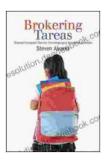
### Brokering Tareas: Mexican Immigrant Families Translanguaging Homework Literacies

Mexican immigrant families face numerous challenges in navigating the U.S. educational system, including language barriers and cultural differences. Homework assignments, which are often a significant part of school curriculum, can be particularly challenging for these families due to these barriers. However, research has shown that family members can play a vital role in supporting students' homework completion and literacy development through a process known as "brokering." Brokering involves family members providing linguistic, cultural, and emotional support to students as they navigate school tasks.



### Brokering Tareas: Mexican Immigrant Families Translanguaging Homework Literacies by John R. Dolan

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This article explores the role of family brokers in supporting Mexican immigrant families' homework literacies through translanguaging practices, such as code-switching, translation, and drawing. Translanguaging is the use of multiple languages in a fluid and dynamic way, and it can be a powerful tool for supporting literacy learning. By drawing on their own linguistic and cultural resources, family brokers can help students make sense of homework assignments and develop their abilities to read, write, and communicate in both English and Spanish.

#### **Brokering Homework Literacies**

Brokering homework literacies involves a range of activities that family members engage in to support students' homework completion. These activities can include:

- Providing linguistic support, such as translating homework assignments, explaining vocabulary, and helping students with writing
- Providing cultural support, such as explaining school expectations and helping students navigate the U.S. educational system
- Providing emotional support, such as encouraging students and helping them to overcome challenges

Brokering homework literacies can be particularly important for Mexican immigrant families, who may face additional challenges due to language barriers and cultural differences. By providing support in both English and Spanish, family brokers can help students to build bridges between their home and school languages and cultures. This can help students to succeed in school and develop their literacy skills in both languages.

#### **Translanguaging Practices**

Translanguaging is a natural and dynamic way of using multiple languages in communication. It involves fluidly switching between languages, using elements of both languages in the same sentence or paragraph, and drawing on the resources of both languages to make meaning. Translanguaging is a powerful tool for supporting literacy learning, as it allows students to draw on their full linguistic repertoire to make sense of new concepts and to communicate their ideas.

Family brokers can use a variety of translanguaging practices to support students' homework literacies. These practices can include:

- Code-switching: Switching between English and Spanish in the same sentence or paragraph
- Translation: Translating words or phrases from English to Spanish or vice versa
- Drawing: Using drawings or diagrams to explain concepts or to represent ideas

By using translanguaging practices, family brokers can help students to make sense of homework assignments and to develop their abilities to read, write, and communicate in both English and Spanish.

#### Case Study: The Garcia Family

The Garcia family is a Mexican immigrant family living in the United States. The family includes parents, Maria and Juan, and two children, 10-year-old daughter, Elena, and 8-year-old son, Mateo. Elena and Mateo are both English language learners, and they often struggle with homework assignments.

Maria and Juan are both active brokers in their children's homework literacies. They provide linguistic support by translating homework assignments, explaining vocabulary, and helping their children with writing. They also provide cultural support by explaining school expectations and helping their children to navigate the U.S. educational system. In addition, Maria and Juan provide emotional support by encouraging their children and helping them to overcome challenges.

Maria and Juan also use translanguaging practices to support their children's homework literacies. For example, they often code-switch between English and Spanish when they are helping their children with homework. They also translate homework assignments into Spanish for their children to read. In addition, they use drawings to explain concepts or to represent ideas.

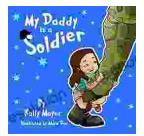
By using translanguaging practices, Maria and Juan are able to help their children to make sense of homework assignments and to develop their abilities to read, write, and communicate in both English and Spanish.

Brokering homework literacies is a vital role that family members can play in supporting the academic success of Mexican immigrant families. By providing linguistic, cultural, and emotional support, family brokers can help students to overcome challenges and to develop their literacy skills in both English and Spanish. Translanguaging practices are a powerful tool for supporting brokering homework literacies, as they allow family brokers to draw on their full linguistic repertoire to help students make sense of homework assignments and to communicate their ideas.

Schools and educators can play a role in supporting family brokers by creating welcoming and inclusive environments where families feel comfortable using their home languages and cultures to support their children's learning. In addition, schools can provide resources and training to help family brokers develop their skills in brokering homework literacies. By working together, families and schools can help to ensure that all students have the opportunity to succeed in school and to develop their full literacy potential.

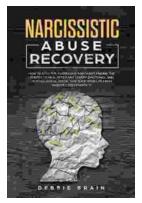






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