

California State University Monterey Bay

LING-392 (02): Nature of Language and Language Acquisition

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Language Analysis Group Project

Subject Participant: Enrique Peña Nieto

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**Biography**

Enrique Peña Nieto served as the 57th President of Mexico from 2012 until 2018. He has been affiliated since 1984 with the Institutional Revolutionary Party (Spanish: Partido Revolucionario Institucional, PRI), a social democratic political party founded in 1929 after the Mexican Revolution. This party is known for its controversial and often corrupt rule of the country's presidency which governed uninterruptedly for 71 years, from 1929 to 2000. Peña Nieto was born on July 20, 1966 in the Mexican City of Atlacomulco. His mother was an educationalist and his father was an engineer in the Federal Electricity Commission (Spanish: Comisión Federal de Electricidad, CFE), Mexico's national electric company. Peña Nieto studied in the Panamerican University (Spanish: Universidad Panamericana, UP), a private catholic academic institution founded in Mexico City, where he earned a Bachelor's Degree in Law in 1989. In 1991, he obtained a Master of Business Administration from the Monterrey Institute of Technology and Higher Education. In the 1990s, the young lawyer immersed himself in the political work. In the early 2000s, he began to assume high profile political positions. Peña Nieto served as administration secretary, congressman and governor of the State of Mexico before being elected as the representative of the national executive branch. He overcame his political party's corrupt reputation to win back the presidency in 2012 which was later lost in 2018 with the election of Andrés Manuel López Obrador, founder of Morena, a left wing political party. Peña Nieto's presidency is known for its battle against drug cartels, deregulation of the energy sector and the reforms in education. During his term as president, he was involved in many corrupt activities that were ignored by Mexico's justice authorities. His failure to correctly govern the nation was punished with the election of the opposition party by the Mexican society.

### **Transcribed Sentences**

[wode]      [uh]

#1: I would like to start uh by speaking about the new international equilibrium, in which

[uh]

emerging countries are uh playing a prominent role, as new global centers of production and consumption of trade and wealth.

[uh]

#2: I apologize if my English is not uh as good as it should be, but I sincerely thank you for your

[doon ]

comprehension and so if you don't mind let's start with, I will give you a I hope a brief introduction of this and that later, I'd be glad to answer any questions you may have about the topic we are going to talk about.

#3: The extortion (nonsense) representation is as follows.

#4: First, I will like I will talk about the concept of emerging economies and their increasing

[dɛ]

significance in the global scene.

[dɛ]

#5: Second, I will mention the development prospects for the next decades and later I will refer

[dɛr]

to some key factors, that lie behind their success and to conclude I will present the perspective overview of the case of Mexico.

[espə'sɪfɪk]

#6: Particularly some specific measures to accomplish a better future.

[dɛ] [mɜːdʒɪn]

#7: Let's start with the emerging economies.

[kɔːnt ]

#8: The time emerging economies is an extension of the concept emerging markets coined, at the

[dɪ'pɛləpɪŋ] ['kɒntrɪz ]

end of the nineteen-seventies, that refers solely to the capital markets of developing countries.

[brɔːd]

[dɛ]

#9: This broad category includes such different nations as you will see in the presentation, Argentina, Algeria, bangladesh and etcetera, of course going through Mexico and Thailand.

[brɔːd]

#10: Taking into account this diversity emerging economies may be defined in broad terms, as



[ 'kɒntrɪz ] [ 'di,kris ] [dɛr] [dɛ]

#19: In the last decade emerging countries decreased their share in the institutional investor portfolio, from nine- point- sixty-seven to sixteen percent.

[dɛ] [ 'kɒntrɪz ] [dɛ]

#20: The foreign direct investment among emerging countries, rose five times faster than the foreign direct investment from developed countries to emerging countries.

[ 'kɒntrɪz ] [ 'kɒntrɪz ]

#21: Approximately sixty companies of Fortune Global five hundred, /I race/ ( not understandable) in emerging economies, fourteen of these multinational companies are specialized, in high technology or in capital intensive industries.

