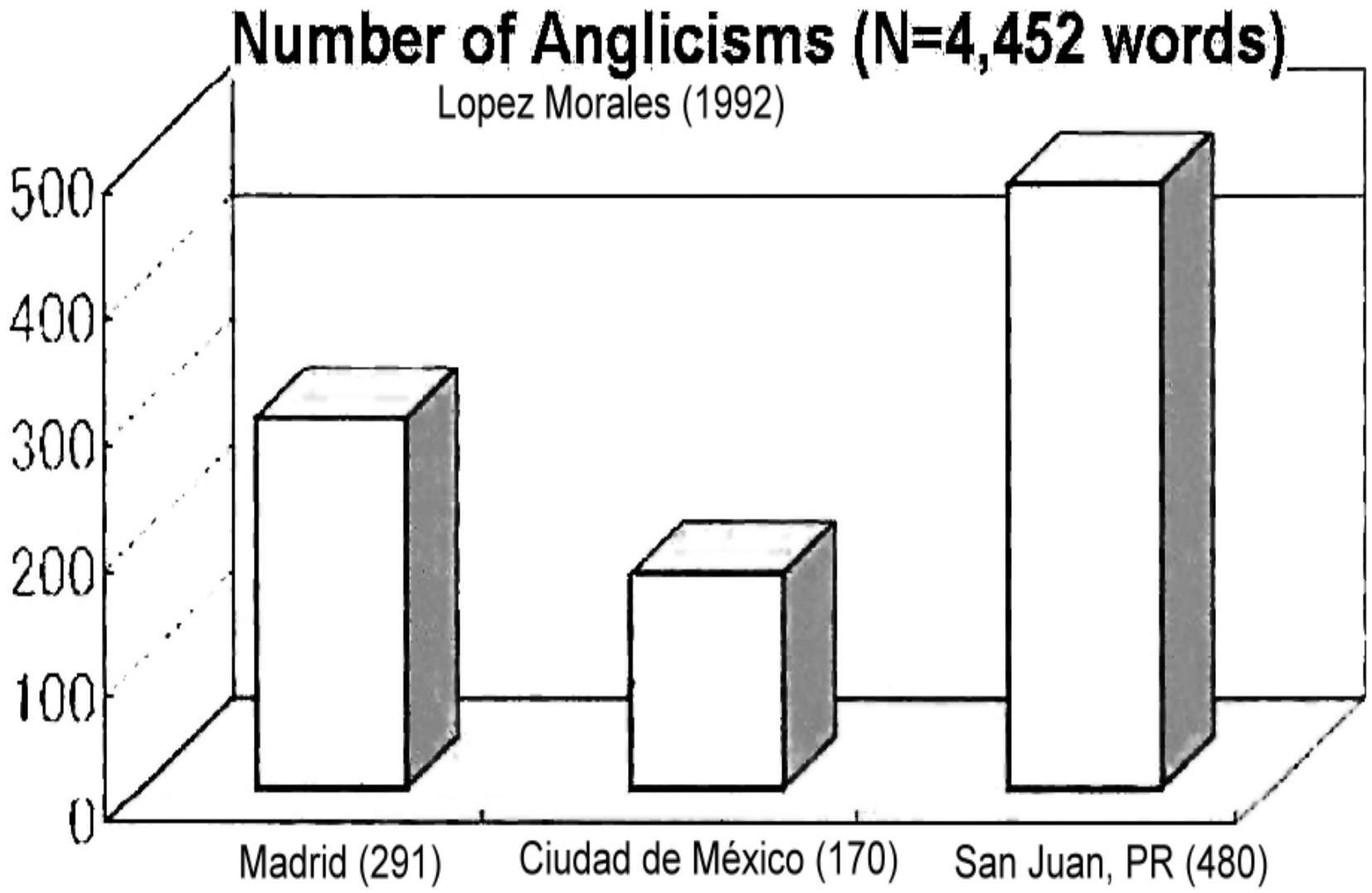
❖English loanwords also come in through influence from Puerto Rican communities in the U.S. and constant movement between island and mainland (Beardsley, 2004).



