The **Possessive** in NY Spanish

This research seeks to describe the difference in the speech of two generations of Spanish speakers: immigrant parents and their children who were brought up in the United States. By analyzing data produced by these two generations, it observes the language change in progress. Special attention is given to attributive and predicative possession.

**Attributive Variants**

**Article + inalienable noun**

*Es que ellos dejan que los niños sean más independientes.*

‘It is that they allow their children to be more independent.’

**Possessive adjective + inalienable noun**

*Aquí uno tiene miedo de controlar sus hijos.*

‘Here, one fears controlling one’s / their own children.’

**Article + alienable noun**

*Ellas me ayudaron con la escritura; yo les ayudaba con la tarea.*

‘They helped me with my writing; I used to help them with their Homework.’

**Possessive adjective + alienable noun**

*Ella siempre desde chiquita hizo sus trabajos sola.*

‘Since she was little, she always did her homework alone.’

**Possessive pronouns**

*La esposa mía ayudaba bastante.*

‘The wife of mine helped a lot.’

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**Predicative Variants**

*Tener + possessive adj + alien noun, or tener + possessive adj + inalien noun*

*Mucha familia Latina que tienen sus hijos aquí.*

‘Many Latin families that have their children here.’

**The verb tener where haber is possible**

*Ellos tienen más respeto hacia los padres.*

‘They have more respect towards the parents.’

*Hay más respeto hacia los padres.*

‘There is more respect towards the parents.’

**Other verbs used that imply possession**

*Ellos cogieron a todos los niños latinos que habían.*

‘They grabbed all the Latino kids that were there.’

**Dative + accusative / implicit possessive**

*Desde pequeña que me fuera a la escuela, que me fuera buen estudiante.*

‘Since she was little that she went to school, that she were a good student (for me).’

Variants actively coexist among participants. In children who grew up bilingually, a variety of forms is observed in the data. The use of the **article determiner** or the verb **tener**, as is expected in monolingual Spanish, still remains active within their linguistic repertoire. Therefore any language change may be leading to an addition of forms rather than reduction.