[ 'espɛʃə,laizd ]

[dɛ] [dɛ] [dɛr]

#22: The Asian economies represent twenty-six percent of the IT global services market, their poverty levels are being consistently reduced and their consumption is increasing.

[rə'dus ] [dɛr]

[dɛr] [ 'ɛspɛndɪŋ ] [dɛ]

#23: In two thousand seven, their consumer spending rose three times faster, than that of the developed world.

[dɛ]

#24: Well the prospects for the emerging economies, there are all kinds of prospects regarding the future of emerging countries.

[dɛ] [ 'kɒntrɪz ]

[dɛr] [dɛ]

#25: In general they agreed that during the following years, these economies will continue playing an important role in the global economy.

[dɛ]

[dɛ] [ 'lɛsɒnz ] [dɛ]

#26: One of the lessons from the successful emerging economies.

[wɪ'tɛn] [ðɔrɪz] [dɪ'spɛrətti]

#27: As it can be observed, even within emerging economies, there is a disparity with their

[ 'tʊ ] [ɛkə'næmɪk]

regard to their economic performance.

[ 'tʊ] [ 'tʊ] [dɛ][ 'baɪəblz] [wɪl] [dɛ]

#28: To the same extent, it is convenient to point out the variables that will foster the progress of

[dɛ] [ 'aɪzən] [ɛkə' nɑmɪk] [gloʊb]

the Asian Asian region since their economía (Spanish) since their economic annual growth is

[ 'ɛstə, meɪttəd] [faɪ] [pɔr' sɛnt] [ 'twɛntti] [ 'twɛntti] [ 'twɛntti]

estimated in almost five percent from now until twenty twenty two thousand twenty.

#29: These are some examples.

#30: Increase saving and investment levels.

[ 'greɪtər] [ə' pɪnjənz] [ɪn' sɜ:fən] [ ,gloʊbəlɪ' zeɪfən]

#31: Greater opinions and insertion into globalization.

[ ,prəʊdæk' tɪvətti] [kəm' pɛtɪtɪvvnɪs]

#32: Higher productivity and competitiveness.

[ ,ɛdʒə' keɪfən]

#33: Increasing levels of education and work training.

[kən' sɪdərəbəl]

#34: Considerable investment in science, technology and innovations.

[ 'ɪnfəʊ] [ ,ɪnfər' meɪfən] [kəm, jʊnə' keɪfən]

#35: Targeted development of info information and communication technologies.

#36: Regulatory and institutional reforms.

[dɛ]

#37: In consequence, we can conclude that the successful emerging economies are those that

[ 'mɒdə, faɪ][dɛ] [ɪn' sɛntɪfz] [ɪ' strʌktʃər] [ 'ʌðər] [ 'tʊ]

have better modified the incentives structure of their markets in other (misuse) in order to

[ 'təʊərz] [dɛ] [kri' eɪfən]

orient--them towards the creation of wealth.

[ 'ɔlsəʊ] [dɛ] [ 'gʌvrmənts] [dɛ]

#38: Also, remarkable is the significant work of their governments in the following:

[fɜrs] [kəm' pɛtɪtɪvvnɪs]

#39: First promote competitiveness in their different markets.

[ 'sekən] [ ,flɛksə' bɪlətti] [ 'tʊ]

#40: Second foster higher market flexibility in order to obtain a more efficient educational resources.

[θɜr] ['taʊərz][æk'trɪvətɪz] [dɛ]

#41: And third, apply public policies that direct public resources towards activities with the

[soʊsəl] [soʊ] [ˌprɑfɪtə'bɪlɪti]

highest social (nonsense word) so (nonsense word) social profitability.

[ˌɛdʒə'keɪʃən] [ɪnfɹə'strʌktʃʊr] [dɛ] ['tʊ] [uh]

#42: Education and investment in infrastructure, those are the two main issues that uh sincerely

[dɛ][uh][uh][dɛ] [kəm'pɛtɪtɪvvnɪs] [ɪ'mɜrdʒɪn]

help increase the uh uh the competitiveness of these emerging economies.

