

Thais Nunez

February 24, 2020

Interview Transcript

Subject's name is Elizabeth Cayetano. The issue caused for the interview is bringing awareness to stereotypical assumptions made that dark-skinned people are only one race and do not know how to speak Spanish. Elizabeth was often mistaken for only being African and not able to understand English.

T: "My interviewee is Elizabeth Cayetano and we will be talking about how people stereotypically think she does not speak Spanish, but she does so she understands everything they're saying about her. Okay so question number one what is the setting like when people tend to think you do not know how to speak Spanish?"

E: "What is the setting?"

T: "Yea the setting like is it in a salon is it on the street in the train?"

E: "Hmm, it is everywhere I go it was mainly at school. In school everybody thought I couldn't speak Spanish like they literally thought I was either American like fully American or African American and as soon as I speak Spanish, everybody was mind blown. They kept asking where I'm from every single day even my teachers and I told them I was born in a Spanish household."

T: "What is your ethnicity?"

E: "I am Afro Latin."

Subject struggles to answer that question seeming how not to answer.

T: "What do these people tend to look like?"

E: "They're usually Spanish people who are you know a different color than I am. They're like, not sheltered, but you know how they don't really know much about... I don't think they knew black Spanish people existed to be honest."

T: "Probably."

E: "Like there's usually black Spanish people like I have a lot of African friends and they thought I was African and I'm like I'm sorry but I'm not..."

T: "Alright question number three, what do they usually say about you?"

E: "What do they usually say? Um well one of my friends she told me that she was disappointed to find out that I was *laughs* yes cause like no cause like in my school it was predominantly Spanish speaking like literally ninety percent of Spanish so when she saw me, a black person, she thought 'yes finally someone who is like me' *laughs* but then she heard me speak Spanish and she told me oh I was so disappointed *continues to laugh*."

T: "That's actually really funny. What is the most common thing they say about you?"

Noticing that the subject is repeating the questions.

E: "What is the most common thing? Like in general?"

T: "Mhm."

E: "That I am blunt. Like I speak my mind. I would tell you things how it is and I'm not gonna sugar code it and some people say I sound rude cause you have to be considerate of other people's feelings, but with me I don't consider what people feel *laughs*"

T: "Do they usually say good or bad things about you when speaking in Spanish about you when they think you don't understand?"

E: "Hm, it is a combination of both yea I have heard plenty of bad things about me in Spanish right in front of my face when they think I don't speak Spanish but I've also heard good things like compliments and stuff that's when I turn around and be like 'hola yo hablo espanol tambien como esta' and then when they say bad things I'm just like 'tell me more' *laughs* and then when they hear me intentionally speak Spanish out loud so they can hear me they're faces be the best like they're shocked. I love it.

T: "Okay question number six. How do you react when you hear them talking about you?"

E: "I'm more like amused because they be assuming that I don't speak Spanish and I'm just like I don't even feel bad I'm more of like 'okay'."

T: "How do you feel when they talk about you? Like in general how do you feel when they talk about you in Spanish of course."

E: "I don't feel any particular way. It's just there it happens."

T: "What culture do you think they think you are from that they think you do not understand them?"

E: "Well they think I'm African for the most part."

T: "Do you every consider confronting the people talking bad about you?"

E: "Im not confrontational I just let them slide which is sometimes a bad thing but yea I just don't like confrontation I just let it slide."

T: "Valid, last question. How does it feel to just walk away after listening to people talk about you?"

E: "I don't know I feel pretty good about it. Cause like it really doesn't affect me so I just... that's it."