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Subject: Re: Should English be the official US language?

Posted by [Nukelt15](#) on Fri, 12 Dec 2008 01:15:30 GMT

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Quote:"The problem with defending the purity of the English language is that English is about as pure as a cribhouse whore. We don't just borrow words; on occasion, English has pursued other languages down alleyways to beat them unconscious and rifle their pockets for new vocabulary." - James D. Nicoll

QFT.

You can't expect perfection. Everyone has their own manner of speaking, and English is one of those languages that absorbs bits and pieces of any other language it touches. If anything, that makes English an ideal common language- you can go right on using your own expressions and nobody will so much as look sideways at you for it as long as they got the gist of the conversation.

And before anybody pulls out that detestable "colonial legacy" card, Latin America got Spanish and Portugese the same way the US got English. A language is a means of communication; while it serves as a medium for transmitting culture it is not a culture in and of itself unless it grew out of the culture which uses it. Spanish is no more 'worthy' a tongue than English in this regard- or does someone out there honestly believe that the Aztecs, the Mayans, and the Incas were all greeting each other with friendly "Holas" before the first Conqistadors showed up on their doorstep?

Fact: most of the Spanish-speaking immigrants in this country did not immigrate from Spain.

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