[nɪr] ['fjuʃjər] [wɪl] ['tʊ]

#43: In the near future, Asian, decision makers will also have to incorporate into their list of

[wɜrl] [dɛ] [ˌmɪ'kwɒlətɪ] [ˌdɪstrə'bjuʃən]

world mechanism, policies that arrays and satisfy the growing inequality, income distribution and

[dɪ'tɪrɪə'reɪʃən]

environmental deterioration.

[ɪ'sɪnəri] ['tʊ]

#44: Among all these, these, scenery (nonsense word), I would like to, thank you Julio (brief

['tʊ] [lɛŋkθs]

pause), to give you some lengths (not understandable) of what is going on in Mexico.

[tu'deɪ]

#45: How is Mexico today?

['tʊ] [dɛ] ['mɑrkətɛs]

#46: According to the International Business Report “Emerging Markets Markets Index”

[ə'pɪrɪz] ['rɒʃə]

Mexico appears in fourth place after China, India and Russia.

['kɒntrɪz] ['prɑdɒkt]

#47: Out of these four emerging countries, Mexico's per capita gross domestic product is below

['rɒʃə] [wɪt]

Russia with above China and India.

[ 'tʊ ]

[tʃəd] [tʃəd]

#48: According to this report, Mexico's score and position should be should not be a surprise, its

[ən'prɛsɪ]

[dɛ] [eɪg] [jʊrɪz]

economy has had an unprece (word repetition) unprecedented stability for the last eight years.

[ɪn'fleɪʃən]

[ 'tʊ ] [fɔl]

#49: An inflation has been stable and continues to fall.

[twɛl]

[tri]

#50: Furthermore, Mexico has twelve free trade agreements with forty three countries.

### **Analysis**

As governor of the State of Mexico, Enrique Peña Nieto, now former president of Mexico, served as the speaker of the 2008 World Future Society's annual meeting. This organization is recognized as the largest and most influential community of future thinkers in the world. Peña Nieto described the social, political and economic trends that are developing the economic growth of Mexico, China, India and Russia and the role of local institutions to consolidate strong foundations. In regard to his linguistic performance, we perceived some patterns of error in the areas of phonetics, morphology, syntax and semantics. However, it is evident that the area of major emphasis is phonology, because he hardly speaks another language other than Spanish in public. In fact, this speech is unique, because it exposed his ability to



communicate in English publicly and has been historically criticized by the Mexican society for his strong accent and lack of fluidity.

In the area of phonology, which is the study of the sound system of language, we discovered that the subject participant has problems of pronunciation in four major phonetic sounds. These areas include the following phonetic sounds [d], [ə], [s] and [ð]. The consonant sound [d] is articulated in the alveolar ridge and is classified as oral voiced stop. Throughout the speech, the subject participant has a consistent and substantial pattern of error in phonology with the substitution of [d] for [ð] as reflected in sentences #4, #5, #7, #9, #11, #12, #13, #14, #15, #16, #17, #18, #19, #20, #22, #23, #24, #25, #26, #37, #38, #41, #42, #43, #46 and #48. The subject participant also omits the ending or final sounds. For example, the ending sounds of [d] is substituted for [t] in a concept known as word-final consonant cluster simplification. This can be observed in the word modified (#37) which he pronounces as ['mɒdə, **faɪ**] and in the word “world” (#44) which is pronounced as [wɜ:rl]. In this section, we found 11 words with similar patterns of error. One reason for this is because, perhaps as a native Spanish speaker, he has issues pronouncing consonant blends which are rare to find in Spanish. Another problematic sound of the subject participant is the mid-central vowel [ə] also known as schwa. As we previously stated, there are several inconsistencies with the ending sounds of words. For instance, he mispronounces words with the ending *-tion* that can be represented with the vowel sound [ə] and was substituted for the phonetic sound [an]. This can be perceived in the following 9 words; #31 insertion [ɪn' sɜ:ʃ**an**], #31 globalization [ˌglɒbəlɪ' zeɪʃ**an**], #33, #42 education [ˌɛdʒə' keɪʃ**an**], #35 information [ˌɪnfər' meɪʃ**an**], #35 communication [kəmˌjʊnə' keɪʃ**an**], #37 creation [kri' eɪʃ**an**], #43 distribution [dɪstrə' bju:ʃ**an**] #43 deterioration [dɪ' tɪriəˌ reɪʃ**an**] and #49 inflation [ɪn' fleɪʃ**an**]. This observation shows that Peña Nieto tends to put a primary stress at the

