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Translanguaging to Persevere: Exploring Latinx Bilingual Students' Collective Problem-Solving

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Overview of Workshop

- We will:
 - Explore the collaborative efforts of Latinx students drawing on their bilingualism
 - Share vignettes, artifacts, mathematical activity
 - Engage participants in analysis and discussion to inform ways of leveraging translanguaging to persevere in mathematics classrooms

Preliminary thoughts...

 How might your conception of language influence your mathematics pedagogy with bilingual students?

 How does a mathematics classroom that encourages students to utilize all of their linguistic resources look and sound?

You can post your responses in the Zoom chat!

What is translanguaging?

- More than just code-switching between English and Spanish; complex and interrelated communicative practice that make up bilinguals linguistic repertoire (Cenoz, 2017)
 - Using language, body, multimodal resources, tools, and artifacts in a dynamically entangled, interconnected, and coordinated way to make meaning (Garcia, 2017)
 - Reconceptualizes bilingualism as a liberating and empowering communicative practice capable of transforming mathematics learning

Context 1: Digital Story

Context: one cohort of ~20 children in an after-school math club that privileged Spanish as a means to promote bilingualism/biliteracy.

Mathematics in the Community Project:

- Identified diverse sites of mathematical practices in the community (e.g. firehouse, mechanic, travel agency, florist)
- Arranged site visits
- Student prepared interview questions
- Disposable cameras to take pictures of the site

Discussion Question to Consider

As you watch the digital story, make note of the ways Ramiro is translanguaging.

- How might Ramiro be developing an identity as a successful math doer?
- How does Ramiro use language(s) to do math and communicate mathematically?

You'll get a chance to discuss this in your Breakout Rooms!

Also, feel free to jot down your observations in the chat!

Ramiro



Discussion Question to Consider

After watching the digital story and engaging with the transcript:

- How might Ramiro be developing an identity as a successful math doer?
- How does Ramiro use language(s) to do math and communicate mathematically?
- What is the role of culture, community, and language in Ramiro's mathematical identity formation?
- How are these dimensions/dynamics representative of translanguaging?

You'll get a chance to discuss this in your Breakout Rooms (8 min)!

You can post a summary of your discussion in the chat once we return to the full group. Raise your hand if you'd like to speak!

Context 1: Conclusions

- Ramiro fluidly draws on his languages (bilingualism) to problem solve and communicate mathematically.
 - Not necessarily code-switching
- Place-based mathematics provided an opportunity for Ramiro to develop his mathematical imagination.
 - Broaden what constitutes as mathematical activity

Context 2: Collective Problem-Solving

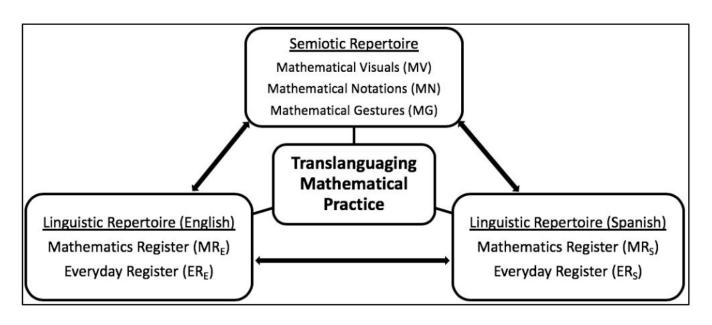
Our aim: capture the ways in which Latinx bilingual students draw on translanguaging to help naturally persevere

 Reveals details about students' identities as bilingual mathematics learners, especially when perseverance is spontaneous

Context: IMP Year 4 classroom, urban HS, 80%+ Latinx student population, English-speaking teacher

- Case study of Carina, Jessica, Elena, and Ines' engagement with a function analysis task
- The group had shown evidence of understanding the goal of the task, but did not know immediately how to solve it.

Translanguaging Mathematical Practice



Mathematical Task

Function Analysis Task

Select a specific function from a past unit.

- Describe the problem context in which the function was used, and explain what
 the input and the output for the function represent in terms of the problem
 context.
- 2. Describe how the function was helpful to you in solving the central unit problem or some other problem in the unit.
- 3. If possible, determine what family the function is from.

Alice's height changes when she eats the cake. Assume as before that her height doubles for each ounce she eats.

- Find out what Alice's height is multiplied by when she eats 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, or 6
 ounces of cake.
- b. Make a graph of this information.

IMP Year 2

IMP Year 4

How is perseverance relevant?

