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, definitely different,
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 fringes of both worlds
by smiling
by masking the discomfort
of being pre-judged
Bi-laterally.

Tone: resentful, bitter
**Speaker feels marginalized by both cultures as the speaker does not fit into one role perfectly. No matter what the speaker does or where the speaker is, the speaker has to face prejudice & cruelty from both cultures.**