end of these words. This pattern of error can be related with the same word ending in Spanish. For instance, the word *información* (information), the primary stress is located in the last syllable due to the written accent. In the use of the Alveolar voiceless [s] sound, Peña Nieto tended to use an “e” in front of each word that contained this sound, taking the emphasis in the [s] away. For example, a word that reflected this error was when he pronounced the word specific as *especific*. After some research, we were able to learn that native Spanish speakers tend to do this as the process of learning English. The mistake can be considered by the native speakers almost unnoticeable, for the reason that certain words in Spanish do contain an “e” in front of a word that has an “s” sound next to it. Some of the Spanish words that have the “e” and “s” next to each other are in the following; *estudio*, *especializado* and *especifico*. These words translate into, studies, specialized and specific, when the native Spanish speaker pronounces these type of words, the “e” sound is often added. More of the errors with the “s” constant are observed in sentences # 6, #10, #18, #21, #23, #28 and #37. Another area where the subject participant had difficulty in the pronunciation was in the sound of the phonetic symbol [ð]. Peña Nieto would change this sound to a [d] sound, removing the action the mouth makes in order to make the voiced dental fricative sound. The new sound he would make using the “d” in front would require him to use less stress on the tongue since the [ð] sound requires the tongue to be in between the upper and bottom teeth. Some examples of the changes he would make are in the following examples: *their*/[dɛr], *they*/[dɛɪ ] and the /dɛ/. This was detected in a total of 52 sentences per our aforementioned analysis of the sound substitution [d] for [ð].

In the field of morphology, the study of the structure of words and the component of rules to form words, the subject participant used technical terms to address strategies for economic growth and social issues. For example, the open class word in *infra·struc·ture* (#42) (adjective)

was imported from French, where it means subgrade, a material underneath pavement. The Latin prefix *infra* (bound morpheme) means below and the Latin stem *structure* (free morpheme) means build. The term *infrastructure* refers to the physical and organizational structures that operates an enterprise or society. Another example is the open class word un·prec·e·dent·ed (#48) (adjective) which means something unique. This word is formed from the prefix *un* (bound morpheme) means not, the noun *precedent* (free morpheme) and the suffix *-ed* (bound morpheme) refers to having. The open class word sta·bil·i·ty (#48) (noun) meaning fixed and steady, is divided in two parts; *stable* (free morpheme) and *-ity* (bound morpheme). In terms of morphology, the subject participant shows an outstanding performance, because he is assisted by a speech writer.

Syntax is the rules of sentence formation; the component of the mental grammar that represents speakers' knowledge of the structure of phrases and sentences. In this portion there were very little errors because the subject participant spoke word by word on what was on his script for the speech. However, what we did find in this area was a few run on sentences causing the reader to lose concentration. Every so often, Peña Nieto would use the sentence filler word, "uh" mostly to have a second to think on what he was going to say next. In this phrase taken directly from his speech we could see the usage of a filler word, " I [wode] start my [uh] by speaking about the new internationæl equilibrium in which emerging [ 'kontriz ] are [uh] playing a prominent role, as new global centers of production and consumption of trade and wealth"(Peña Nieto). This is observed in sentences #1, and #2. Peña Nieto also stuttered, causing him to repeat words in a phrase used in a way to think about what he will say next. One of the sentences that reflect the stuttering of the subject participant is shown in sentence #4, "First, I will like I will talk about the concept of emerging economies and their increasing

significance in [dε] global scene”(Peña Nieto). In the two sentences given as examples from Peña Nieto’s speech, his use of components, such as, noun, verb and adjectives, was not a difficult practice to apply to his phrases. We were able to analyze his correct usage of nouns, verbs and adjectives.