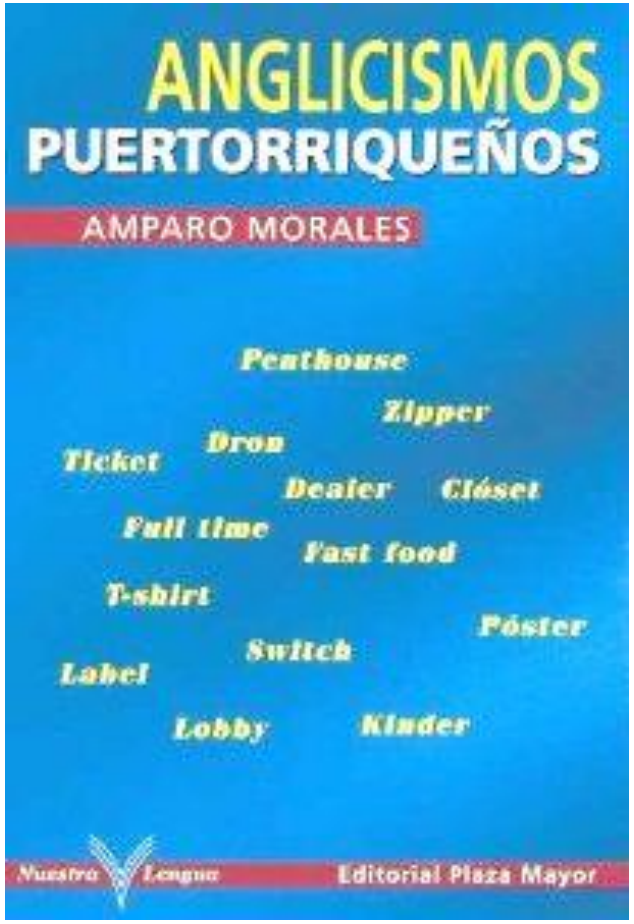
Are PRs the only ones using loanwords?

- Borrowing English words is a global trend and seen in virtually all Spanish-speaking countries to some extent.

- Humberto López Morales' 1992 study of Anglicisms in Madrid, Mexico City, and San Juan, PR revealed the following comparison:


Number of Anglicisms (N=4,452 words)
Lopez Morales (1992)
500
400
300
200
100
0
Madrid (291)
Ciudad de México (170)
San Juan, PR (480)

Diccionario de anglicismos en Puerto Rico (Morales, 2001)



- Questionnaires containing 450 documented English loanwords were distributed to a representative sample of 60 San Juan workers for their reactions.
- In your hand-outs, you have a list of the 100+ English loanwords most frequently used by Morales' sample.

matre	ganga	area code	staff	party
closet	layaway	rack	baby	monitorear
dealer	poster	flashlight	malpractice	truck
folder	rush	show	cornflakes	well-done
kleenex	valet parking	stop payment	label	nursery
mapear	wiper	PO Box	teller	pad
pampers	estrés	status	beauty (parlor)	fast-food
pancake	medium	ticket	money order	file
tune-up	lighter	counter	photo finish	comerciales
video	pet shop	petty cash	trade in	display

Loanword usage patterns

- People involved in auto mechanics, sports, fashion, beauty, and computer technology are highly prone to using loanwords.
- Among professionals, loanwords are most used by medical personnel, lawyers, engineers, and media and least used by teachers.

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-"Backup" de data.
-Conexión y configuración de periferales, "routers", impresoras, "scanners" entre otros.
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acer
Gateway
CORSAIR
ASUS
intel
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“Ellos son muy buenos pitchers, pero no es que sean imbateables. Sabemos que vamos a tener que hacer el ‘approach’ correcto, hacerle ‘swing’ a los pitcheos correctos y poder darle bien a la bola. Poder coger más turnos como equipo para salir airosos”, agregó Correa, quien se fue en blanco en tres turnos contra los Yankees en el encuentro del martes.

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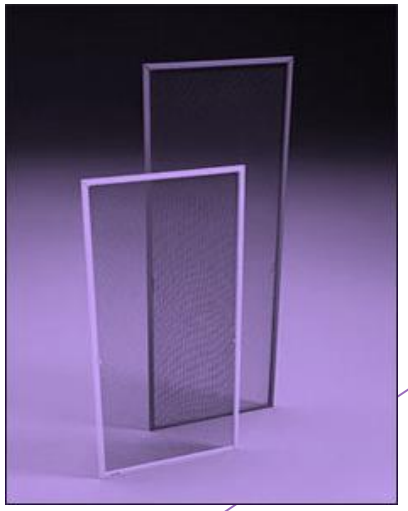
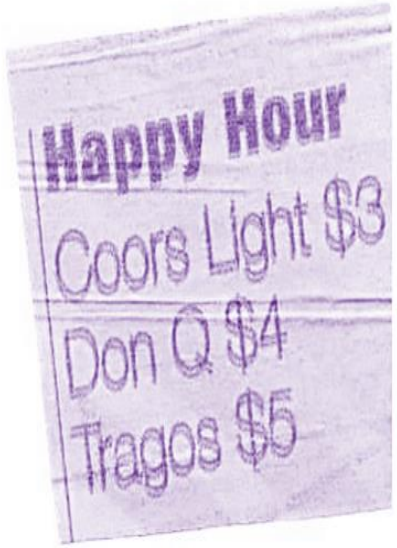
How do English loanwords enter PRS?

