

TO SPEAK AMERICAN

HOW ENGLISH BECAME THE ONLY "SOCIALLY ACCEPTABLE" LANGUAGE OF THE UNITED STATES

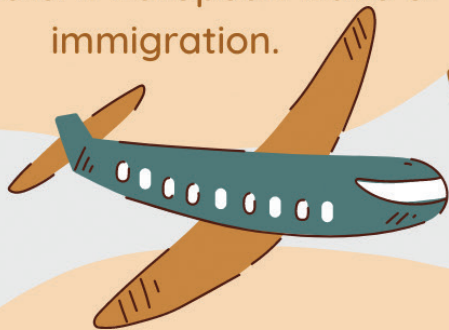
During the pre-WW1 waves of immigration from non-English speaking countries, it was common for second generation immigrants to be bilingual in English and their native language. However, third generation immigrants were monolingual in English.



In the 19th century, bilingual schooling was common; however, the U.S seems to have taken a step back. As immigration increased, a massive shift took place for public schools, setting English as their language of instruction.



Due to the lack of teaching proper English to immigrant students, more than half of students enrolled in public schools dropped out during the Eastern-European wave of immigration.



Former President Teddy Roosevelt once warned that the U.S was becoming a polyglot boarding house



Bilingual education was created for students who have immigrated to be up to speed in school while learning English. California, in fear that the bilingual education program preserves minority language, rejected bilingual education. Instead they were in favor of English immersion programs.

