

Translation Practice

Crece el acoso al español en EEUU: “mis compañeros dicen que mi idioma es feo”.

En Estados Unidos existe un incipiente brote alérgico contra los hispanohablantes. En cada nueva generación de latinos radicados se pierde más el idioma.

La hija de Ana Inojosa evita hablar español en la escuela concertada a la que asiste en Brooklyn, Nueva York. “Dicen que es feo”, le cuenta la niña de seis años a su madre. Cuando un hispano habla en su idioma, sus compañeros le hacen sentir mal. “Ella me dice que la mayoría de los que fastidian son de origen mexicano. Yo creo que replican la discriminación que han sufrido sus padres”, supone Inojosa, de Venezuela, radicada desde hace dos años en el país norteamericano.

300 kilómetros al norte, en un McDonald’s de Providence, Rhode Island, trabaja Magdalena de la Cruz, dominicana de 35 años. A ella no la molestan si habla su lengua materna, simplemente no la dejan. “Nuestra jefa dijo que algunos blancos se sentían incómodos si hablábamos en español, así que nos obligan a comunicarnos en inglés”, cuenta de la Cruz y agrega: “Yo le respondí que eso es racismo”.

En un país donde se ven anuncios en español, donde los servicios públicos ofrecen atención por teléfono en los dos idiomas y en donde es común que te tome el pedido un hispanohablante, sería una falsedad decir que no hay facilidades para los 55 millones de hispanos que viven en Estados Unidos, el 17,5% de la población.

Pero cada vez son más frecuentes los episodios del brote alérgico al español sumados a las grietas xenófobas que ha abierto la administración de Donald Trump. El último caso fue el de un agente fronterizo que le solicitó los documentos a dos mujeres por hablar español en una estación de servicio en Montana. Hace unas semanas se viralizaron los gritos de un abogado amenazando a unos hispanohablantes en un restaurante. “Esto es América”, les advirtió. Y a comienzos de este mes unos empleados de la cadena Albertson demandaron al supermercado por una supuesta política de No Spanish, incluso en los recesos, que se habría aplicado en 2012 y 2013.

El País, 30 de mayo de 2018

(342 words)

Suggested translation:

Harassment Against/Towards The Spanish Language **is** On The Rise In The States: “My classmates say my language is ugly”.

In the United States, there is an incipient/emerging allergy outbreak/The United States is starting to experience an allergy outbreak against Spanish speakers. The language is losing ground with every new generation of Latinos settled in the country.

Ana Inojosa’s daughter avoids speaking Spanish in the semi-private school she attends in Brooklyn, New York. ‘They say it’s ugly’, says the six-year-old girl to her mum. When(ever) Hispanics speak in their language, the rest of the classmates make them feel bad. ‘She tells me that the majority of the bullies/those who pick on her are mostly of Mexican origin. I believe/reckon they replicate/echo/emulate the discrimination their parents suffered/endured’, supposes Inojosa, Venezuelan, who has been settled in the North-American country/in the United States for two years now.

300 km (up) north, Magdalena de la Cruz, a 35-year-old Dominican woman, works at a McDonald’s in Providence, Rhode Island. She is not harassed when she speaks her mother tongue, she is simply not allowed (to do so)//No one bothers her is she speaks in her mother-tongue because they will simply not allow it. ‘Our boss told us that some white people/whites felt uncomfortable/uneasy/awkward if we spoke in Spanish, so they force us/we are forced to communicate in English’, explains de La Cruz, and she adds: ‘I replied/then answered that that was racism’.

One would lie when saying/it would be a lie/contradiction to say that there is no support/facilities for the 55 million of Hispanics living in the United States, 17.5% of the population, in a country where ads are shown in Spanish, where public services offer help/customer support over the phone in both languages, and where it is common to have your orders taken by a Spanish speaker.

Still, the outbreaks/episodes of allergy against the Spanish language are becoming more and more frequent, which add to/added to/coupled with the xenophobic breaches/cracks caused/opened/brought about by the Donald Trump Administration. The latest case concerned a customs officer/border agent who asked two women for their identity cards because they were speaking Spanish in a service area in Montana. A few weeks ago, a video showing/depicting the shouts of a lawyer threatening a group of Spanish speakers in a restaurant went viral. ‘This is America’, he warned them. Also early this month some/a group of employees from the Albertson chain store sued/took legal action against the supermarket for allegedly having a No Spanish policy, even during breaks/recesses, which would have been applied/enforced over/in 2012 and 2013.

Comentado [AB1]: The original is ambiguous, as it could refer to “the Spanish language” or “Spanish speakers”. Both translations have been considered valid.

Comentado [AB2]: The United States, always with the definite article, as happens with the UK, the Netherlands and the Dominican Republic.

Comentado [AB3]: Careful: Double <I>.

Comentado [AB4]: Other options could be: “state funded school”, “state subsidized school”. Some candidates wrote “trust school” or “charter school”, but I’m afraid those are slightly different and so were not considered as valid translations.

Comentado [AB5]: Careful with writing “she attends to”: “attend” doesn’t require any preposition.

Comentado [AB6]: In the singular, as it acts as an adjective.

Comentado [AB7]: NOT *badly*.

Comentado [AB8]: You could opt for the original word order, starting with “at a McDonald’s in Providence, Rhode Island, works Magdalena de la Cruz [...]”. In that case, inversion is obligatory (verb before subject), as in the case of “in this house lived Charles Dickens”.

Comentado [AB9]: Again, in the singular.

Comentado [AB10]: You might have written “she is not bothered when...”, but that allows for a double interpretation, since the expression “I’m not bothered” also means “I don’t mind/care”. If you want to use the verb “bother” you should use the active voice, e.g. nobody bothers her

Comentado [AB11]: In the singular. “Millions” is only used in the expression “millions and millions of sth”.

Comentado [AB12]: No article.

Comentado [AB13]: Mind the difference between *shout* and *scream*.