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The present work is arranged in two thematic sections; the first, and most lengthy, is devoted to the study of “Dictionaries, terminology and specialty languages”; the second section consists of essays addressing “Dictionaries, linguistic varieties and the teaching of Spanish as a Foreign Language”.

The first section includes the following chapters:

- Chap. 1. The monolingual lexicography of Spanish: 19th and 20th centuries (pp. 3-11).
- Chap. 2. Science and technique in the Spanish lexicographic tradition. An approach to the treatment of specialized knowledge in general dictionaries (pp. 11-18).
- Chap. 3. The treatment of specialized lexicon in the Spanish lexicography of the 19th c. (pp. 19-28).
- chap. 4. Specialized lexicon in monolingual Spanish dictionaries of the 19th c.: the case of Physics (pp. 29-38).
- chap. 5. The definitions of technical nouns in two dictionaries of the 19th c. (pp. 39-52).
- Chap. 6. Terminology, linguistic variation and lexicography: a possible relationship? (pp. 53-62).
- Chap. 7. Procedures for creating specialized lexical units (pp. 63-78).

In this section, the author successfully examines specialty lexicon, mostly focusing on terminology, derivation and its lexicographic treatment. The first chapter is devised as an introductory study to the whole work, framing the study of the monolingual lexicography of Spanish in the 19th and 20th centuries. This is addressed in a wide sense, analyzing the evolution of these concepts in the lexicographic tradition of Spanish, and not without noting how there seems to exist a certain distortion in their conceptualization as presented in dictionaries. It examines specific changes in the evolution

of the dictionary of the Spanish Royal Academy (DRAE) in the 10 editions published throughout the 19th c., from 1804, to 1899. Furthermore, Prof. Contreras also deals with the position taken by the non-academic lexicographers of the 19th c.: Núñez de Taboada; Terreros; J. Peñalver (1842); Salvá 1846; R. J. Domínguez and Gaspar y Roig.

Ch 2: The author addresses the huge input of specialized terms that characterizes the 20th c., paying special attention to the information that general dictionaries convey. This issue is aptly dealt with an interdisciplinary point of view. For this, the author correctly takes into consideration fundamental hypotheses of current lexicography, assuming that the presence of lexical information does not necessarily have to be linguistic, since the dictionary is not a product of descriptive linguistics alien to its socio-cultural environment but it reflects and disseminates all sorts of stereotyped knowledges (Contreras: 12).

The next three chapters deal with more specific studies on the inclusion and treatment of specialty lexicon; this is one of the most complex problems that lexicographers confronted when producing Spanish dictionaries of the 19th c., which is when the birth of modern specialized lexicography in Spain took place. In Ch. 3, Contreras focuses on a historical moment of the utmost importance for the history of Spanish lexicography, from the 18th c. on, lexicography begins to experience a decline in the face of significant competition. It is during this century that the monolingual dictionary ceased to be the property of the State and could for the first time be edited and published by private authors and private companies, becoming a commodity. Under such circumstances the author explains how there is a quantitative growth of the macrostructure, and this as a consequence of the increasing need for information and commercial competition, which is attended through the inclusion of words not belonging to the realm of literary writing (scientific and technological vocabulary, also social varieties), with special attention to specific technical and dialectal words (Contreras: 25).

Chapter 4 and 5, is more exhaustively focused on the domain of Physics (which had a central role at the time). Ch. 4: The author examines closely in this chapter the academic and non-academic lexicography related to this topic.

Ch. 5 offers a detailed analysis of the definitions of technical nouns belonging to Physics in two dictionaries from the 19th c.

The sixth chapter stems from the hypothesis that linguistic variation affects both general language and specialty languages, the latter understood as those employed by professionals in situations of specialized communication, a hypothesis defended by the so-called Communicative Theory of Terminology (CTT). Working from this basis, the author considers whether, to what extent and in what form general language dictionaries should include specialized lexical units, technical terms, or those specific of professions and trades. In order to examine this question, the author analyzes general dictionaries, as well as the thesauri and etymological dictionaries of Spanish deemed most representative in our age in order to verify the treatment that these voices receive in the more relevant dictionaries. Ch. 7 begins with the realization of the rapid expansion of scientific knowledge in our time, which involves a neological process of creation of specialized lexical units.

The second section of the book delves into teaching applications, with the following topics: "Dictionaries, linguistic varieties and the Teaching of Spanish as a Foreign Language". The author offers a clear didactic scope addressing the field of teaching and learning Spanish as a foreign language (ELE). It includes an interesting approach to the dictionary as an essential first-hand material for students and teachers. Ch.

8 addresses the fundamental role of the user in the dictionary in the context of the teaching of Spanish as L2 (pp. 79-84). In ch. 9 and 10 the author explores questions of terminology and the dictionary as learning tools for foreign students (pp. 85-92).

All things considered, this compilation of works by Narciso Contreras offers a very enriching and necessary study of the linguistic field. Therefore it is to be highly recommended, both in terms of its relevance for the field of specialized lexicography, and also from a more didactic perspective, as it provides readers with an approach to technology in its most didactic application, especially aimed at the student of Spanish as a Foreign Language (ELE).