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#### The Art of Moving Across Borders: A Look into Translanguage Literature

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# The Art Of Moving Across Borders:

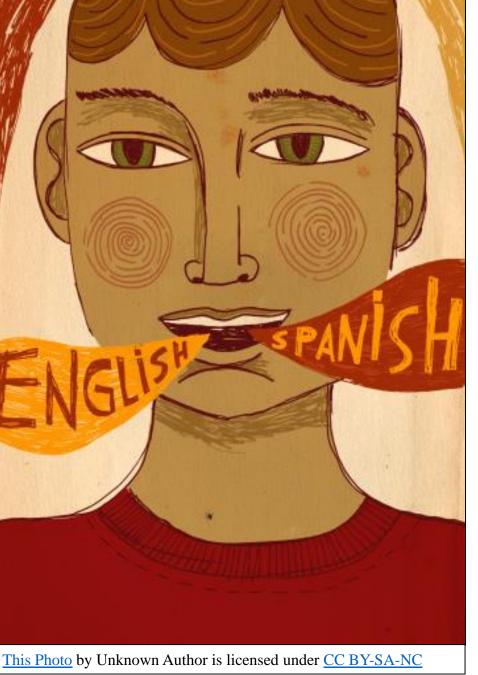
# A Look Into Translanguage Literature

Sarah Herrera Hope College, Holland MI. 2019

### Definition

Translanguaging is a phenomenon through which multilingual students adapt to the English language by creating a third distinct form of communication.

• Translanguaging, in a Mexican-American context, can be compared to Spanglish. However, translanguaging is an internal fluid movement which happens to those who are multilingual.



According to Ofelia Garcia and Sara Vogel, three core premises of translanguaging theory are:

- 1. "Individuals select and deploy 'features' from their linguistic repertoire to communicate."
- 2. "It takes up a perspective on bi- and multilingualism that privileges speakers' own dynamic linguistic and semiotic practices above the named languages of nations and states."
- "It still recognizes the material effects of socially constructed named language categories and structuralist language ideologies, especially for minoritized language speakers." (Vogel and Garcia, "Translanguaging.")



# Application In Literature

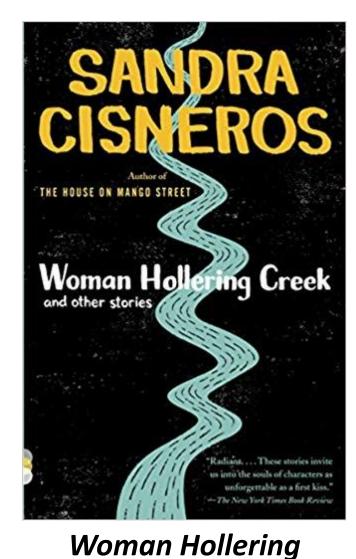
- Translanguaging is a state of identity. It is a middle ground for those of us who use two languages on a daily basis
- As a state of identity, translanguaging allows us to be validated. Those of us who are bilingual or multilingual move fluidly between two worlds and having that be reflected in the things we read would further our sense of identity and belonging.
- Human beings are language, it is not just a form of communication. Language shapes our identities and when our identities are constantly deemed invalid, translanguaging should be there to reaffirm us.

(https://translanguageliterature.wordpress.com

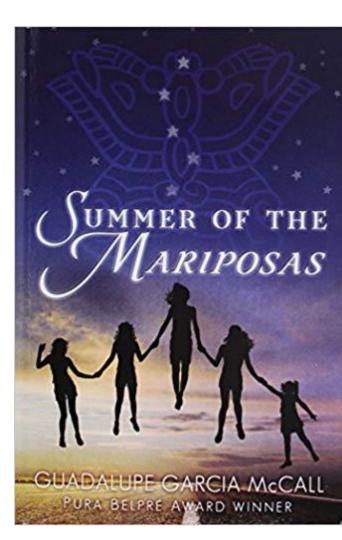


Special Thanks to the Mellon Scholars Program and Dr. Jesus Montaño

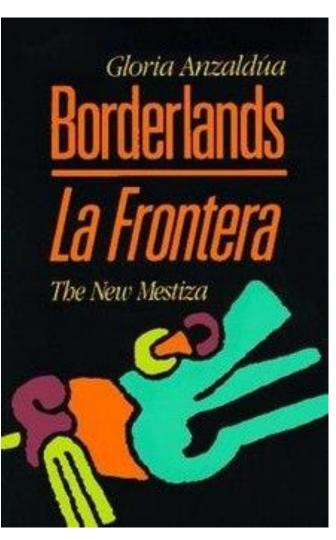
## Literature That Translanguages







Summer Of The Mariposas by **Guadalupe Garcia** McCall



Borderlands/La Frontera by Gloria Anzaldua

### Analysis:

Cisneros

"Don't go out there after dark, mi'jita. Stay near the house. No es bueno para la salud. Mala suerte. Bad luck. Mal aire. You'll get sick and the baby too." (Woman Hollering Creek p. 224)

"So, if you really want to hurt me, talk badly about my language. Ethnic identity is my twin skin to linguistic identity— I am my language. Until I can take pride in my language, I cannot take pride in myself.... Until I am free to write bilingually and to switch codes without having always to translate," (Borderlands/La Frontera p. 81)

"I thought of Llorona, the legendary Weeping Woman said to have drowned her own children. Mamá says she roams the rivers of the world in search of them." (Summer Of The Mariposas p. 32)

#### Sources:

Vogel, Sara, and Ofelia Garcia. "Translanguaging." Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Education, December 19, 2017. https://doi.org/10.1093/acrefore/9780190264093.013.181.



