The Washington Nationals won the 2019 World Series and Juan Soto, the club’s 21-year-old superstar outfielder, played a major role as the Nationals became world champions for the very first time while Soto was immersing himself in learning the English language.

Juan Soto was born in the Dominican Republic. He signed with the Nationals in 2015. He joined the Nationals’ Dominican Academy and immediately began to immerse himself in English by using the Rosetta Stone language-learning software lessons. He initially practiced English for one hour a day, five days a week. After the Academy, Soto joined the Nationals’ Class A affiliate, the Hagerstown Suns. He met Suns catcher Tres Barrera, who was born in Texas to Mexican parents. Soto told Barrera that he only wanted the two of them to converse in English.

Barrera told the Washington Post that he remembered how Soto would go to a McDonald’s near the ballpark every day to practice his English by ordering from the menu. When Soto was called up to the Nationals, he told manager Dave Martinez, “No Spanish, only English.”

Soto now conducts his media interviews in English. Johnny Dipuglia, the Nationals’ head of international operations, stated, “His English has gotten so good in such a short period of time. It’s a special talent. That’s what makes him a star.”

Soto himself recalled the role that his mother played in his English lessons. “I remember her telling me that if I wanted to be a star I had to know the language in the country I wanted to play in,” he reflected. “She was right. Moms always are!”
Poll Shows Support For Cultural and Linguistic Assimilation

A recent poll sponsored by the Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research showed majority national support for immigrants to adopt an essential American culture and language.

The poll showed that 51% of Americans favor a country with an essential American culture, as opposed to a country made up of many different cultures and values.

The poll also showed that 67% of Americans believe that shared use of the English language is an important part of the United States’ identity as a nation.

The poll further showed that 60% of Americans believe that a shared American culture and set of values also is an important part of the United States’ identity as a nation.

U.S. Census: 67 Million Speak a Language Other Than English

More than 67 million U.S. residents speak a language other than English at home, according to data compiled by the U.S. Census Bureau.

2018 U.S. Census Bureau estimates revealed that 67.2 million U.S. residents spoke a language other than English at home.

The number of U.S. residents who speak a language other than English at home has risen steadily in each of the past three years. In 2016, 65.5 million spoke a language other than English at home. In 2017, the number increased to 66.5 million. The 2018 number, as mentioned above, once again has risen, this time to 67.2 million U.S. residents who speak a language other than English at home.

National Review: The English Language is Important

National Review editor and columnist Rich Lowry recently penned an opinion piece headlined: “Yes, The English Language Is Important.” The article included a sub-headline that read: “There’s no substitute as a source of social cohesion.”

Lowry began his column by observing: “I wouldn’t have thought the importance of the English language in America would be controversial, but our era is full of surprises.”

In Lowry’s new book entitled “The Case For Nationalism” he stated that English was a “pillar of our national identity.” Lowry made it a point of focus in his book to discuss the importance of a common language as a source of social cohesion.

Lowry observed: “Where a common language is present, it creates a cultural glue; where it isn’t, there are usually deep-seated divisions.” He cited Canada, Belgium, and Spain as examples of countries with deep-seated linguistic divisions.

Lowry summed up his very compelling National Review column by concluding: “In short, language occupies an outsized space in the cultural life of nations, and the role of English here in the United States is no different.”

The proposed 2020 legislation likely will be similar to prior official English bills in Wisconsin, including LRB-2041/1 in 2013 and AB 46 in 2009. If the proposed 2020 legislation indeed is similar to prior bills, then it would recognize English as the official (though not only) language of the State of Wisconsin for government expression. The proposed 2020 bill likely would provide that, unless otherwise specifically required by law, all written expression by all units of state and local government in Wisconsin would be in the English language, except that such expression may be in another language when appropriate to the circumstances of an individual case, the implementation of a program in a specific instance, or the discharge of a responsibility in a particular situation. The 2020 bill likely also would permit Wisconsin governmental officers and employees to use a language other than English in oral or written expression whenever necessary in certain other specified purposes.

Mariano Rivera Advocates For Learning English

The New York Yankees’ Hall of Fame reliever Mariano Rivera recently was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Trump at the White House, and during the ceremony Rivera spoke about the importance of learning English.

Rivera, who was born in Panama, told President Trump and the White House audience that he began his big league career in the Yankees’ minor league system without knowing a word of English. In his 2nd year in the minors Rivera asked his teammates to teach him English, and by the end of that season he had sufficiently immersed himself in the language to be able to converse with his teammates in English.

“I was the happiest man in baseball,” Rivera recalled. “Learning English is the first thing we should do.”
“We have but one flag; we must also learn one language, and that language is English.”
- President Theodore Roosevelt

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The ProEnglish Advocate is published quarterly by ProEnglish. ProEnglish is a non-profit membership-based organization dedicated to educating the American people about the importance of preserving English as our common language and making it the official language of the U.S. All contributions to ProEnglish are tax-deductible.

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