

The Linguistic Landscape of Old Providence and Santa Catalina, Colombia

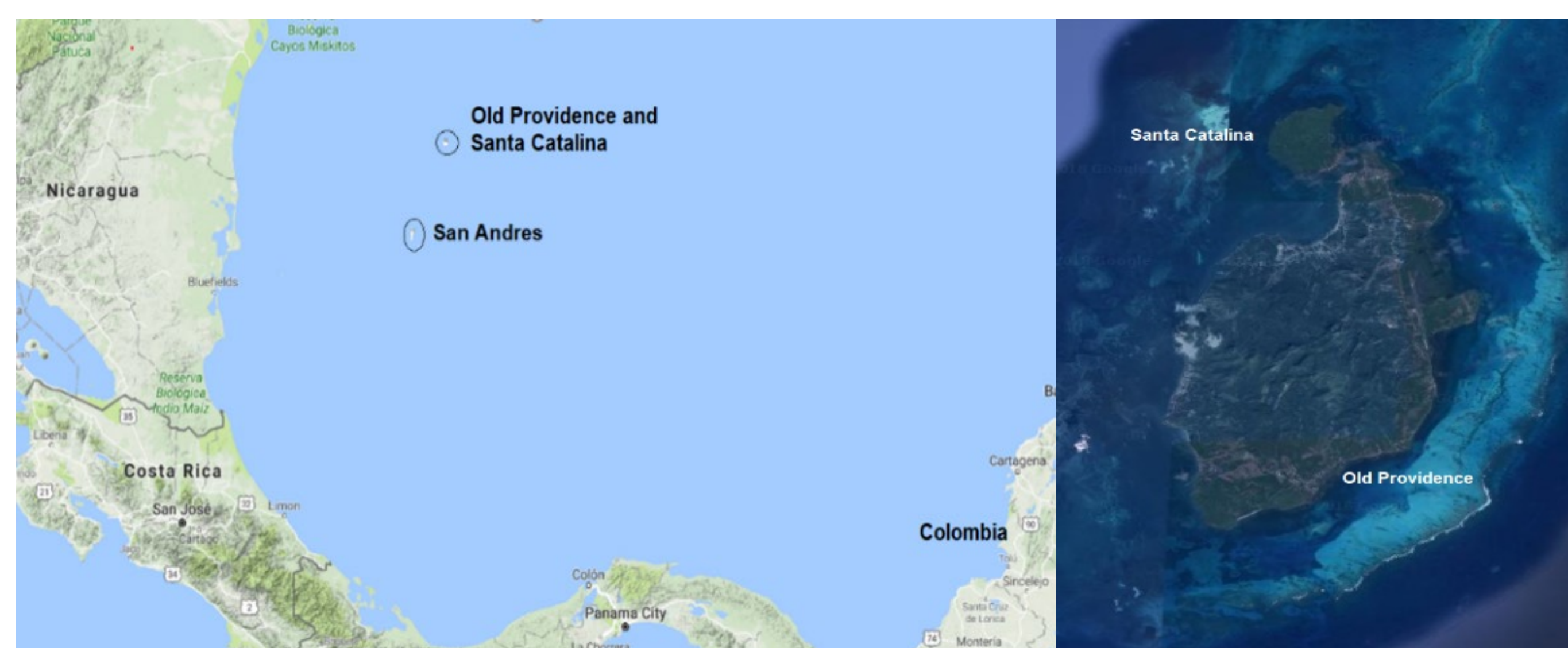
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This Study

Introduction

- The islands of Old Providence and Santa Catalina, two of the three islands of the Caribbean Archipelago of San Andres, Colombia.



- A multilingual Caribbean enclave:** In this territory, the national language Spanish is in contact with a co-official English-based creole, known as Islander, and Standard English.
- Linguistic landscape:** absence or presence of the local languages in the public signage of the islands.
- Why?**
 - A territory inhabited by roughly 4000 Islander speakers (*Raizales*), accounting for 89% of the population.
 - A window to view linguistic practices, attitudes, and policies at the community, private, and gubernamental levels.

