

*Perspectives on Life in a Nahuatl-speaking American Household*

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This study will explore the assimilation experiences of first-generation Nahuatl Mexicans and how they affect their children. Nahuatl is a language of the Uto-Aztecan language family. It was the predominant language spoken by the Aztecs during the Late Post classic period. Nahuatl is the native language of about 1.5 million people living in Central Mexico, who identify ethnically as Nahuas, or Mexicano, making it the most widely spoken indigenous language in that country. My own family members come from Ahuelicán, Guerrero, Mexico. The village is located in a rural area south of Mexico City. The population currently consists of just 332 people . My analysis is based on oral histories recorded during interviews with my extended family members about their experiences either growing up in Mexico or growing up in the U.S. Some key findings I will be discussing include the impact of strict gender roles and socially conservative ideologies within the community on the second generation. It will also include how it has had an impact on our own image and views today. This study is significant because it will shed light on the unique aspects of linguistic and cultural practices in a conservative indigenous family living in the U.S.