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**The Perceptions of Binary and Non-binary Inclusive  
Language in Academic Communities from Buenos Aires,  
Argentina, and California, United States.**

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Source: [pngimage.net](http://pngimage.net)

# Spanish grammatical gender

- Grammatical gender
  - Words ending with the letter “o” are considered masculine.
  - Words ending with the letter “a” are considered feminine.
  - Words ending with the letter “e” are considered neutral.
- Words ending in the letters “os” are considered “the masculine extensive”, which means they index both men and women in nouns referring to people like “todos” (“all”).

# What is inclusive language?

- Binary inclusive language
  - The use of both masculine and feminine forms of nouns (e.g. *todos y todas* )
  - The use of the symbol @ (e.g. *tod@s*)
- Inclusive non-binary language
  - The letter x (e.g. *todxs*)
  - The morpheme e (e.g. *todes*)
- Royal Spanish Academy (RAE)
  - The use of masculine extensive (e.g. *todos*)



Source: [www.eltiempo.com](http://www.eltiempo.com)

# Previous Studies

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## Spain: Rodriguez (2018)

- The study focuses on measuring student opinions in Spain.
- Middle school
  - Acceptance of masculine and feminine nouns (*todos y todas*)
- High school
  - Preference for the masculine extensive (*todos*)
- In both sectors they reject the unpronounceable alternatives (*todxs* and *tod@s*).

## Argentina: Adecco (2019)

- This research focuses on general perceptions, especially in the workplace.
- Opposition to inclusive language.
- At work they do not express themselves in a neutral form.
- Social inclusiveness would not be achieved through linguistic inclusiveness.

# Research question

What are the perceptions of inclusive binary and non-binary language in academic communities in Buenos Aires, Argentina and the Central Coast of California, USA?



Fuente: [www.spansource.com](http://www.spansource.com)

# Methodology of the present study

## Participants

- 40 participants
  - Buenos Aires, Argentina (18)
    - Students (8)
    - Educators (10)
  - California, EUA (22)
    - Students (17)
    - Educators (8)
  - Gender
    - Female (27)
    - Male (11)
    - Non-binary (2)
  - Age
    - 18-24 years old (47.5%)
    - 25-31 years old (22.5%)
    - 32-39 years old (20%)
    - 40+ years old (10%)
  - Major and/or specialization related to the Spanish language.
  - Education level
    - Bachelor's (90%)
    - Master's (5%)
    - Middle school (5%)
  - Native language
    - Spanish (95%)
    - English (5%)
  - Political ideology
    - Liberal (70%)
    - Moderate (20%)
    - Conservative (10%)

# Procedure

- Virtual survey
  - Divided into 3 sections
    - Demographic information (9 questions)
    - Perceptions of inclusive language (7 questions)
      - Multiple choice questions
      - Knowledge and familiarization
      - Assertions
    - Reported use of inclusive language (10 questions)
      - Open questions
      - Current and future reported use
      - Commercials



# Instruments

## Online Survey



Source: <http://enfermeriablog.com>

## Ribeiro (2018) Commercial



Source: <https://youtu.be/fZlJbC7epQw>

## Red Bull (2018) Commercial



Source: <https://youtu.be/BFzlwEeySao>

# Analysis

- Quantitative
  - Graphs and percentages of multiple choice questions thirteen and seventeen.
  - Social impact and preference of the neutral alternatives.
- Qualitative
  - Quotes from open-ended questions eighteen and twenty-four.
  - Perceptions of the two best alternatives.



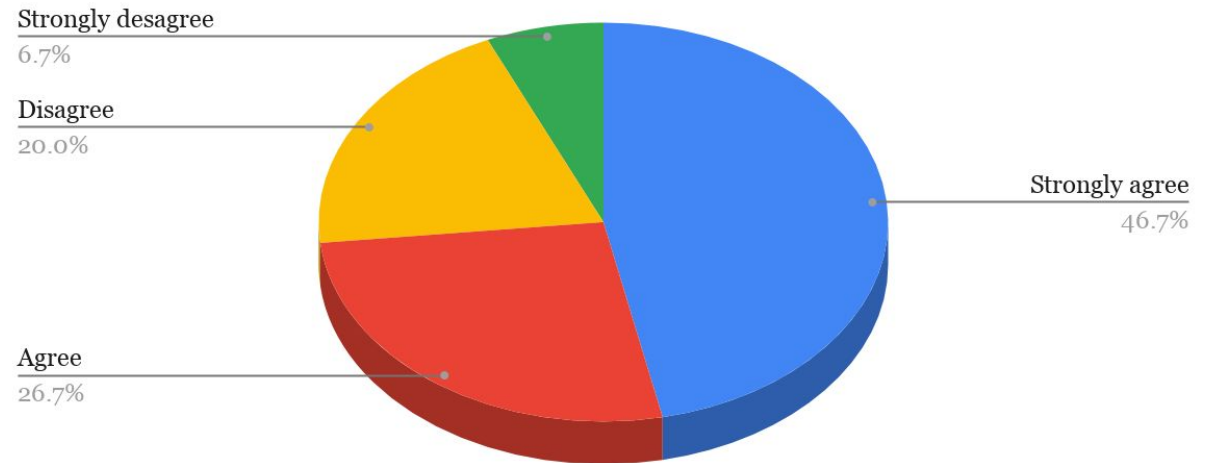
Source: [www.climate-literacy.eu](http://www.climate-literacy.eu)