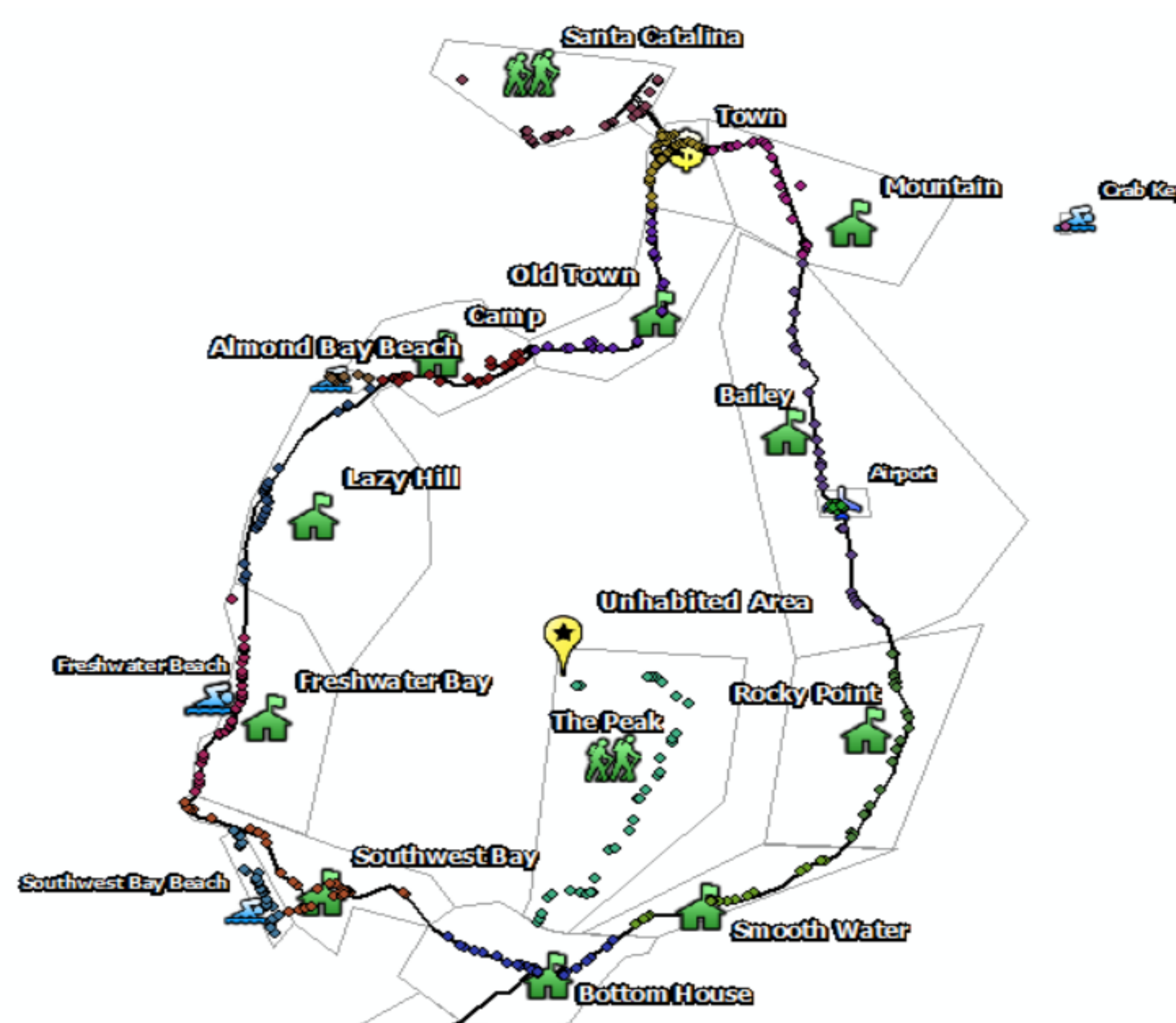
Research Questions

- Is there a linguistic preference in written visual displays based on signage owner and geographical location of the signs?
If so, then:
- How this situation reflects on the language attitudes and practices at different public levels in the islands?
- What are the implications for this community in terms of language planning and policies?

