Rosa Chiguila

WLC 300

Personal Statement

In 1999, I started kindergarten. It might not seem like such a significant point in one’s life but for me it was. Up until the first day of kindergarten, I stayed at home with my mom and she taught me, in Spanish. I did not know enough English to get by. All of a sudden, I was being submerged in a language that I could not comprehend. I remember crying to my mom in Spanish, saying that I wanted to leave school because it was too difficult. My mom, not knowing much English herself, sought out a tutor for me. After having a tutor, my English got better and I learned more Spanish as a result. My tutor was my beacon of hope that I too can learn two languages and be successful in life.

Over the next couple of years, I continued to learn English but still speaking Spanish. *En la casa se habla español,* my parents would always say. At home, we only speak Spanish. I lived in a community where there were not many people who spoke Spanish like my family. Later on, I began to meet family members in Mexico and family friends, who all spoke Spanish. Being out of my bubble, I was amazed at how many people knew Spanish.

As I entered high school, I wanted to challenge myself even more by learning a new language: French. Oddly enough, I fell in love with the French language and culture. Although taking French was fun, I wanted to further my education in Spanish. I had never formally taken a Spanish class before, so senior year; I decided to take a upper division course in Spanish. Just like French, I fell in love will all aspects of Spanish- the grammar, dialects, different vocabulary, the diverse readings and so much more. It was an eye opener to what I wanted to do in life.

Being at CSUMB, I have not taken many courses in Spanish yet. The few that I have taken, I have learned so much from. I have a couple of career goals that I want to pursue once I obtain my bachelors degree. I want to become an interpreter or a translator: for a court or a hospital or for other institutions. I want to obtain my masters degree in linguistics at MIIS. Plan B is getting my teaching credential and teaching Spanish at a private or independent school.