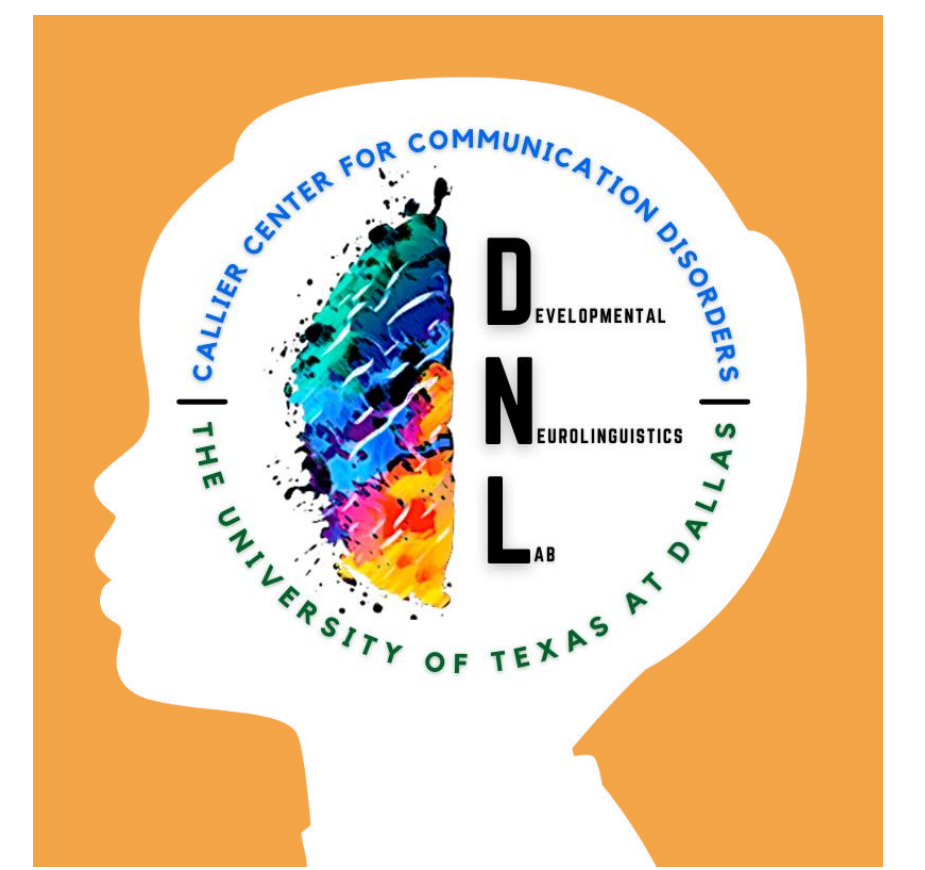


The Impact of Siblings' Language and School Language use on Spanish-Speaking Children's Dual Language Development

Ruben Rivas, Kathleen Denicola–Precht, Carlos Benitez–Barrera, & Mandy J. Maguire

Callier Center for Communication Disorders at the University of Texas at Dallas



BACKGROUND

- Spanish is the second most spoken language in the United States with about 40 million speakers.
- Spanish use at home has declined in recent years (Pew Research Center, 2018).
- There's abundant research on how parents influence language development (Hart & Risley, 1994), with some related to bilingual development (Hoff et al., 2013).
- There's little work on how other aspects like siblings and school language use impact children's dual language development.

HYPOTHESIS

- We hypothesized that children whose parents report more sibling English use will have higher English proficiency scores.
- We hypothesized that children whose parents report more English use at school will have higher English proficiency scores.

METHOD

Participants: 33 bilingual Spanish/English children ages 3-6 years of age ($M= 4.53$, $SD=.856$) from Spanish dominant households