Methodology

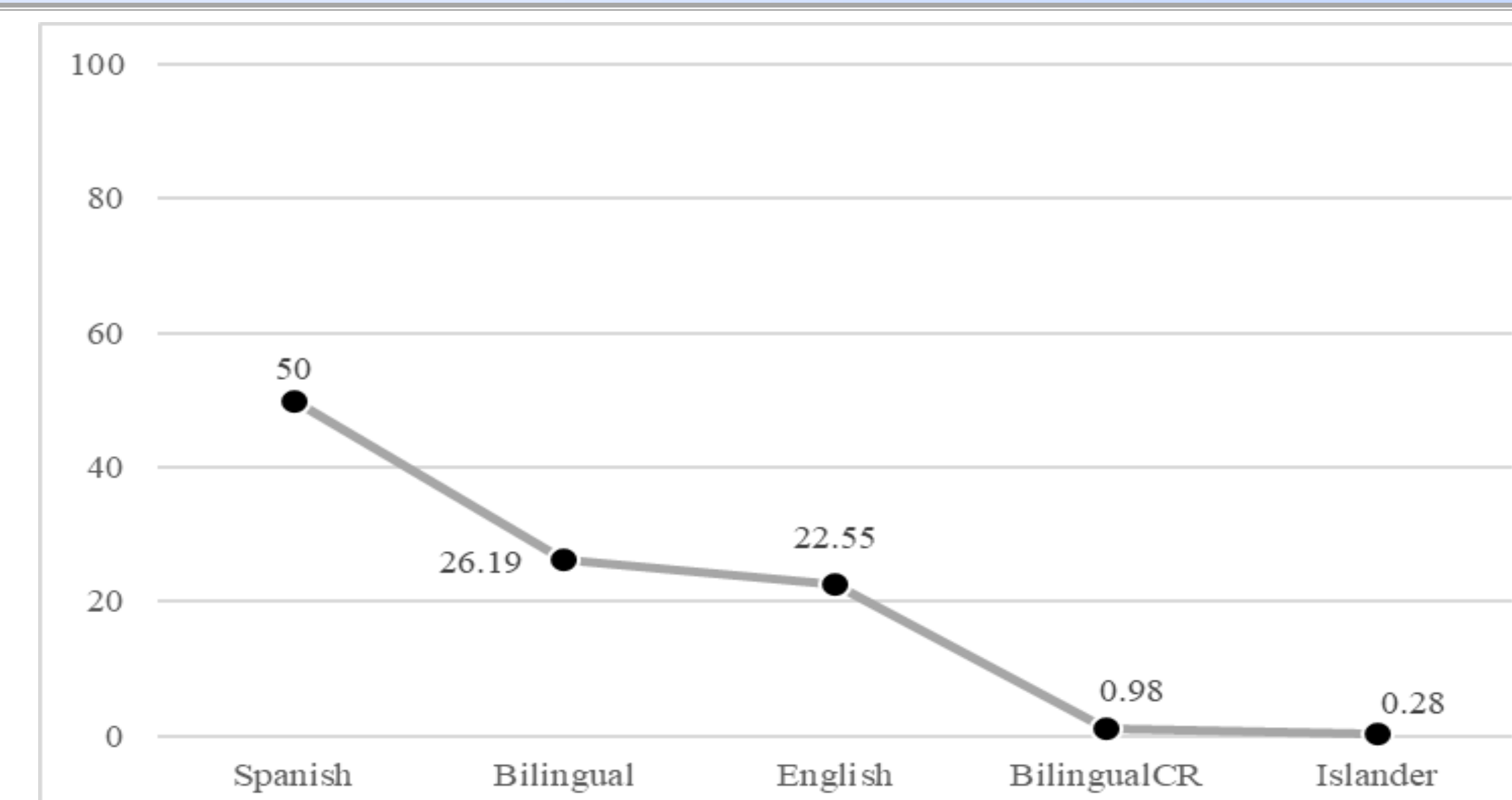
Materials and Methods

- Collection of publicly-available written signs (N=714).
- 21.51 miles of visual tours around the islands either walking or riding a scooter!
- Geographic coordinates were assigned to every photograph (i.e. geotagged).
- Data was coded according to different factors, including, *language, ownership, and zone.*

