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Diccionario De Uso Del Espanol (Spanish Edition)



Synopsis

Book by Moliner, Maria

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This dictionary has served a dual purpose in the library collection here:1) provide coverage of the modern standard Spanish language, reasonably close to comprehensive, for the native speaker of that language, and2) provide the same sort of coverage for the non-native speaker who already has a reasonable command of Castellano. These are different tasks, but the two-volume Moliner does both. I rarely encounter a word which is not in this book; there is fairly good coverage of the language back to the Golden Age and Moliner does an acceptable job with regionalisms as well. The definitions are easy to understand for foreigners as well as native Hispanohablantes, with excellent see-references and enlightening examples. Grammatical and phonological information is impressive: I did not know, for instance, that Andalusians sometimes combine "Ustedes" pronoun which the "vosotros" verb form (not the case in America), nor had I noticed that the singular "Usted" will lose its accent and become proclitic on a following word beginning with a vowel (this is a bit clearer in the entry on "Usted"). Appendices include a list of Graeco-Latin scientific names with their equivalent in "buen Romance" and a chapter "Desarrollos gramaticales", an extensive commentary on questions of Spanish grammar (not a grammar per se). Aside from this work, we use the recent Oxford Spanish-English/English-Spanish Dictionary (3rd ed. 2003). This is fine within its limits, and the work is among the best Spanish-English dictionaries currently available, but the coverage is just

not quite adequate to the current situation in the United States, where Spanish has assumed a national importance quite beyond that of any non-English language since independence from Britain, other than possibly German.

I suppose it isn't bad as a dictionary with a bit of explanation, but in a "Diccionario de uso del Español" I'm hoping for more synonyms and specifics on usage, rather than just extended definitions.

I find this dictionary very useful for the obvious, i.e. definitions, but was very disappointed that it didn't give any etymology. I've looked and looked for a Spanish etymological source, with no luck. If anybody knows of one, I'm all orejas!

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