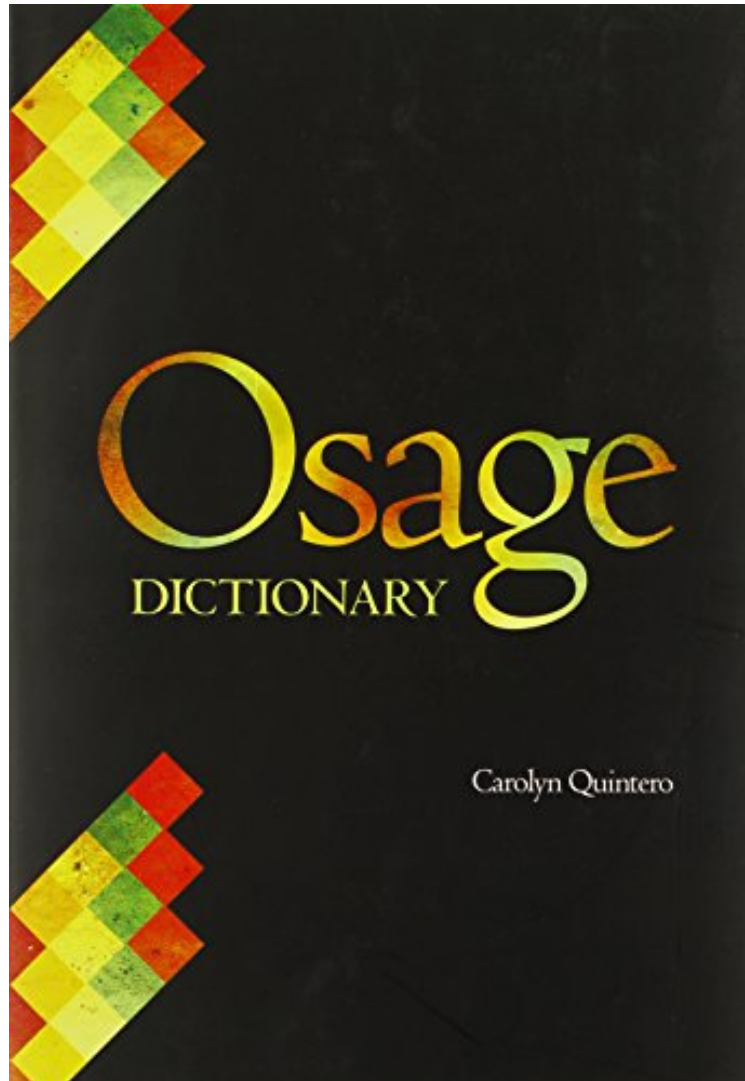


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## Osage Dictionary

*Carolyn Quintero*

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**Carolyn Quintero : Osage Dictionary** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Osage Dictionary:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A good dictionary of Osage.By Thomas MartinThis is a very good dictionary of Osage, having both an Osage-English section (with example sentences), and an English-Osage section, and also a somewhat brief but still good grammar of the Osage language.5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Handsome comprehensive volumeBy Norman BrennerOsage is an almost extinct member of the Siouan language family, cousin to the more well-known (and well-documented) Lakhota/Dakhota. Carolyn Quintero has performed a nearly superhuman feat of language salvage by incorporating the knowledge from the minds of the tribal

elders into first an excellent grammar and now a handsomely produced dictionary. It makes a fine complement to LaFlesche's dictionary; while the latter often provides extended descriptions of objects or rituals, it has an inferior romanization system. May Ms. Quintero's labors serve to help revive this worthy tongue!

Osage, a language of the Dhegiha branch of the Siouan family, was spoken until recently by tribal members in northeastern Oklahoma. No longer in daily use, it was in danger of extinction. Carolyn Quintero, a linguist raised in Osage County, worked with the last few fluent speakers of the language to preserve the sounds and textures of their complex speech. Compiled after painstaking work with these tribal elders, her Osage Dictionary is the definitive lexicon for that tongue, enhanced with thousands of phrases and sentences that illustrate fine points of usage. Drawing on a collaboration with the late Robert Bristow, an amateur linguist who had compiled copious notes toward an Osage dictionary, Quintero interviewed more than a dozen Osage speakers to explore crucial aspects of their language. She has also integrated into the dictionary explications of relevant material from Francis La Flesches 1932 dictionary of Osage and from James Owen Dorsey's nineteenth-century research. The dictionary includes over three thousand main entries, each of which gives full grammatical information and notes variant pronunciations. The entries also provide English translations of copious examples of usage. The book's introductory sections provide a description of syntax, morphology, and phonology. Employing a simple Siouan adaptation of the International Phonetic Alphabet, Quintero's transcription of Osage sounds is more precise and accurate than that in any previous work on the language. An index provides Osage equivalents for more than five thousand English words and expressions, facilitating quick reference. As the most comprehensive lexical record of the Osage language the only one that will ever be possible, given the loss of fluent speakers Quintero's dictionary is indispensable not only for linguists but also for Osage students seeking to relearn their language. It is a living monument to the elegance and complexity of a language nearly lost to time and stands as a major contribution to the study of North American Indians.

About the Author Carolyn Quintero researched and documented the Osage language for more than twenty years. Author of *Osage Grammar and First Course in Osage*, she was also president of Inter Lingua, Inc., a translating and interpreting service for clients worldwide.