In the area of semantics, the study of linguistic meaning of morphemes, words, phrases and sentences, the subject participant implies the concepts, such as semantic properties, homonyms and metonyms. The following examples demonstrate the use of semantic features. These terms are employed by the speaker to show the components of [+economic growth]; production (#1), consumption (#1), trade (#1) and investment (#18). In the context of the speech, Russia (#47), China (#47) and India (#47) symbolize [+emerging countries]. With regard to homonyms, Peña Nieto used the preposition *to* on 11 occasions in an specific time period and 6 times the number two. This can be seen in sentence #42, “education and investment in infrastructure, those are the two main issues that uh sincerely help increase the uh uh the competitiveness of these emerging economies.” However, these homonyms do not have lexical ambiguity, because they are part of an specific context. Last, we found some metonyms which refer to words used in place of others. For instance, technology (#21) and science (#34) were used to refer to innovations. The word “rules” (#12) means government control and multinational (#21) refers to international collaboration. It is important to mention that the subject participant did not use synonyms or antonyms to convey his ideas. For this reason, we concluded that he lacked the use of variety of vocabulary in sentences.

In conclusion, we consider Enrique Peña Nieto to be quite fluent in English because he was able to transmit the message he wanted his audience to receive. Peña Nieto has been doing well in trying to adapt to the rules of sentence formation and word meanings in his second

language acquisition. This is due to his ability to reach a larger group of people, not only to Spanish speaking individuals, but to a broader audience outside of Mexico. Most of the patterns of errors for Peña Nieto are in the area of phonology and syntax, but overall his speech was understandable and is developing rapidly in the language. However, it is notorious that he would not be able to have an actual conversation in English due to the lack of knowledge of this language. We believe that a representative of a nation such as a president should dominate more than one language to establish stronger and effective foreign-relations.

### **Phonetic Table**

#### **Consonants**

**[d]** #1 would [wɒde], #8 coined [kɔɪnt ],#14, 43 world [wɜrl] and [wɜrlt] , #19 decreased

['di,kris],#22 reduced [rə'dus ], #37 modified ['mɒdə,faɪ] (1), #37, 42 towards ['təʊərz]

(2), #40 second ['sekən] (1), #41 third [θɜr] (1) **TOTAL (11)**

**[g]** #15 wages ['weɪfəz] (1) **TOTAL (1)**

**[h]** No pattern of errors were found

**[j]** No pattern of errors were found

**[k]** No pattern of errors were found

**[l]** #34 considerable [kən'sɪdərəbəl](1), #43 will [wɪl] (1) **TOTAL (2)**

**[m]** No pattern of errors were found

**[n]** No pattern of errors were found

**[ŋ]** #42 emerging [ɪ'mɜrdʒɪn] (1) **TOTAL (1)**

**[p]** No pattern of errors were found

**[r]** #14 rural ['rʊəl], genre ['ʒɑnə] (2) **TOTAL (2)**

**[s]** #6 specific [espə'sɪfɪk], #10 still [estɪl], started ['estartəd], instability [ɪnestə'bɪlɪti], #18 studies ['estʌdɪz], #21 special, ['espɛʃəl, laɪzd], #23 spending ['espɛndɪŋ], #28 Asian ['aɪʒən] (1), #37 structure [ɪ'strʌktʃər] (1) **TOTAL (9)**

**[ʃ]** #48 should [tʃəd] (2) **TOTAL (2)**

**[t]** # 2 don't [daʊn], #27 disparity [dɪ'spærəti] (1), #28 estimated ['estə, meɪtəd] (1), #28 twenty ['twenti] (3), #48 eight [eɪt] (1) #32 productivity [,prɒdʌk'tɪvəti] (1), #32 competitiveness [kəm'pɛtɪvɪvnɪs] (1), #39 first [fɜrs] (1), #40 flexibility [,flɛksə'bɪləti] (1), #41 activities [æk'tɪvətɪz] (1), #41 profitability [,prɒfɪtə'bɪləti] (2), #43 future ['fju:tʃər] (1), #43 inequality [,ɪnɪ'kwələti] (1) **TOTAL (16)**