Translanguaging practice may help nurture, support, and facilitate perseverance in problem solving for Latinx bilingual students.

- Draw on fluid linguistic repertoires and be an agent of their own engagement (de los Rios & Seltzer, 2017)
- Autonomously engage with inviting yet complex tasks (Aguirre et al., 2012; DiNapoli, 2016)
- Leveraging bilingualism to help coordinate meaning-making actions (Driscol, Heck, & Malzhan, 2012)

Perseverance can be especially important for learning mathematics conceptually -- students make meaning by productively struggling with ideas that are not immediately clear (Hiebert & Grouws, 2007).

Three-Phase Perseverance Framework

Perseverance is initiating and sustaining in-the-moment productive struggle in the face of one or more obstacles, setbacks, or discouragements (DiNapoli, 2018).

Entrance Phase

Perceived Goal; Initial Obstacle

Identify the goal of the task; recognize a challenge

First Attempt Phase

Initial Effort (IE);
Diligence of Effort (DE);

Metacognitive Progress (MP)

Spend and sustain intellectual effort at outset; make metacognitive progress

Additional Attempt Phase(s)

Amending the Plan (AP); Diligence of Effort (DE); Metacognitive Progress (MP)

Spend and sustain intellectual effort with new strategy; make metacognitive progress

Classroom Episodes









Discussion Question to Consider

As you read through the following vignette, what do you notice about how this group of Latinx students draw on their bilingualism as they work on the mathematical task?

You'll get a chance to discuss this in your Breakout Rooms!

Also, feel free to jot down your observations in the chat!

ounce, that means that she grows twice, dos ¿qué? Double, no double, twoSee, so when two is four, and then three is six, and four is eight, y así, y así vamos hacer la graph. Going like that (gesturing), para arriba. You get it?	ounce, that means that she grows twice, two what? Double, no double, twoSee, so when two is four, and then three is six, and four is eight, like this, and this is how we are going to make the graph. Going like that (gesturing), up. You get it?
ELENA: Um hmm. Pero, how do we times it?	Um, hmm. But how do we times it?
JESSICA: Porque mira, two, times two. Well noDouble it by, nomas double the number of ounces, so if she takes	Because look, two, times two. Well no Double it by, just double the number of ounces, so if she takes

English Translation

What was the first one, do you do it like this? If [Alice] eats one

Transcript

IESSICA: ¿Oué era la primera, se hace así? If [Alice] eats one

ELENA: Two times two, y luego four times two, y luego six times Two times two, and then four times two, and then six times two, two, is that what you are saying? is that what you are saying? More or less like adding the same number. JESSICA: Más o menos como sumando el mismo número.

CARINA: Pero es lo mismo de sumando si lo multiplicas por dos. But it is the same as adding if you multiply by two.

INES: Lo que parece es como hicimos un in/out table y ya lo It looks like we just did an in/out table and that's it [Referencing sacamos [Referencing past work]. past work].

CARINA: Yeah. In times two equal out. Yeah. In times two equal out... We don't have to use her height?

¡Ya no tenemos que hacer su altura? 1 of 3

INES: Empezamos de cuatro pies. Si toma si come un pedacito son ocho, si come un pedacito son dieciseis, el tercer pedazo dieciseis y dieciseis. Treintaidos ¿no?	We start at four feet. If she drinks, if she eats one piece it becomes eight, if she eats one piece it becomes sixteen, the third piece, sixteen and sixteen, thirty two, no?
JESSICA: Pero, ¿cómo sacastes eso?	But how did you get that?
INES: Porque si empezamos con cuatro pies, como yo les digo, si come un pedacito y sale, aumenta de altura de doble.	Because, if we start at four feet, like I'm telling you, if she eats one piece and it comes out to, her height grows double.
JESSICA: Ohh, her height doubles.	Ohh, her height doubles.
ELENA: You know it's the same thing mira. Dos, you multiply one times two is two, two times four is eight, y si pones two times two is four, four times four is sixteen.	You know it's the same thing look. Two, you multiply one times two is two, two times four is eight, and if you put two times two is four, four times four is sixteen.
CARINA: In squared times 2 is equal to your out (creates new table). Starting at 4 feet	In squared times 2 is equal to your out (creates new table).
Starting at 4 feet $In^2 \cdot 2 = DUT = Y = X^2 \cdot 2$	

Transcript

English Translation

CARINA: Mira, la pongo en la calculadora y Table y me da otra answer de lo que nosotro (shows calculator table).	•	Look, I put it in the calculator and then I push Table and it gives me a different answer from the one we have here (shows calculator table).
JESSICA: Entonces lo hicimos mal pero es ser así (points at earlier written table).	to el OUT tiene que	Well then we did it wrongbut this the OUT has to be like this (points at earlier written table).

