IDIOMA E IDENTIDAD DE GÉNERO:
IS LIFE SATISFACTION INFLUENCED BY GENDERED LANGUAGE?

Gabriela Renderos & Dr. Sean Rogers, Ph.D.

MacEwan UNIVERSITY

PSYCHOLOGY

INTRODUCTION

❖ This planned retrospective study will examine the relationship between first language spoken, gender identity, and life satisfaction among MacEwan students. The first language learned and fluently spoken by each subject will be classified as either gendered or non-gendered according to a set taxonomy.

❖ **Life satisfaction** is a cognitive evaluation of one's own life as a whole (Shin & Johnson, 1978).

❖ **Gendered language** implies the use of gender-appropriate forms, and is more often used in languages with grammatical gender (e.g., Spanish, French) (Sendén, Bäck, & Lindqvist, 2015).

❖ **Non-gendered language** is more commonly employed in so called 'natural gender languages' (e.g., English, Swedish), and implies that gender-neutral forms are preferred over gendered forms (Sendén et al., 2015).
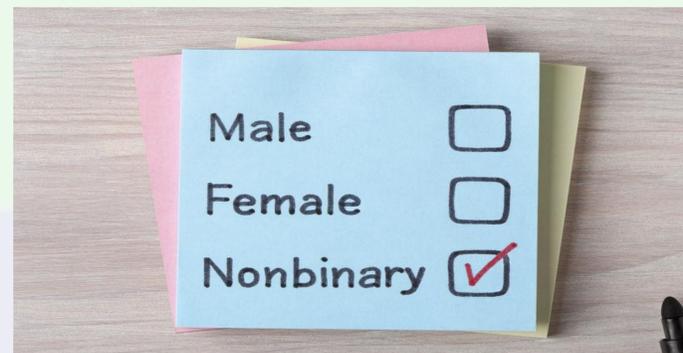

METHODS

❖ Subjects will be asked to report what language they grew up speaking and this will be classified as either gendered or non-gendered. Following that, subjects will be asked to self identify as having either a binary or non-binary gender identity. Finally, the Riverside Life Satisfaction Scale will be used to measure the subjects' current levels of life satisfaction using a seven-point Likert-type response scale.

❖ Three measures will be used in the present study:

1) The **Riverside Life Satisfaction Scale** (RLSS)

> I like how my life is going.
> I am content with my life.
> I am satisfied with where I am in life right now.
> If I could live my life over, I would change many things.
> Those around me seem to be living better lives than my own.
> I want to change the path my life is on.

2) Type of **gender** each participant identifies as

3) Type of **language(s)** each participant grew up speaking (e.g., gendered and/or non-gendered)

EXPECTED RESULTS

❖ It is predicted that non-binary individuals who grew up speaking a non-gendered language will report higher levels of life satisfaction relative to non-binary individuals who grew up speaking a gendered language.

❖ The results may indicate that the degree of life satisfaction experienced by people who identify as non-binary may be adversely affected by the language they speak.

❖ If their primary language is highly gendered we predict a lower life satisfaction because of a mismatch between their gender identity and the language they use to describe themselves and the world around them.

GENDER IDENTITY		
GENDERED	**BINARY**	**NON-BINARY**
LANGUAGE	LS	LS
NEUTRAL	LS	LS

He/Him　　　She/Her　　　They/Them