Legal Alien

by Pat Mora

**Bi**-lingual, **Bi-**cultural,
**able to** slip from “How’s life?”
to “Me’stan volviendo loca,”
**able to** sit in a paneled office
drafting memos in smooth English,
**able to** order in fluent Spanish
at a Mexican restaurant,
American **but** hyphenated,
viewed by Anglos as perhaps **exotic**,
perhaps inferior, **d**efinitely **di**fferent,
viewed by Mexicans as **alien**,
(their eyes say, “You may speak
Spanish but you’re not like me”)
an American to Mexicans
a Mexican to Americans
a handy token
sliding back and forth
between the **fringe**s of both worlds
by smiling
by masking the discomfort
of being pre-judged
**Bi**-laterally.

From Chants by Pat Mora, Arte Publico Press [*© 1985 Pat Mora*](http://www.hanksville.org/copyright.html), republished with permission of [*Arte Publico Press*](http://www.latinoteca.com/arte-publico-press/)

1. What are the voices of the speaker? Quote the lines that indicate the speaker’s identities
2. How does diction show identity? Examples
3. What is the author’s purpose?
4. What is the speaker’s attitude or tone? Quote examples?