❖Most English loanwords in Puerto Rican Spanish are incorporated fully into the phonological, grammatical, and orthographic systems of PRS (e.g. *un mitin* [a meeting*]; un matre queen* [a queen-sized mattress*]; los escrines* [the screens]; *faxear* [to fax]; *escanear* [to scan]).

❖ They are treated as Spanish words by speakers, who frequently do not realize their origin.





Chequéate anualmente

Trece boricuas activos en los playoffs

Phonological integration of loanwords

- Involves utilizing the equivalent phonemes and phonotactics of the receiving language.
- *doughnut* ['downət], whose first vowel is diphthongized [ow], second vowel is reduced [ə], and final phoneme is [t], none of which occur in Spanish, becomes *dona* via the substitution of pure vowels [o] and [a] and the elimination of the final consonant, in keeping with what Spanish phonology permits.

Typical phonological changes that occur with English loanwords in PRS:

- **Final Consonant dropping**
  fast food → [fas'fu]; corn flakes → [kon'fley]
- **Deaspiration of consonants**
  coach [k^{h}owč] → [koč]
- **Final nasal substitution** ([m] → [n])
  steam [stim] → [es'tin]
- **Initial schwa insertion in [s]C**
  sticker → estíquer
- **Bilabialization of [v]**
  Vicks → [biks]
- **Defricativization of [š]**
  shopper → chopper

- *Sealed beams* (headlights) becomes *silbines* in Puerto Rican Spanish through replacement of diphthongized vowels by pure ones, reduction of final consonant cluster [ld] to [l], replacement of [m] (which never occurs word finally in Spanish) by [n], and insertion of [e] to make the word fit into the plural marking system of Spanish.

Eng.	siy	ld	biy	m	z
PRS	si	l	bi	n	es

- Some English loanwords entered PRS in multiple forms.

- *Truck → el troc, el tro/los troces, el troque, la troca*

- *Sweater → el suéter, la suera*

Morphological integration of loanwords

- **Spanish verb markers**
  to hang out → janguear; to mop → mapear
- **Spanish nominalizers (-eo,-ero/a)**
  leak→liqueo; goof→ gufeo; rush→ rocheo
  lunch bag→ lonchera
- **Spanish plural markers**
  spark plugs→ los espares; munchies→ los monchis
  Spanish gender markers
  bumper→ el bomper; pickup→ la pikop; sweater→ el suéter; cheerleader→ la chirlíder

Grammatical integration of loanwords

- **English adjectives** incorporated into PRS retain Spanish word order, as can be seen in: *cosas Casio bien cool* and *clasificados online*.

