Dr. Larry Gross, PhD

Editor

*International Journal of Communication*

Annenberg School of Communication

University of Southern California

15 November 2021

Dear Dr. Gross,

I am writing to submit our manuscript entitled “Language Ideologies and Behavioral Attitudes toward Ethnolinguistic Outgroups: Perceived Linguistic Competence and Intergroup Anxiety as Explanatory Factors” for consideration as an original research article in the *International Journal of Communication*. Using a three-group, post-test experimental design, we manipulated U.S. American, native English users’ exposure to varying language ideologies (i.e., nonnative English as an asset; nonnative English as a deficit; or a control message) and tested the effects on perceptions of nonnative English users’ linguistic competence. Additionally, we examined the indirect effects of language ideologies on intergroup anxiety and behavioral attitudes toward Latino immigrants. Overall, this study indicates the critical role of considering nonnative English and L2 accents as an asset (as compared to the deficit and control conditions), as the asset condition led to the highest perceived linguistic competence, which in turn predicted reduced intergroup anxiety and improved behavioral attitudes toward Latino immigrants.

Given the salience of language attitudes, immigration, and acculturation in the United States, we believe the findings presented in our paper will appeal to the broad, interdisciplinary readership of the *International Journal of Communication.* The study contributes to current literature in two primary ways. First, we examine the positive attributes of nonnative English and L2 accents, which are often overlooked in language attitudes research. In featuring the positive attributes of nonnative accents and language use, as our manuscript does, we seek to challenge the deficit narrative and contribute to improved ethnolinguistic intergroup attitudes. Second, we extend intergroup anxiety research into an ethnolinguistic context, allowing exploration of the role of linguistic features in promoting or decreasing intergroup anxiety. We argue that language attitudes, particularly those toward nonnative accents, are an important yet undertheorized antecedent to intergroup anxiety.

Each of the authors confirms that this manuscript has not been previously published and is not currently under consideration by any other journal. Additionally, the authors approve the contents of this manuscript and agree to the submission policies of the *International Journal of Communication*. To the best of our knowledge, the named authors have no conflicts of interest, financial or otherwise. We thank you for your consideration of our manuscript.

Sincerely,

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