

By Tato Laviera

pues estoy creando spanglish
bi-cultural systems
scientific lexicographical
inter-textual integrations
two expressions
existentially wired
two dominant languages
continentally abrazándose
en colloquial combate
en las aceras del soil
imperio spanglish emerges
control pandillaje
sobre territorio bi-lingual
las novelas mexicanas
mixing with radiorocknroll
condimented cocina lore
immigrant/migrant
nasal mispronouncements
baraja chismeteos social club
hip-hop prieto street salsa
corner soul enmixturando
spanish pop farándula
standard english classroom
with computer technicalities
spanglish is literally perfect
spanglish is ethnically snobbish
spanglish is cara-holy inteligencia
which u.s. slang do you speak?

Tato Laviera, "spanglish" from *Benedición: The Complete Poetry of Tato Laviera*. Copyright © 2014 by Tato Laviera. Reprinted by permission of Arte Público Press.

Source: *Benedición: The Complete Poetry of Tato Laviera* (Arte Público Press, 2014)