

University of Puerto Rico Aguadilla Campus English Department

Grace M. Méndez González

Portfolio Reflection: Introduction to Linguistic Theory

In the class Introduction to Linguistic Theory given by professor Dr. Alison Torres there was an assignment that was an essay research paper about a linguistic topic of our choosing. I chose the topic of language development and bilingualism in children with autism spectrum disorder. These are both concepts that we have learned about in the university semester in the Introduction to Linguistic Theory class. On the other hand, this assignment was very interesting because it allowed me dive deep into the topic of autism and let me learn about the definition, its characteristics, the different types of autism, etc. Also, I could learn about the differences in neurotypical and neurodiverse individuals when they begin to learn a language. In addition, I got to explore bilingualism and the myth that learning two languages may delay learning or confuse people with autism. I think these topics are relevant to learn as people in society because we get to understand people with these disorders a lot more. Moreover, it's even more important for future teachers. That is because we are going to have individuals with autism spectrum disorder in our classrooms. It's important to learn how they develop language and have them and their parents understand that learning a second language may benefit them in a lot of ways contrary to popular belief. In addition, when we are building lesson plans it's important to consider the way that people with autism spectrum disorder learn and how every student may have differing ways of understanding the material. In conclusion, this assignment was very insightful and will help me in my future teaching endeavors by helping me understand the students I'm teaching that have autism spectrum disorder a lot better.