

Chin argues that, even though English comes from a colonial history, it can still be a way for her to reclaim space and shape her identity. She understands the tough past of the language but believes it gives her a way to express herself and find strength. On the other hand, Martínez talks about the challenges she faces in an academic system that judges her because of her race and background. Both writers face unfair treatment, but Chin sees English as empowering, while Martínez feels she constantly has to prove herself in a system that doubts her. Chin says, "I finally saw that English was not a language of escape for me, but that it rather represented a painful negotiation between myself and my environment." She admits that using English is difficult but accepts it as a way to express her identity. Martínez, however, expresses her frustration, saying, "How many degrees do I need for someone to believe I am an academic?" She feels tired of always having to prove herself despite her academic achievements.