Mock Spanish in American Discourse: Hombres vs. Guys

The problem: We must make an important distinction between loan words, multilingual codeswitching and words termed “mock language” (Hill 1995). Here, mock language will be represented by most its prevalent instance in Standard American English - Mock Spanish (Hill 1995). In English discourse, it can be observed that borrowed words from Spanish are often used by otherwise monolingual speakers. Some examples are words such as *hola* (hello), *gracias* (thank you), and *hombre* (guy). Why do English speakers not use their native language when they utter *hombre*? Do these Spanish words represent a different semantic meaning as new lexical items? Or, is there an additional meaning which is expressive, reflecting the speaker’s opinion?

An example: O’REILLY and LANE are on the O’Reilly Factor on Fox News discussing the controversial founder of WikiLeaks, Julian Assange, and the repercussions his leaks will have internationally. The discourse is takes place on a well-known monolingual American news channel. As far as can be discerned, both are likely monolingual English speakers. Example: (Excerpt from the O’Reilly Factor on Fox News)

> O’REILLY: The Internet world here. Look, there is an apparatus, all right, Freedom of Information Act, FOIA, to get information from the government. We use it all the time here. We're not --
> LANE: But you're -- (CROSSTALK)
> O’REILLY: -- want the government to be secret about everything.
> LANE: But what you're saying --
> O’REILLY: But Assange guy, this guy is a bad *hombre* and you don't think so. LANE: You know, the stuff that got leaked makes it more difficult for U.S. intelligence to do its job. I understand that.
> O’REILLY: Yes, and German intelligence, and French intelligence, and everybody else.
> LANE: It's true. But you know what? If we're going to live in a free society -- the way the law is structured right now, "The New York Times" could be prosecuted...

Methodology: The data will be obtained mainly by searching the Corpus of Contemporary American English (CoCA). CoCA will be searched for usages of the words *guy(s)* and *hombre(s)* in spoken language. Examples will be examined for their placement in a phrase, semantic meaning, and expressive content.

But why: Mock language is the use of the morphology or lexical items from another language in an otherwise monolingual discourse. Unlike loan words, lexical items inserted into English discourse as “mock foreign language” are not considered part of the English lexicon – they are still considered from another language and are thus marked when used in discourse. Furthermore, those who employ mock language in America are generally monolingual English
speakers, so multilingual codeswitching is not possible. What role does Mock Spanish play in English discourse and what are its conventions?

Bibliography: