

May 8th, 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

# Effects of Language Status, Community Advice, and Parent Beliefs on Heritage Language Maintenance in the U.S.: A Scoping Review

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Trujillo, Isabelle; Loeung, Jasmine; and Quam, Carolyn, "Effects of Language Status, Community Advice, and Parent Beliefs on Heritage Language Maintenance in the U.S.: A Scoping Review" (2024). *Student Research Symposium*. 25.

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# Effects of Language Status, Parent Beliefs, and Community Advice on Heritage Language Maintenance in the U.S.: A Scoping Review



Isabelle Trujillo & Jasmine Loeung

# Background

What is a Heritage Language?

A language spoken in the home other than the dominant language.

What is a Heritage Language Speaker?

An individual “raised in a home where a non-English language is spoken” and “speaks or at least understands the language” in addition to English.

(Inan, 2021; Tesser et al., 2008; Valdes, 2001)

# Our Research Questions:

## Language status

What is the nature of the relationship between a heritage language's status in society and language maintenance across generations?

## Community advice

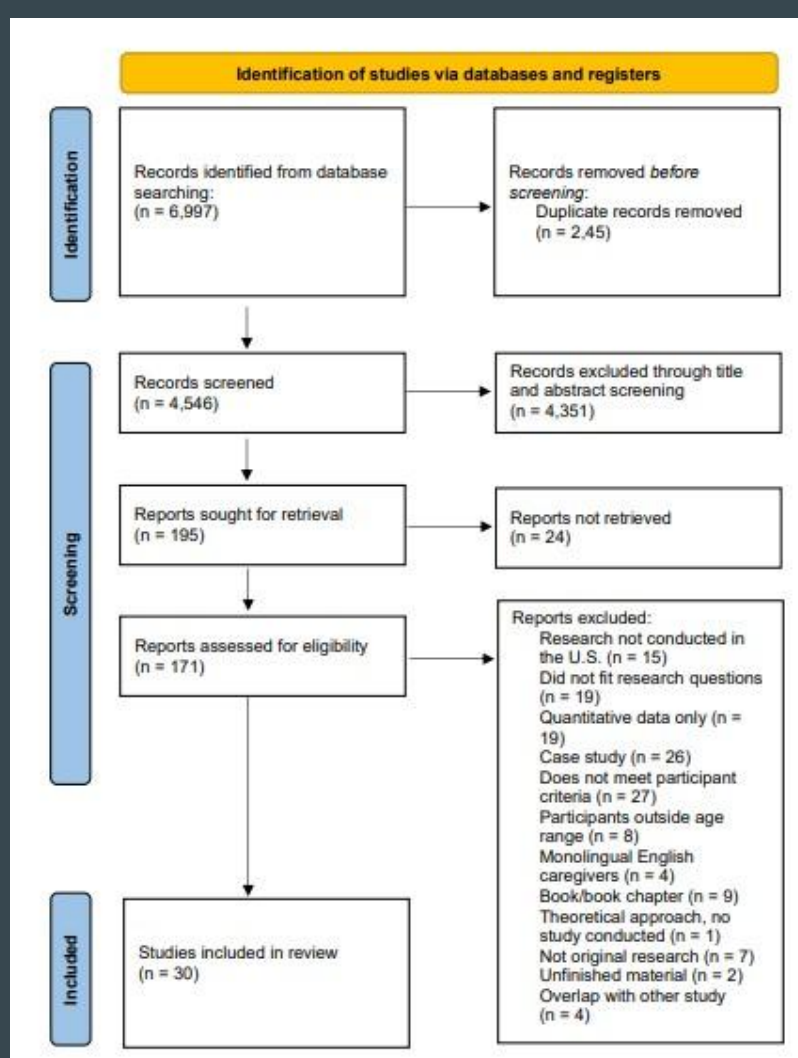
To what extent does the information parents receive from community members (e.g., health professionals, teachers, friends, and family members) influence their beliefs in passing their heritage language to their children?

## Parent beliefs

How do parents' beliefs about the impact of a heritage language on academic, social, and career success influence the degree to which they pass this language to their children?

# Methods

- PRISMA-SCR & JBI
- Database searches in:
  - EBSCOhost, PsycINFO, Linguistics and Language Behavior Abstracts, Google Scholar, ProQuest Dissertations and Theses A&I, and Web of Science
- Screening using predetermined exclusion criteria
  - 2005 – 2023
  - Qualitative studies, performed in U.S., children 0-18, parents are bilingual
- Coding and Qualitative Content Analysis
  - Taguette



# Results

## Data Extraction Chart:

- ❖ 30 papers
  - Articles (n = 18)
  - Theses/dissertations (n = 11)
  - Conference paper (n = 1)
  
- ❖ Over 20 heritage languages included in studies
- ❖ Study methodology (i.e., ethnographies, phenomenological research, multiple-case studies, mixed-methods)

Themes and sub-themes identified	
Theme	Subtheme
<b>Status of a language in society affects maintenance</b>	a. English dominance
	b. Access to HL resources and support
<b>Parents' beliefs about the impact of the heritage language</b>	a. Positive beliefs toward HL
	b. Negative beliefs toward HL
	c. Language choice
<b>Community advice impacts parents' beliefs and practices</b>	a. Advice from professionals
	b. Advice from friends and family
<b>Maintenance of the heritage language across generations</b>	a. Practicalities of maintenance
	b. Challenges to maintenance

# Key Findings

## Theme 1

Status of a Language in Society Affects Maintenance:

- ❖ English Dominance
- ❖ Access to heritage language resources and support

## Theme 2

Parents' Beliefs About the Impact of the Heritage Language:

- ❖ Positive Beliefs
- ❖ Negative Beliefs

# Key Findings

## Theme 3

Community Advice Impacts  
Parents' Beliefs and Practices:

- ❖ Advice from Professionals
- ❖ Advice from Family/Friends

## Theme 4

Maintenance of the Heritage  
Language Across Generations:

- ❖ Practicalities of Maintenance
- ❖ Challenges to Maintenance



# Future Directions

## International Journal of Bilingualism

- Publish a scoping review in 2024 within the IJB

## Indigenous Language

- Investigate heritage languages of Indigenous peoples and their language experiences

## Community Impact

- Examine the link between heritage language maintenance and advice from family/friends

## Expanded Projects

- SPHR Master's student to conduct research survey in partnership with Oregon WIC services

# Child Language Learning Center

Special thanks to the amazing team of people who contributed to this project in the Child Language Learning Center lab!

Contributing lab members:

Carolyn Quam, Ph.D  
Evandro Cunha  
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Margaret Hess  
Anna Zhen  
Amy Kaehr  
Diana Yuen  
Joey Lim



Link to the CLLC website:

