**Gloria Anzaldua**

“How to Tame a Wild Tongue”

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| **Text** | **In My Own Words** |
| …So if you want to really hurt me, talk badly about my language. Ethnic identity is twin skin to **linguistic** identity – I am my language.  |  |
| Until I can take pride in my language, I cannot take pride in myself. Until I can accept as **legitimate** Chicano Texas Spanish, Tex-Mex and all the other languages I speak, I cannot accept the legitimacy of myself.  |  |
| Until I am free to write bilingually and to switch codes without always having to translate, while I still have to speak English or Spanish when I would rather speak Spanglish, and as long as I have to accommodate the English speakers rather than having them accommodate me, my tongue will be illegitimate... |  |
| *Si le preguntas a mi mama, ‘Que eres?’ te dira, ‘Soy mexicana.’* My brothers and sister say the same. I sometimes will answer *“soy mexicana*’ and at others will say *‘soy Chicana’ o ‘soy tejana.’* But I identified as ‘*Raza’* before I ever identified as *‘mexicana’* or ‘Chicana.’  |  |
| As a culture, we call ourselves Spanish when referring to ourselves as a **linguistic** group and when **copping out**. It is then that we forget our predominant Indian genes. We are 70 to 80% Indian.  |  |

**Important Vocabulary:**

**\*linguistic:** having to do with language

**\*legitimate:** real or allowed

**\*copping out:** to take the easy way out

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| We call ourselves Hispanic or Spanish-American or Latin American or Latin when linking ourselves to other Spanish-speaking peoples of the Western hemisphere and when copping out.  |  |
| We call ourselves Mexican-American to [show] we are neither Mexican nor American, but more the noun ‘American’ than the adjective ‘Mexican’ (and when copping out)…”  |  |

WHAT IS THE AUTHOR SAYING?

The **main idea** of this writing is…

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