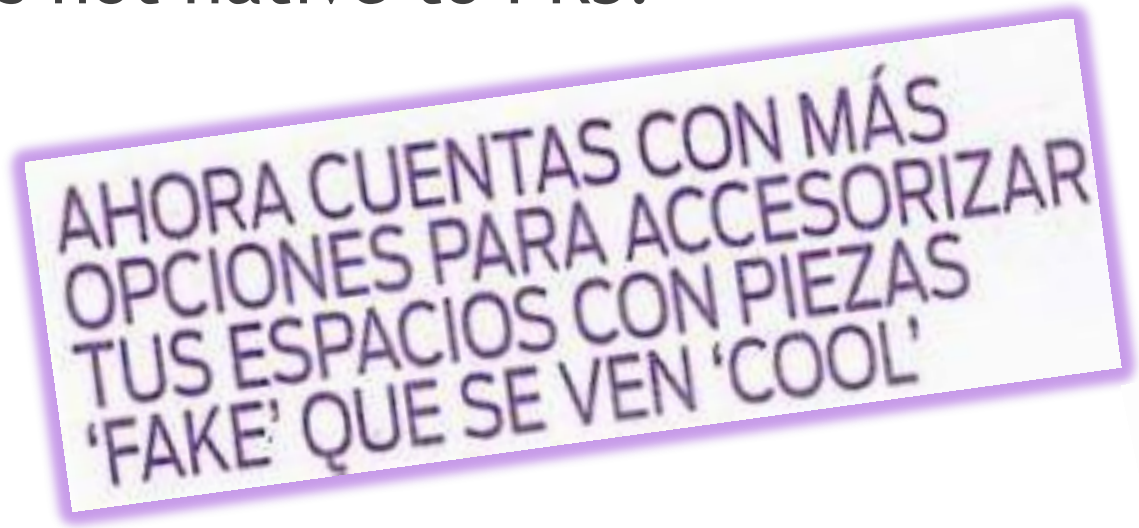
Semantic changes in loanwords

❖Loanwords can change their meaning or semantic range (e.g., *Dame un breiquecito*. means “Give me a sec.” or “Let me get by you.” *Vi ese carro en el dealer*. means “I saw that car at the dealership.”)

Apple pie entered PRS as a generic word referring to a type of fast food dessert and can be heard with other fruit modifiers, e.g. *Dame un apple pie de cherry*.

Orthographic presentation of loanwords

- In writing, quotation marks are often used to indicate awareness that the English loanword or phrase is not native to PRS.



- This can be done to demonstrate a higher level of education or sophistication or to assert cultural pride.

rdo y Guayama el 'strike force'

Amo a mis 'haters'

Bravos y Yankees se combinan con nueve jonrones para establecer récord en el nuevo Yankee Stadium

Tienes un "break" en octubre

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- Accent marks are often added to fully integrated English loanwords, making them even more difficult to identify and distinguish from Spanish words.

Se frisó

pámper

- Regardless of the language proficiency of the speakers, English loanwords, phonologically and morphologically integrated into Puerto Rican Spanish, are an intrinsic part of the local lexicon.

- Being communicatively competent in Puerto Rico includes knowing how to use English loanwords while speaking Spanish.

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Loanwords in San Juan press (Vaquero, 1990)

Maria Vaquero examined loanwords in San Juan newspapers and found the following strategies being used:

- Creating a Spanish-looking word based on an English word form instead of its Spanish equivalent, for example, *coincidentalmente* instead of *de forma coincidente* or *temporeramente* instead of *temporalmente*.

❖ Using Spanish words with English meanings e.g., *bloques* [building blocks] for “street blocks” instead of *cuadras*; *aplicación* [application of a theory or liquid] for “job application” instead of *solicitud*.

Another example of this can be seen in the following street sign in which the phrase "*personas extrañas*" (literally "strange people") is used instead of "*personas desconocidas*" ("unknown people") or "*extraños*" ("strangers").

- Loan translations (calques): translating literally from English into Spanish, *e.g.*, *Eso hace sentido* to mean “It makes sense.” instead of Standard Spanish *Eso tiene sentido*. (literally “to have sense”)

More examples of loan translations in PRS

Envuelto used like “involved” instead of like “wrapped up”
PRS: *Estoy envuelto en muchos proyectos*.
Std. Sp: *Estoy involucrado en muchos proyectos*.
Std. Sp: *El paquete está envuelto en papel blanco*.

Correr used like “run for office”
PRS: *Hillary piensa correr para presidente en noviembre*.
Std. Sp: *Ella piensa postularse para presidente en noviembre*.

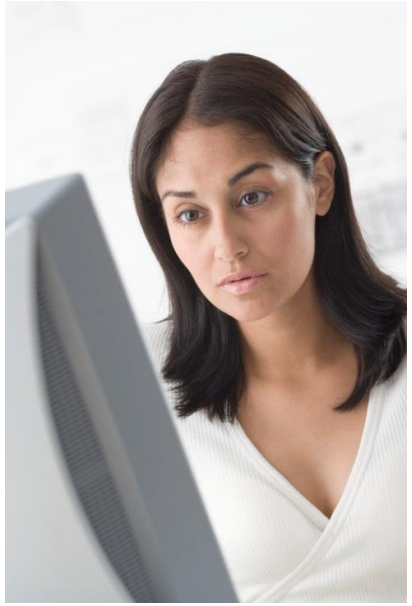
Estar supuesto used like “is supposed to”
PRS: *Está supuesto salir a las 5.*
Std. Sp.: *Se supone que salga a las 5.*

- Use of English word for specific aspect of meaning of particular referent *(e.g., magacín* for popular magazines or magazine inserts in newspapers and *revista* for news magazines and journals.

English *save=preserve, retain, rescue*
Spanish *salvar=rescue, ensure safety*
Spanish guardar=preserve, retain

PRS: Necesito salvar los datos antes de apagar la computadora. (I need to save the data before turning off the computer.

