



Introduction to the Dictionary of Mexican Spanish (DEM)

Spanish is the official language of 20 countries and it is spoken by more than 400 million native 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 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).

The DEMS's vocabulary is certainly representative of the Mexican variety of the Spanish language, but it also corresponds, to a great extent, to the intersection of all the vocabularies of the European and Latin American varieties. Moreover, the DEM is an original work, of a descriptive nature, made with linguistic criteria. All the vocabulary that it includes has been used or is currently used in Mexico, at least since 1921.

In this course, we will learn about the history and philosophy of the DEM and the methodology used for its compilation. Also, we will look into its macro and micro structures in order to provide the basic tool for mastering its use.