

Open Textbooks Review

Title: *Manual de gramática básica y avanzada del español*

Subtitle: *Libro de texto para el análisis intermedio y/o avanzado*

Authors: *D. Thomas, PhD. and I. McAlister, MA.*



Reviewed by Ana Peña-Oliva, Lecturer III of Hispanic Linguistics, Department of Writing and Language Studies (Spanish Program), The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley on December 21, 2021.

Comprehensiveness:

This textbook, Manual de gramática básica y avanzada del español by Thomas and McAlister, first presents students, second language learners or heritage speakers of Spanish, with a summary of the basic rules of grammar that are learned in the first years of formal study of Spanish, and then offers a more advanced analysis of some grammatical concepts at the intermediate and more advanced levels. Grammar is presented appropriately, and the textbook provides clear and concise explanations and examples of the different grammatical concepts. At the more advanced level, the textbook presents typical conventions and terminology that can help students with less knowledge of formal Spanish grammar to better understand the different grammatical concepts presented in the textbook.

Content Accuracy:

Content is accurate, it does not have too many or major errors. Errors can be fixed very easily

*****Examples of errors:***

- a) *Section 4, "predicado: with lower case letters in all sections, and one capitalized.*
- b) *Sections 4 and 5: Titles that use capital letters in all or most words (Ser y Estar; Sujeto y Predicado, etc.). In Spanish, you only use capital letters in the first word, unless the title refers to a proper name.*
- c) *Section 7: El Presente Progresivo y el Gerundio; El Condicional (simple), etc. Incorrect use of capital letters in titles.*

Relevance/Longevity:

Content is up to date; it includes the most recent changes from the Royal Academy of the Spanish Language. However, should new updates be implemented in the future, editing will not represent a big problem, updates can be easily implemented without requiring major changes to the content or to the structure of the different sections of the textbook.

Clarity:

The text is written in a clear prose for the intended reader, in this case for both the instructor and the student. Terminology and vocabulary are easy to understand. The structure of the textbook is well structured, it presents a logical progression of the different topics, which facilitates its reading.

Consistency:

There is consistency in the use of the terminology throughout the textbook. The structure of the text is also consistent, it presents the basic concepts followed by the more advanced concepts, and each section basically follows the same format, which makes it easy for the intended reader to follow.

Modularity:

The book is organized in short chapters, subdivided in basic concepts and advanced concepts. It is divided in 4 major sections and each section is subdivided in 3 to 7 sections for a total of 19. Sections can be easily assigned for the duration of the course. It is well organized in units and subunits which makes it easy to follow.

Organization/Structure/Flow:

The book is well organized. Topics are introduced in a logical and clear fashion. The textbook is easy to follow because it is well structured and clear, and there is a logical progression of the different topics.

Interface:

There are no interface issues, intended reader can easily navigate through the digital textbook. Textbook does not contain distorted images (very few images are used in the textbook) or charts. Charts present the information in a consistent format throughout the chapters, and they don't distract or confuse the intended reader.

Grammatical Errors:

No grammatical errors were found in the textbook.

Cultural Relevance:

No cultural issues (gender, ethnicity, race, sexual orientation, language, religion, social class, etc.) were found within the text. Knowing that Spanish has many dialects, the authors tried to use a dialect that is most common in Latin America. Different from other textbooks, this book even included the use of vos and vosotros, whenever it was possible.