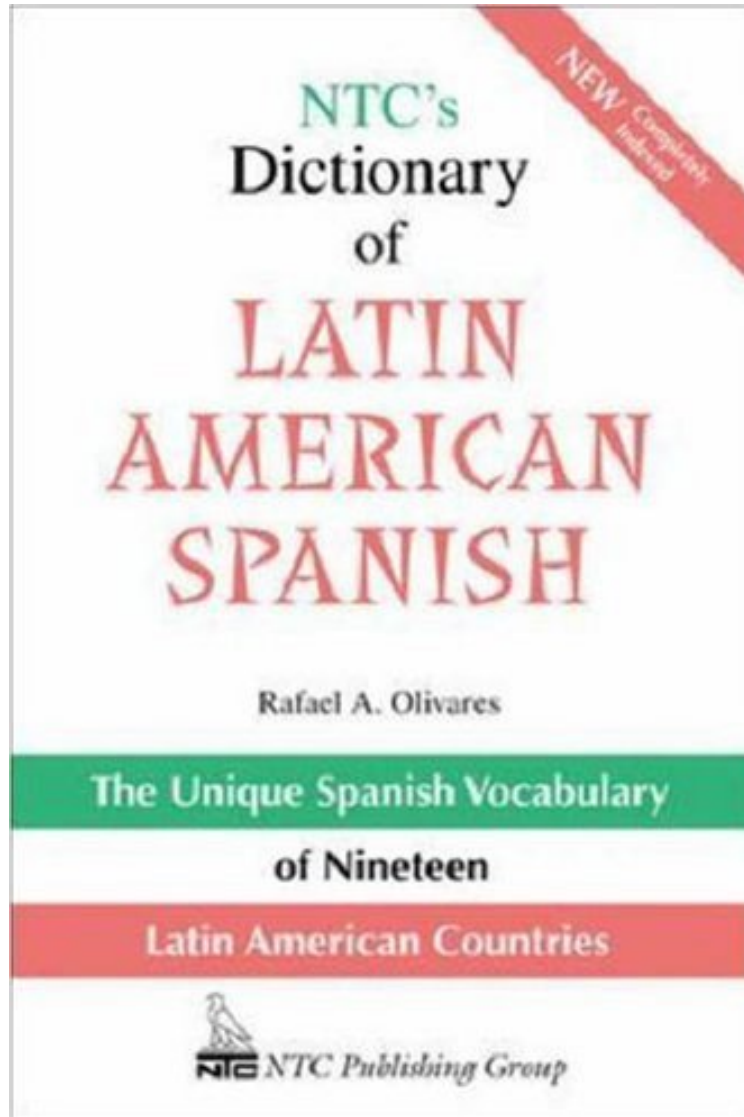


NTC's Dictionary of Latin American Spanish

Rafael A. Olivares

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Rafael A. Olivares : NTC's Dictionary of Latin American Spanish before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised NTC's Dictionary of Latin American Spanish:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. util, con algunas deficiencias menores By Richard Nash Creel Me llego el libro hara ya cosa de una semana, y de inmediato le eche una mirada, con satisfaccion de haberlo comprado. Para un idioma hablado en 19 paises distintos, sin tener en cuenta Estados Unidos, resulta dificilísimo redactar un libro completo y al mismo tiempo portatil, en vez de ser enciclopedia de varios tomos. Mismo recurriendo a una

simplificación por zonas, o sea las variantes mejicana, caribena, centroamericana, andina, chilena y rioplatense, es casi imposible poner todas las posibilidades, con definiciones que conformen a todos los críticos en potencia. En cuanto al comentario sobre los gandules (o gandures), no importa si se llaman pigeon peas o congo peas, a esta altura, en Norteamérica, donde si se toma en serio el castellano, se utilizan más los términos hispanos que las traducciones, de manera que gandules se dice así nomás, y guanabana idem, y no sour sop, y Chile habanero es la designación universal sin mencionar casi nunca scotch bonnet pepper. Al controlar el texto, hallé muy buenos los listados para el castellano rioplatense, tanto uruguayo como argentino, fuera de la atribución del vos tan solo a la Argentina, y, además del formato principal de diccionario, los demás componentes, sobre todo las listas de términos para los principales centros de habla hispana resultaban de valor inestimable. Tampoco me dio la impresión de poseer el autor un dominio limitado del inglés ni del castellano, y, como estoy seguro de la necesidad de tener una biblioteca de léxicos varios para bregar con las inevitables dificultades a esperar de un contacto generalizado con el español americano, este viene a ser una nueva adquisición de utilidad para engrosar mi colección de guías. Es más, habida cuenta del precio pagado, fue una auténtica ganga y se lo recomiendo a todos aquellos dedicados a este campo.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. This resource has some helpful info

By Marianopolita2005 This Latin American Dictionary is a very interesting resource and when I say interesting I refer to diversity and somewhat controversial comments by the other reviewers. I certainly can understand their point of view but would like to give my perspective. The book does clarify meaning and explain the lexical difference of words from country to country. There are ample examples of this throughout the book. Depending on your background this book can be either enlightening, too regional, or too diverse but all in all it will explain what certain everyday words mean that may be common to a group of people and foreign to another just because of their regional differences. One aspect I find totally sad is the influence of English in Spanish vocabulary which is evidenced by the many examples provided in the book. However, a refreshing factor is that many of these words that originated and are used predominantly by North American Spanish speakers who have fused the two languages together have not yet been approved by the RAE (Real Academia de la lengua Española). Therefore, with that in mind I resist from discrediting the words (English slang) that are in the dictionary. Personally I refuse to use a slang anglicized word when there is an existing word in Spanish. Keeping all this in mind you can get some good information about the meaning of words and colloquial phrases that are detailed in this dictionary. It's not an exhaustive resource and certainly there are much better ones on the market. (3.5 star rating)

10 of 10 people found the following review helpful. Good for Mexican Spanish

By Julie Reed This book has some major flaws, but it can be quite useful, and it is the only dictionary I've seen of its kind. It includes many of the most commonly used Mexican words, such as chamarra (jacket), chaparrito (under chaparro, a short person), guera/guero (a blonde or white person), and cochino (has many definitions, but can mean dirty/sloppy, or a pervert). Next to each definition it also says which country the word is used in. However, it does nothing to explain the context in which the words are used. The word "chaparrito" is used affectionately rather than as an insult. The word "cochino" is usually used jokingly, when poking fun at someone. These are important distinctions, but this dictionary does not mention them. It gives no hint as to the connotations of a word. Other problems I see are that there is no pronunciation guide, the words are not labeled as nouns or verbs, and no examples of usage are given. However, this dictionary does serve its main purpose. The definitions are generally accurate and very few Mexican words are omitted. (I don't know about words from other countries because I speak only Mexican Spanish, but I assume it would be just as good for other Latin American countries). In conclusion, I think that this dictionary is a useful resource, but I would hope that someone will soon come out with a better Latin American dictionary.

This is a guide to the Spanish words spoken in the U.S. by people from all over Latin America. It lists each word and its variants and includes 6,000 entries from 24 different countries.

Language Notes

Text: English, Spanish

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