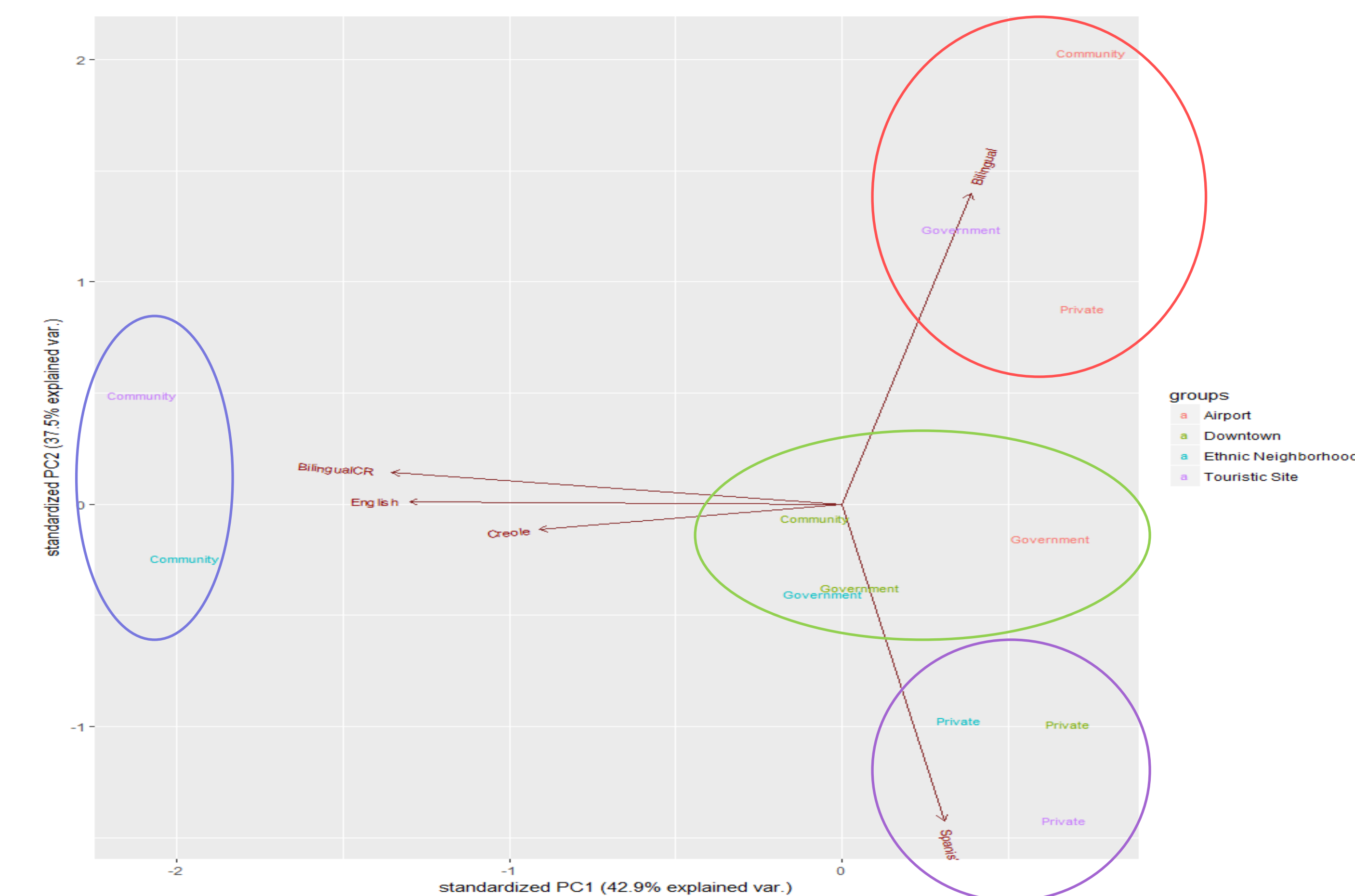


Visual tour of the islands. Every point represents one observation colored based on the area or zone in the islands.

Results and Conclusion



Distribution of languages in public signs around the islands.



Principal Component Analysis of Language, Sign Ownership, and Zone

Conclusion

- Spanish highly correlated with businesses and local government in areas of financial and commercial importance.
- Despite no having a creole orthography, it has been the community who has made attempts to preserve their language.
- English vastly used in bilingual signs within touristic domains by the private sector and governmental agencies.
- Future language policies and planning could work to preserve the linguistic heritage of the Archipelago of San Andres.
- Perhaps, other linguistic landscapes (i.e Valencia, Spain) could help in the official recognition of the *Raizales* in all domains.



Community signs in islander, English, Spanish