

# **LANGUAGE AND EDUCATION: KEY FACTORS IN THE ACCULTURATION OF MEXICAN AMERICANS FROM RURAL COMMUNITIES**

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## **ABSTRACT**

**This study investigated the level of acculturation of Mexican Americans living in small rural communities. The following criteria were established to determine acculturation into the mainstream of American society: (a) use of English/Spanish language, (b) level of education, (c) level of income, (d) cultural beliefs, and (e) ethnic identity. The results of this casual- comparative study indicated that the levels of acculturation were lower in the rural community near the U.S.-Mexico border than in the community near the U.S-Canada border. The sample surveyed in the rural community (n=17) earned lower incomes, had a lower average level of education, and indicated more Spanish language dominance, as well as Hispanic cultural dominance. The results of the study supported the research hypothesis.**