Std. Spanish: *Necesito guardar los datos antes de apagar la computadora.*



PRS: No puedo accesar el Internet desde mi hogar. (I can’t access the Internet from my home.)

Std. Spanish: *No puedo acceder a la Red desde mi hogar*.

Dealing with English loanwords in Puerto Rican academic settings

- Acknowledge their presence and do not mock students for using them
- Help students recognize that loanwords they use frequently may not be understood in other Spanish-speaking countries
- Supply them with other alternatives when those may be preferable for certain social functions (e.g. formal interviews, written documents, etc.)
- Explain to them that English has also borrowed many words from Spanish

English words derived from Spanish (especially cowboy terms and place names)

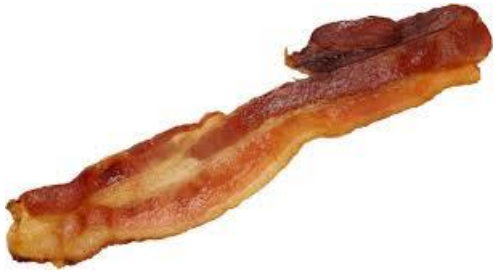
sombrero
lasso
pinto
chaparral
sierra
ranch
hoosegow [jail] (*juzga'o*)
mesa

adobe
armadillo
buckaroo (*vaquero*)
burro
canyon
corral
mustang
rodeo
poncho
renegade

vamoose (*vamos*)
pimento
plaza
stampede
tornado
Las Vegas
San Francisco
Montana
Colorado
Nevada

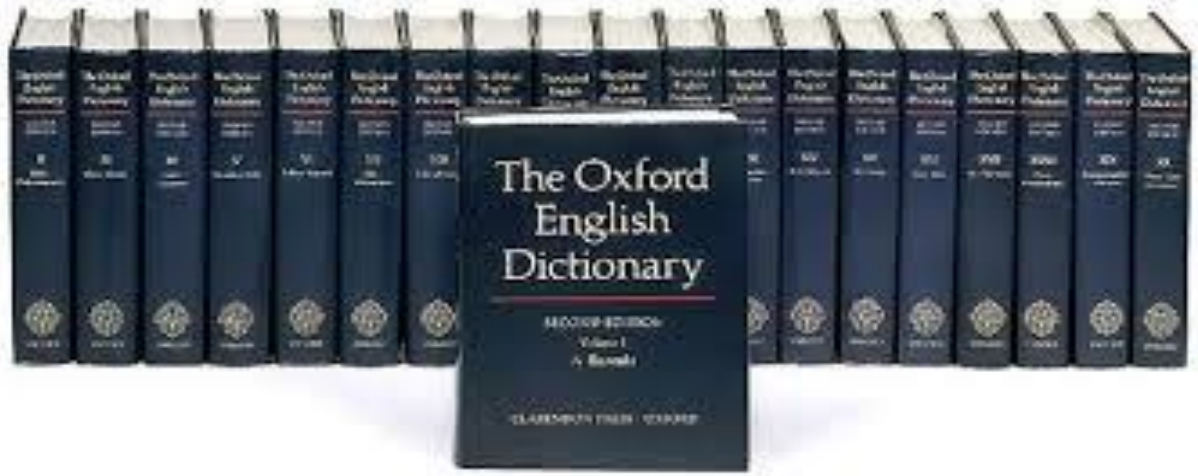
- English teachers can use English loanwords in PRS to prove to low-level students that they already know a lot of English.

- Showing pictures of common objects and asking for their names in Spanish can rapidly create a list of English loanwords on the board which can be discussed and their spelling and pronunciation in English explained.



Sociolinguistic view of loanwords

- Natural result of contact between speech communities
- Serve to enrich vocabulary, particularly when integrated phonologically and morphologically
- Can be utilized as synonyms or to express nuances not present in equivalent native word.
- In and of themselves, loanwords do not represent danger to the native language.



- If you still have doubts about English loanwords in PRS, note that the greatest strength of the English language has been its willingness to take in elements from virtually every language.

- Its lexicon is an enormously rich treasury of more than 1 million words (2 million if we count scientific terminology), much of foreign origin.

Conclusion

- You should now know a bit more about English loanwords in Puerto Rican Spanish—why they exist, how they are integrated into PRS, who uses them, and how we should deal with them in class.

- You should also understand that in language, borrowing and lending are good things because they help languages grow in size and nuance.

- In your handouts, you have a list of references if you wish to read further on this subject.

The End

For more information or a copy of this presentation and the handout package, please write me at: prof.alicia.mejuto@gmail.com