Gustavo Arellano is an author who writes a column called ¡Ask a Mexican! for the Orange County Weekly. Current and past offerings of this column are available here:

http://www.ocweekly.com/columns/view/32466

This column is nationally syndicated, and an archive is also available from the LA Weekly:

http://www.laweekly.com/authors/gustavo-arellano/

The column consists of letters from readers and Arellano's responses. The letters typically include questions about Mexican and Mexican-American culture and issues, and Arellano provides an irreverent insider's perspective. He usually begins his responses with “Dear Gabacho”; this is a pejorative term used in Mexico to refer to white Americans.

Read the 10 most recent columns, and consider these questions:

1. Arellano peppers his text with Spanish vocabulary. Find five examples that either you don’t understand or that you believe a unilingual English speaker would never have heard of. Let's assume even if some readers understand all of it, that many don't. Let's also assume that Arellano is aware of this. Why would he use this vocabulary anyway?

2. Do you think Arellano's columns count as code switching? Is there anything about them that suggests that they are not authentic examples (even if Arellano himself, as a true bilingual, has the capability to code switch in spontaneous conversation)?

3. What proportion of letters deal with language issues in some way? Of those, is there any generalization(s) you can make about these issues (what they are, what the beliefs are, etc.)?