

**Anonymous of 1559**, Spain; in spite of various suggestions (Balbín & Roldán 1966:xvii—xix), still unknown author of a very simple Spanish grammar for the teaching of foreigners. ‘Of this Castilian language I want to give in this book such rules and precepts that every man, from whatever nation, can easily and quickly learn how to speak it and write it more than fairly well’ [“De esta lengua castellana quiero dar al presente tales reglas y preceptos, que todo hombre de cualquier nación que fuere, pueda muy fácilmente y en breve tiempo hablarla y escribirla, más que medianamente”].

This *Gramática* begins by listing the languages spoken in Spain: Basque, Arabic, Catalan and what it terms the ‘Vulgar Language of Spain’ (rather than Castilian or Spanish), ‘because it is generally spoken and understood all over the country’ [“porque se habla y entiende en toda ella generalmente”]. Almost bereft of theory, it deals only with those things ‘necessary for the instruction of the learner’ [“necesario para la instrucción de un principiante”]. Following in some points → Anonymous of 1555, the author ‘refuses to give definitions based on the idea that his treatise will fall into the hands of advanced and learned people’ [“rehúye dar definiciones basándose en que piensa que su tratado ‘vendrá a manos de personas provecas y leídas”], ‘whereas he prefers—very reasonably, bearing in mind that it is a grammar for foreigners—to refer to the meanings in Latin, French and Italian, providing the corresponding terms in these languages’ [“prefiere en cambio—muy explicablemente en una Gramática para extranjeros—remitirse a las significaciones que tienen en latín, francés e italiano, dando los términos correspondientes en estas lenguas”] (Balbín & Roldán 1966:XLIX).

This *Gramática* focuses on orthography (including in this section 21 pages dedicated to pronunciation) and morphology, here termed ‘etymology’. It justifies the absence of prosody and syntax given that these can be learnt ‘more happily from daily use’ [“uso común, de donde se aprenderán más felizmente”]. The etymology section is chiefly concerned with the declension patterns appropriate to the four types of inflected words (articles, nouns, pronouns and verbs). In respect of nouns, the author emphasizes that they lack cases in Spanish: ‘nouns do not vary according to cases [...], but they are equivalent to the Latin Cases in the same way as articles, that is, with the prepositions *de*, *a*’ [“los nombres no se varían por casos [...], pero tienen su correspondencia con los Casos latinos de aquella misma manera que los artículos, que es con las dos preposiciones *de*, *a*”] (*Gramática*). In the orthography section, he defends the pho-

netic principle and informs his readers about, but does not solve, the chaos in Spanish spelling at that time (Esteve Serrano 1982: 32).

(1559): *Gramática de la lengua Vulgar de España*, Lovaina (repr., R. Balbín & A. Roldán ed., Madrid, 1966). Catalographic description and commentary by Centro Virtual Cervantes <http://cvc.cervantes.es/obref/fortuna/expo/lengua/lengu0112.htm>.

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