**[tʃ]** No pattern of errors were found

**[θ]** #27 within [wɪ'tɛn] (1), #47 with [wɪt] (1) #50 three [tri] (1) **TOTAL (3)**

**[ð]** #4,5, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 14, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20(2), 22(2), 23, 24(2), 25(2), 26, 28(4), 37(3), 38 (2), 41, 42(3), 43(2), 46, 48 the [dɛ] (39), #27 there is /there's(1) [ðəɪz] #5, 12(2), 14, 17, 19, 22(2), 23 their [dɛr](10), #13, 15, 25 they [deɪ] (3) **TOTAL (52)**

**[v]** #8, developing [dɪ'pɛləpɪŋ], #28 five [faɪ] (1), #37 incentives [ɪn'sentɪfz] (1), #39, 42 competitiveness [kəm'pɛtɪvɪvnɪs] (2) #50 twelve [twel] (1) **TOTAL (6)**

**[w]** #37 towards ['taʊərz] (1), #42 two [tu] (1), #50 twelve [twel] (1) **TOTAL (3)**

**[z]** No pattern of errors were found 14

**[ʒ]** #28 Asian ['aɪʒən] (1) **TOTAL (1)**

**[dʒ]** No pattern of errors were found

## Vowels

[ʌ] #8, #10, #14, #15, #19, #20(3), #24, #47 countries ['kɒntrɪz](1) **TOTAL (10)**

[ɑ] #41 profitability [ˌprɒfɪtə'bɪlətɪ] (1) **TOTAL (1)**

[æ] #13 contrast ['kɒntɹæst] **TOTAL (1)**

[e] #32 competitiveness [kəm'petɪtɪvvnɪs] (1), #43 near [nɪr](1) #48 years [jɪrz](1) **TOTAL (3)**

[ɛ] #26 lessons ['lesənz] (1), #28 variables ['væriəblz] (1), #28 percent [pɜr'sent] (1), #31 greater ['greɪtər] (1), #38 governments ['gʌvnmənts] (1) **TOTAL (5)**

[ə] #31 insertion [ɪn'sɜrʃən] (1), #31 globalization [ˌglɒbəlɪ'zeɪʃən] (1), #33, 42 education [ˌedʒə'keɪʃən] (2), #35 information [ˌɪnfər'meɪʃən] (1), #35 communication [kəmˌjʊnə'keɪʃən] (1), #37 creation [kri'eɪʃən] (1), #46 appears [ə'pɪrɪz] (1), #43 distribution [ˌdɪstrə'bjuʃən] (1), #43 deterioration [dɪ'tɪriə'reɪʃən], #49 inflation [ɪn'fleɪʃən] (1) **TOTAL (11)**

[ɪ] #27,28, economic [ɛkə'nɒmɪk] (2) **TOTAL (2)**

[i] #37 incentives [ɪn'sentɪvz](1) **TOTAL (1)**

[ɔ] #38 also ['ɔlsəʊ] (1), #49 fall [fɔl] (1) **TOTAL (2)**

[o] #12 double ['dʌbəl], #12, 14(2) growth [ˌgrəʊθ], #27, 29(2), 38, 41, 44, 45(2), 47, 49, 50 to ['tʊ] (11), #31 opinions [ə'pɪnjənz] (1), #37 towards ['təʊərz] (1), #37 modified ['mɒdɪ'faɪ] (1) #45 today [tu'deɪ] (1) **TOTAL (19)**

[ʊ] #46, 47 Russia ['rʊʃə] (2), #47 product ['prɒdʌkt] (1) **TOTAL (4)**

[u] #37 structure [ɪ'strʌktʃʊr] (1) #43 future ['fju:tʃər] (1) **TOTAL (2)**

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