English Translation

Transcript

JESSICA: Porque también el zero tiene que ser el cuatro, In tiene Well the zero has to be four, IN has to be zero and then the que ser cero y luego el out tiene que ser cuatro. Así tiene que ser. OUT has to be four. That's how it has to be. And, first, the zero

Y primero el zero cuatro uno ocho dos dieciseis. four, one eight, two sixteen. ELENA: Sólo si tenemos que cambiar el fórmula, el equation, ¿no? The only thing we have to change is the formula, the equation,

no?

Discussion Question to Consider

After engaging with the previous vignette, what did you notice about how this group of Latinx students drew on their bilingualism as they worked on the mathematical task?

You'll get a chance to discuss this in your Breakout Rooms (8 min)!

You can post a summary of your discussion in the chat once we return to the full group. Raise your hand if you'd like to speak!

Our Observations and Analysis

The group had shown evidence of understanding the goal of the Alice task, but did not know immediately how to solve it.

- Demonstrated broad range of linguistic features via translanguaging
 - o Linguistic repertoire (Spanish), linguistic repertoire (English), semiotic repertoire
- Passed through Entrance Phase, into First Attempt Phase of Perseverance
 - Exploring what it means to double across representations, recognizing mistakes

The group then questioned their initial strategy and began to amend their plan.

- Demonstrated broad range of linguistic features via translanguaging
 - Linguistic repertoire (Spanish), linguistic repertoire (English), semiotic repertoire
- Moved into Additional Attempt Phase of Perseverance
 - Changing strategies to include Alice's initial height, exploring how her height changes across representations

Context 2: Conclusions

This group's spontaneous translanguaging played a central role in their meaning-making around exponential functions.

• Contrary evidence for the deficit misconception of Latinx bilinguals (Garcia, 2009; Willey, Gatza, & Flessner, 2017)

Encouraging/rehumanizing outcomes:

 Perseverance itself, assertion of bilingual identity, sense of empowerment of doers of mathematics, naturalistic agents of own learning (Gutierrez, 2017)

Cannot rely on spontaneous translanguaging – need a support system in place

• "All teachers, whether bilingual or monolingual, are capable of having a translanguaging stance and are able to design translanguaging instruction" (Garcia, 2017, p. 262).

Depending on time...Breakout Rooms/Chat/Raise your hand to speak?

Final Discussion Questions

Now think about your own classroom contexts:

- How does a mathematics classroom that encourages students to utilize all of their linguistic resources look and sound?
- How do you plan for a pedagogy that helps bilingual students capitalize on their languages?
- How do you co-construct a translanguaging classroom if you don't share the children's language(s)?

Implications and Next Steps

Implications for Teacher Dispositions

• Translanguaging is about an appreciation for the resources - particularly the linguistic resources - children come with.

Implications for Math Pedagogy

• Students do not distinctively draw on one language for certain purposes, and another language for other purposes, but rather draw on a collective linguistic repertoire/reservoir.

Implications for Assessment

• Thinking innovatively about assessment - drawing on multimodalities - will help us broaden the way in which we elicit students' knowledge.

Implications for Practice within Diverse Policy Contexts

• We recognize restrictive policy contexts and a shortage of resources depicting translanguaging; teachers in multilingual classrooms can proactively seek support.

Q&A

What other questions/comments do you have? Feel free to post questions in the chat or raise your hand if you'd like to speak.

Thank you!

Feel free to contact us at:

Hector Morales, Jr. at h-morales3@neiu.edu Joseph DiNapoli at dinapolij@montclair.edu Craig Willey at cjwilley@iupui.edu



Thanks!

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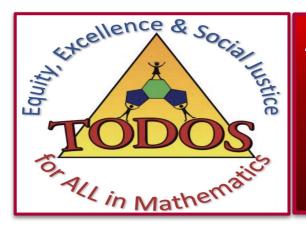
Speakers: Mary Raygoza, Kelsey Macias, and Nima Harirchian

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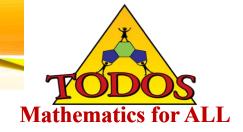


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Lisett Sierra
Moderated by: Luz Maldonado Rodríguez

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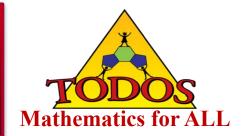
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