

Public Review

Title: *Mi Voz. Mi Historia. Español para estudiantes de herencia*

Author: Carolina Moctezuma

Reviewer: Ruben Rodriguez

Mi Voz. Mi Historia. Español para estudiantes de herencia is a fresh, dynamic, and engaging e-Textbook. From the beginning, author Dr. Carolina Moctezuma is mindful of her audience: heritage speakers. The text is intended for students who have had prior exposure to Spanish (aural and oral) but who have not necessarily studied the language's grammar formally. The text intentionally addresses the students in the familiar (tú) form to make them feel more at ease in their learning process. Even the title itself, "Mi voz. Mi Historia," tells the reader that the text itself is not just a standard grammar/cultural textbook. What's more, it is an intimate journey of the students' particular use of Spanish, regardless of nationality. Each Unit has a Table of Contents which offers a complete overview of the Unit's topics. The Units touch on a variety of subjects and concerns germane to the Spanish language. Many of them explore matters of racial-linguistics, and experiences of ethnic diversity by explaining the history or development of Spanish terms and expressions coming from different European and aboriginal languages such as Nahuatl, Mayan, and Arawakan.

Throughout the text, the author attempts to demystify the notion of "proper" Spanish. The text uses group activities where students investigate culture and cultural jargon and how their differences influence the Spanish language. Thus, Dr. Moctezuma empowers students to become active learners by inviting them to keenly examine their own use of the Spanish language (as heritage speakers) at home and with friends. The readings, grammar exercises, and videos are accompanied by exercises in Google Docs. At the end of each unit, students are provided with a list of resources where they can find more information concerning the topics at hand if they wish to do so. Also, at the end of the text there is an appendix with transcripts of many of the videos.

Dr. Carolina Moctezuma's text is a welcome addition to the plethora of Spanish textbooks in the US.

Reviewer's Bio: Dr. Ruben Rodriguez is an Adjunct Professor with Texas A&M University Corpus Christi. He has 20+ years' experience teaching all levels of Spanish courses to non-native, heritage and native Speakers, including History of the Spanish Language.