

COUNSELING IN SPANISH AND ENGLISH: PHENOMENOLOGICAL EXPERIENCES OF BILINGUAL COUNSELORS

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Overview – Statement of the Problem

- Population Needs
- Gaps

Theoretical Framework

- Multicultural and Social Justice Counseling Competencies

Research Questions

Q1 How do bilingual professional counselors experience bilingual counseling?

Q2 How do professional counselors acquire bilingual counseling skills?

Q3 How can counselor educators and supervisors support counselors in training bilingual skill development?

Methodology

- Social Constructionism
- Phenomenology
- Bronfenbrenner's Ecological Systems Theory

Methods

- Purposeful Sampling
- Snowball Sampling
- Responsive Semi-structured Interviews

Interview Questions

1. Envision in your mind your experience(s) with Spanish/English bilingual counseling – please describe that for me.
2. Reflect back on your first experience(s) of learning bilingual counseling, what stands out to you in your mind?
3. Please take a moment to ponder your experience(s) of supervision, in connection to bilingual counseling. What were your supervision experiences like in connection to bilingual counseling? Please describe that/those experience(s) of supervision.
4. I understand you graduated from a CACREP accredited program in professional counseling, please reflect upon your graduate training – how did this training prepare you for providing Spanish/English bilingual counseling?
5. Please envision in your mind what you would consider effective training for Spanish/English bilingual counseling – please describe this for me.

Participants

Inclusion criteria

- Graduate degree in professional counseling from a CACREP
- Utilize both Spanish and English in the talk therapy
- 20 percent of caseload is Spanish speaking

Exclusion criteria

- Non CACREP Graduate degree
- Not currently practicing (Admin)

Data Analysis

- Interview transcriptions
- Thematic analysis (TA)
- Codes, categories, and themes
- Trustworthiness & Rigor

Findings – Main Themes

1. Difficulty of Bilingual Counseling
2. Counseling the Latinx Community
3. Counselor Experience
4. Counselor Bilingual Skill Development
5. Interactive Training

Discussion and Implications

- Administrators
- Counseling Supervisors
- Bilingual Professional Counselors

Conclusion

- Multicultural and Social Justice Counseling Competencies
- Bilingual Counseling is a specialized form of counseling.
- Empirical support for bilingual supervision as preparation.
- Experiential Learning and Community Engagement
- Ethical Considerations