

Washington State University

College of Education

Sonia Lopez-Lopez

Will defend the dissertation

Date: May 14, 2021

Time: 1:30 P.M.

Location: Zoom by request

Faculty, students and the general public are encouraged to attend

DIFFERENTIATING INSTRUCTION FOR HERITAGE SPEAKERS OF SPANISH

Chair: Joy Egbert

This research study explores differentiated instruction for heritage speakers of Spanish. Twenty-three undergraduate heritage Spanish speaker students from different backgrounds and of varied proficiency levels participated in a semester long -Action Research- study to explore students' outcomes and perceptions of differentiated instruction. Data sources included: Blackboard course data, semi-structured interviews, a voluntary exit interview, Newsela data, and a teacher journal. The study found that differentiating instruction is perceived by students as positive and can help instructors meet the needs of heritage language students in language classes. Implications and recommendations for the instruction of heritage language learners are included, as well as suggestions for future research.