

Table of Contents

1. Introduction.....	10
2. The study.....	12
2.1. Objectives.....	12
2.1.1. General Objectives.....	12
2.1.2. Specific Objectives.....	13
2.2. Research Questions.....	13
2.3. Theoretical and descriptive framework of the study.....	14
2.3.1. General Framework.....	14
2.3.2. Specific Framework.....	41
2.3.2.1. Concept of word.....	41
2.3.2.2. Individual profiling.....	51
2.3.2.3. Taxonomy.....	51
2.4. Methodology.....	53
2.4.1. Participants.....	53
2.4.2. Data.....	54
2.4.2.1. Data elicitation instruments.....	54
2.4.2.1.1. Description of instruments.....	54
2.4.2.1.2. Test design.....	55
2.4.2.1.3. Selection criteria for English cue words.....	56
2.4.2.1.4. Selection criteria for Spanish cue words.....	57
2.4.3. Test administration.....	57
2.4.4. Data analysis.....	58
2.4.4.1. Criteria for data analysis.....	58

2.4.4.2.	Procedure for data analysis.....	58
3.	Discussion of results.....	61
3.1.	Between group analysis.....	61
3.1.1.	English word association test.....	61
3.1.1.1.	Intermediate and upper-intermediate learners of English	61
3.1.1.2.	Intermediate learners of English and American native speakers of English.....	63
3.1.1.3.	Upper-intermediate learners of English and American native speakers of English.....	65
3.1.1.4.	Intermediate, upper-intermediate learners of English and American native speakers of English.....	66
3.1.2.	Spanish word association test.....	68
3.1.2.1.	Native speakers of Spanish (also upper-intermediate learners of English) and intermediate American learners of Spanish (also native speakers of English).....	69
3.2.	Within group analysis.....	71
3.2.1.	Upper-intermediate learners of English: English and Spanish Tests.....	71
3.2.2.	Intermediate American learners of Spanish (also native speakers of English): English and Spanish tests.....	73
3.3.	Individual profiles.....	74

3.3.1.	Detailed individual profiles of three upper-intermediate learners of English: Profile 1 (English) and Profile 2 (Spanish).....	76
3.3.1.1.	Participant 1.....	76
3.3.1.2.	Participant 2.....	77
3.3.1.3.	Participant 3.....	78
3.3.2.	Detailed individual profiles of three American native speakers of English: Profile 1 (English) and Profile 2 (Spanish).....	79
3.3.2.1.	Participant 4	79
3.3.2.2.	Participant 5.....	80
3.3.2.3.	Participant 6.....	81
4.	Conclusions.....	82
5.	Bibliography.....	86
6.	Appendices.....	94