

Black and Latino Teacher-to-student Interaction: Is Race a Factor?



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December 3, 2001



Research Question

- Do teachers interact differently with same-race students than with other-race students? More specifically do Latino teachers and Black teachers interact differently with same-race students, than other-race students?



Prediction

- I predict that Black and Latino teachers will have more positive interactions with same-race students, and more negative interactions with other-race students.



Methodology

- Observational study at James Middle School (pseudonym).
- Two teachers- One Black, One Latino
- 4 classes per teacher, 8 total visits
- classes comprised of Black & Latino students.



Modified Version of Interactional Analysis

- Verbal and Non-Verbal Interaction
- Positive-praise, encouragement, physical interaction, recitation.
- Neutral- calling on students, answering the students questions, general comments.
- Negative- Yelling, Criticism, Ignoring.



Example of Coding Interactions

- The teacher asked the class a question. The teacher called on a student who raised his/her hand. The student responded to the question. The teacher praised the student's answer saying it was very insightful.

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General Field Notes

- Teacher tone of voice
- Behavior of students
- classroom activities & assignments



Presentation of Data

- Since the racial composition of the total number of students was 50% Black and 50% Latino, I have reported data as raw numbers instead of percentages.



Combined Total of all Classes Observed

Latino Teacher Black Teacher

Latino Student

40

31

Black Student

39

32

	Latino Teacher	Black Teacher
Latino Student	40	31
Black Student	39	32

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=Approx. 50/50 =Approx. 50/50



Positive Interactions of Teacher to Student

Latino Teacher

Black Teacher

Latino Student

4

9

Black Student

6

20

	Latino Teacher	Black Teacher
Latino Student	4	9
Black Student	6	20



Neutral Interaction of Teacher to student

Latino Teacher Black Teacher

Latino Student

62

24

Black Student

60

35

	Latino Teacher	Black Teacher
Latino Student	62	24
Black Student	60	35



Negative Interaction of Teacher to Student

Latino Teacher Black Teacher

Latino Student

15

21

Black Student

16

19

	Latino Teacher	Black Teacher
Latino Student	15	21
Black Student	16	19



Discussion

- Prediction partially supported
- Larger sample size & observations
- Field notes