# Quantitative Results

## Social impact: Moving towards an inclusive society

- Question 13: Please mark how much you agree with the following statement: "Social inclusiveness is promoted through inclusive language."
- Most believe that inclusive language contributes to an inclusive society (73.4%).
- Factors to consider:
  - Age
  - Level of education
  - Political ideology

Figure 1: "Social inclusiveness is promoted through inclusive language"



# Quantitative Results cont.

## Preferences per region

- Question 17: In which setting would you use the following inclusive language alternatives? Select all that apply.
- In Buenos Aires, 56.9% say they would employ inclusive language and 43.1% say they would not.
- In California, 72.4% say they would use neutral language and 27.6% say they would not.
- Binary language (49.8% ), non-binary (32.5%), none (17.9%) in both regions.
- Factors:
  - More students in California and more educators in Buenos Aires.
  - Proficiency in another language (English).
    - Linguistic flexibility.
  - It is a political issue in Argentina.
- For more details refer to our study.

Figure 5: Preference for inclusive language alternatives in Buenos Aires.

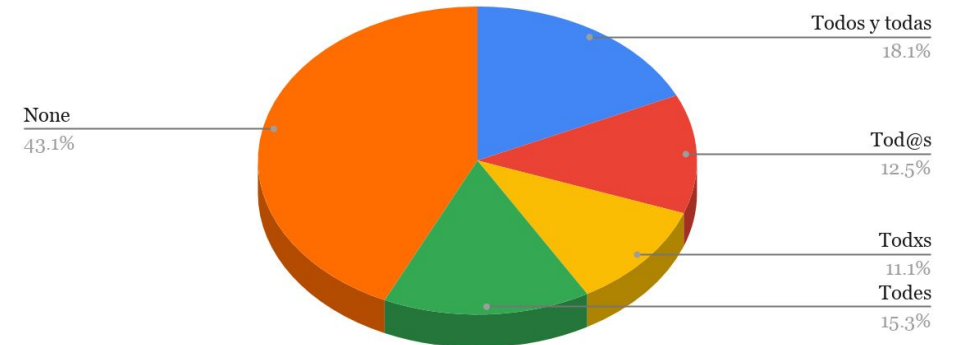
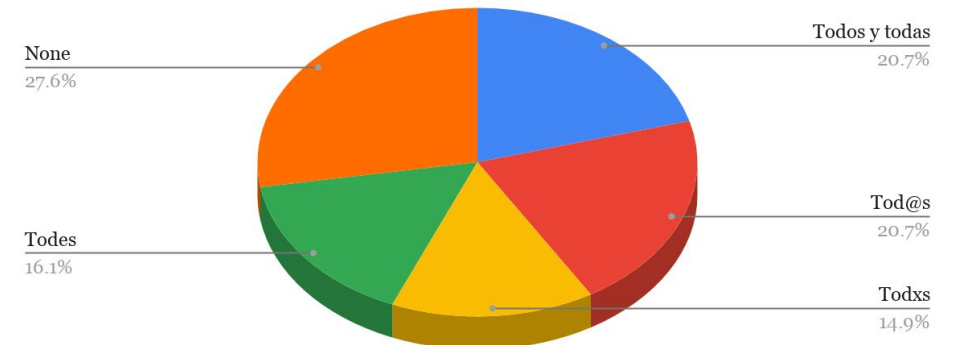


Figure 6: Preference for inclusive language alternatives in California.



# Qualitative Results

Perceptions of the use on both masculine and feminine forms of nouns (*todos y todas*)

★ **The most favorable option, but there are divided opinions.**

- It exists and is the most recognized.
  - In all contexts.
  - Both students and educators.
- It is unnecessary
  - It creates confusion in writing.
  - Rejection of linguistic entities (RAE).
    - Male extensive ( e.g. *todos*)

“[It is] clearer to me, since I grew up using them [...] It is the way I have used them all my life” (survey, April 2020).

“In my view, language should be precise, and if “todos” (everyone) includes both genders, it is unnecessary to split gender” (survey, April 2020).

# Qualitative Results cont.

## Perceptions of the “e” morpheme (*todes*)

- ★ **The most accepted after the masculine and feminine nouns.**
- Social unity
  - Inclusion of marginalized groups.
- Lack of seriousness
  - Taken humoristically by some.
  - Lack of uniformity in speech.

“It shows that society is seeking that union that it lacks in these moments of great diversity” (survey, April 2020). - California student

“Young people sometimes use the word “*chiques*” humorously and sometimes seriously, depending on their linguistic and social ideologies, even though they do not apply the “e” morpheme uniformly to the rest of their speech” (survey, April 2020). - Argentinian educator

# Conclusions

- Participants believe that inclusive language promotes social inclusion.
  - More support for binary neutral alternatives than non binary options.
  - There is more tolerance for the use of inclusive language in California.
  - They believe that inclusive language should be used in informal settings.
- Order of preference
  - Masculine and feminine nouns (*todos y todas*)
  - Morpheme “e” (*todes*)
  - At symbol (*tod@s*)
  - None (*todos*)
  - Letter “x” (*todxs*)
- Lack of general consensus
  - Modification to the language
  - Would affect linguistic purity
  - Marginalization



# Future research

- Examine a student's speech where he, she, or they employs one of the neutral alternatives.
- Report the frequency of use of the neutral alternatives in different settings.



Fuente: [www.utdt.edu](http://www.utdt.edu)



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Fuente: [www.csumb.edu](http://www.csumb.edu)

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