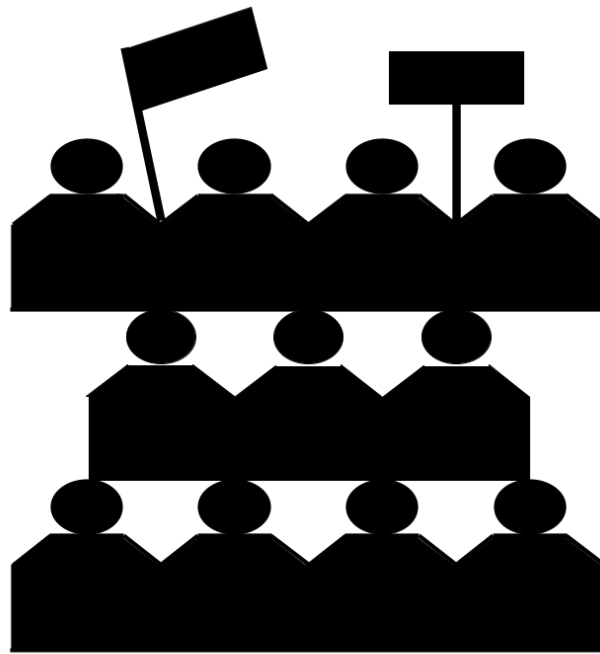


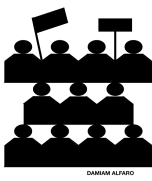
# Race and Ethnicity



DAMIAM ALFARO

April 12, 2026

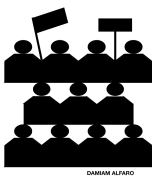
By Damiam Alfaro



SOCO 101 – Principles of Sociology  
San Diego Miramar College  
Discussion Post 9.8  
April 12, 2026

**Subject:** Describe a time when you first became aware of your racial identity. What were the circumstances that brought this awareness into focus? Was it a single moment, a series of events, or a gradual realization? Who was involved, and how did it make you feel?

Language is a fundamental part of ethnicity. The moment I became aware of my racial identity was immediately after arriving in the United States. For circumstances outside my control, I was born in the United States, however for the same circumstances I did not grow up in this country, but in México. The first time that I came to the U.S. was during my sophomore year of high school, around 2016, wherein I did not speak a single word in English, everything that I could communicate was my name, the hour, and the day I found myself in. As you might imagine, this place a high level of difficulty in my academic and social endeavors at the time. It becomes quite clear when you are ostracized because of the lack of language skills, you are immediately put to the side, discarded, or dismissed in academic activities, no one really wants to be your friend, and it is understandable to some extent; at that age people want to make friends, they want to have fun, they have no responsibilities whatsoever, ultimately they don't want to deal with someone who doesn't speak their language, they are too focus on their social status, their emotions, and their interpersonal relationships at that time. Other circumstances brought this awareness into focus, not only did this ostracizing happened in the academic setting, but also in the professional and social setting, like I said, it is very difficult to construct social bonds and even generate a small talk conversation with someone when you don't speak the native language, you are immediately categorized as an unworthy individual to speak to, an individual not worth the time to understand. This became a gradual realization for me, but to be honest I was quite comfortable with that, and the reason for this is not only because I had friends who also spoke Spanish like me, filling up that void of loneliness, but also I was learning English by the day, every day I was educating myself by learning a new word, reading a few pages of a book despite not understanding the majority of the content, speaking by myself during commute, and practicing the English language in any way possible. This led me to learn intermediate English within a year, and by my junior year, I was already placed in regular classes with regular English speaking people. Sociologically speaking, this is understandable since an individual coming to a new country and experiencing obstacles because of a lack of understanding of the language can cause problems in employment and education, but the latter is what becomes most important for someone not speaking the language due to his race and ethnicity; education disregards all those labels and categories, and propels you into keen communication, comprehension, and appliance



of knowledge, allowing you to thrive. In order to learn one has to act because action produces a result that can be studied, you can observe the nature of such result and act accordingly afterwards, but without action such observations would've never be evident. Action is what makes you learn and improve your next step.

My two questions are:

1. How can we integrate people who do not speak a language into society?
2. What are some educational methods to improve this people's language skills?

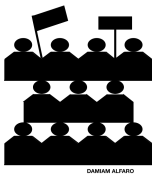
Answer to some of my classmates' posts:

Hi Samuel,

I enjoyed your explanation of the racial ethnicity experience in 4th grade. However, what caught my attention was one of your question, question number 1, about the stereotypes of race. Stereotypes are merely prejudices, most of them constructed by your life experiences, by the education you received from both, your parents and from the academic institutions you enrolled, from society, and nowadays, from the globalization of society via digital methods such as social media, entertainment platforms, and other forms of audiovisual digital communication, which I believe to be the most infectious disease to ever exist, not only does it robs your attention, but it implements racial and political stereotypes upon other countries, races, and ethnicities of the world, stereotypes that most people tend to believe.

Hi Miguel,

Nice analysis. To answer one of your questions, I believe that it is inevitable for language to not be one of the fundamental parts of ethnicity. Whenever you speak a native language of another human eloquently and grammatically correct, there's this innate bond and appreciation of this other human for using its native language properly, it is a similar feeling to "you borrowed my car, and you brought it up with the tank full". Rhetoric uses language to affect its audience's beliefs without offering reasons for a claim. As a means of persuasion, rhetoric is often employed in place of good argumentation. Rhetoric often makes use of words that are emotionally charged or have subtle overtones, Words or phrases that attempt to manipulate audiences as rhetorical devices, also known as slanters, may sway audiences in a number of ways.



SOCO 101 – Discussion 9.8 Race and Ethnicity  
Damiam Alfaro – [damiamalfaro@gmail.com](mailto:damiamalfaro@gmail.com)