

An Introduction to Lexicology and Lexicography of Mexican Spanish

Spanish is the official language of 20 countries and it is spoken by more than 400 million native speakers. In Mexico there are 126 million of Spanish speakers. Understandably, linguistic variation occurs everywhere in the Spanish speaking world at all linguistic levels. Lexical variation is perhaps the most conspicuous one. Thus, the need to document this variation at the lexical level is compelling.

The Mexican variety of the Spanish language corresponds, to a great extent, to the intersection of all the vocabularies of the European and Latin American varieties, as well as the contact with the different indigenous languages spoken in Mexico.

In Mexico, some researchers of Mexican Spanish have documented this lexicon by means of different lexicographic works, mainly from 19th century onwards. This course deals with some of the features of Mexican Spanish vocabulary, such as loanwords, idiomatic expressions, figures of speech, word play, as well as with the lexicographic traditions of 19th and 20th centuries, placing a very important emphasis on the Dictionary of Mexican Spanish.

The Dictionary of Mexican Spanish (DEM) is the result of continuous research on the vocabulary used in Mexico from 1921 to today. This research has been conducted since 1973 at the Centro de Estudios Lingüísticos y Literarios

(CELL), which is part of El Colegio de México. The DEM is a comprehensive dictionary of the Mexican variety of the Spanish language. It was prepared on the basis of a broad study of an electronic corpus compiled in the seventies, the Corpus del español mexicano contemporáneo (1921-1974).