This study examines the prosodic variation of the English and Spanish spoken by four male, adolescent, Hispanic Heritage speaker bilinguals from a suburban area outside of Raleigh, North Carolina. While other Latino communities across the United States have been studied extensively, the individuals studied here are part of an incipient Hispanic community that is in need of research during these current earlier stages of language contact. The recordings analyzed in this study were taken from a picture book narration conducted by each participant in both Spanish and English. The vowels were measured and coded in PRAAT and then a script was run to calculate the Pairwise Variability Index (PVI) (Low, Grabe, & Nolan 2000) values for each recording. Means were taken and the results reveal expected and unexpected results based on previous research. One speaker shows convergence between his Spanish and English prosodic rhythm towards the Latino English norm found in past studies. According to past research, this Latino English norm has an intermediary PVI value between the established monolingual Spanish and English norms. Thus, the speaker in question displayed intermediary values of both languages. The other three speakers demonstrate high PVI values that are similar and close to European English norms and other stress-timed languages and varieties found in past research. However, these three speakers are not showing convergence, but rather are maintaining distinct timing systems for each language. The findings of this study and future similar studies could help us to understand the emerging Latino dialects in North Carolina and at the same time could have an effect on pedagogy.

Keywords: Heritage speakers, prosodic rhythm, North Carolina, stress timing, syllable timing, Latino English, adolescents, prosodic variation