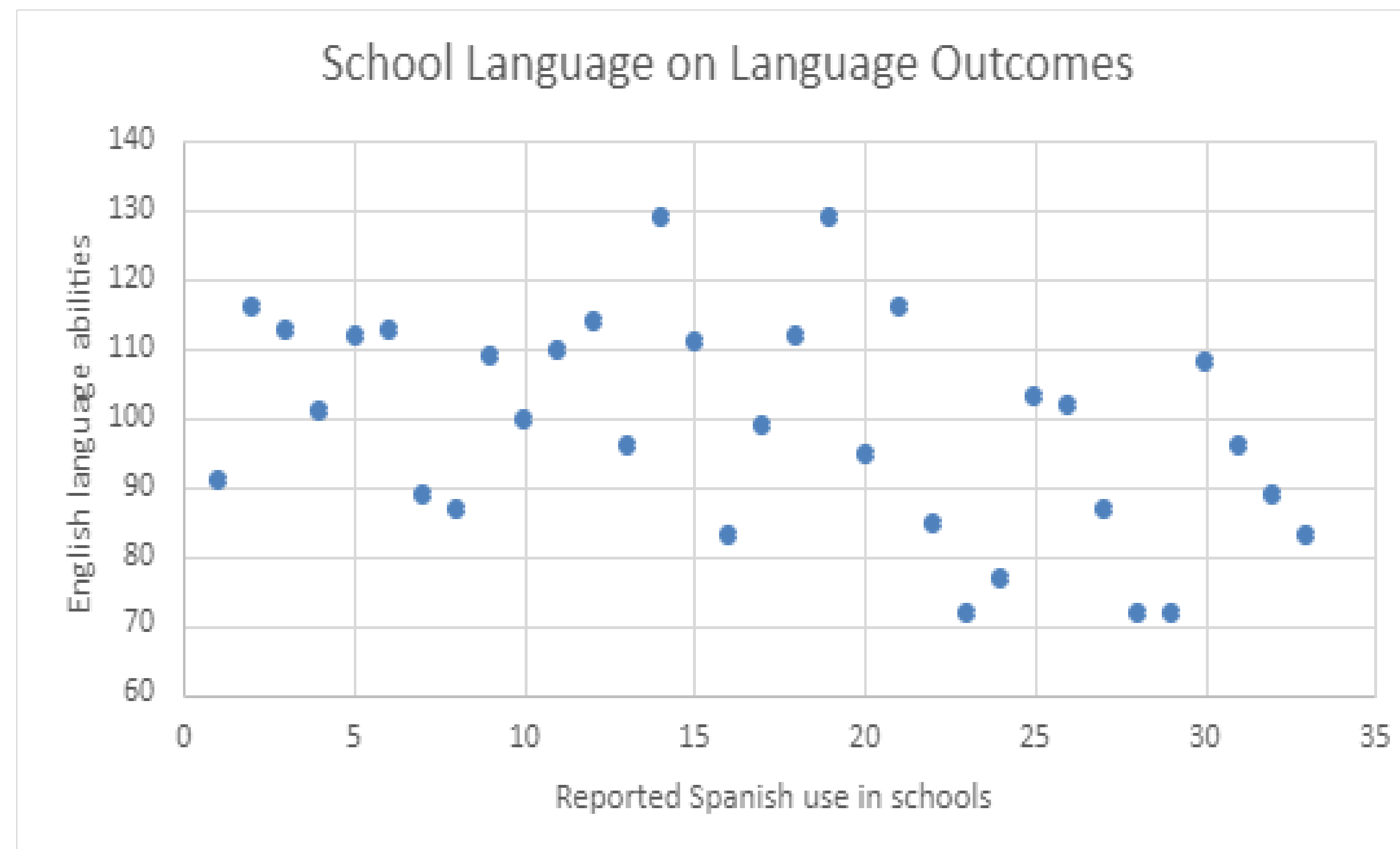
Procedures:

- Caregivers reported the language used at school and by an older sibling to a younger sibling on a 5-point scale (i.e., 1 being "Always speaks English" to 5 being "Always speaks Spanish").
- Children completed The Quick Interactive Language Screener: English-Spanish (QUILS:ES). This is a screener that assesses the language skills of English-Spanish bilingual children.
- We ran a correlation comparing the exposure of the given language and child language abilities in each language (as measured by the QUILS:ES).

RESULTS

- Controlling for conversational turns, parent report of Spanish language use in school was negatively correlated to QUILS: English overall score $r(23)= -.484$, $p=.014$. As in, the more English used at school, the better the English language outcomes were.
- Interestingly, there was not a relationship between:
 - Spanish language use in school and QUILS: Spanish overall score
 - Spanish language use from older siblings and QUILS: Spanish or English

Figure 1



DISCUSSION

- This information indicates that while parent language use is still the strongest predictor of Spanish language development, the school language environment plays a critical role in children's second language development.

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CONTACT

Ruben Rivas
Ruben.Rivas@utdallas.edu