

A SOCIOLOGOLOGICAL NOTE

DMITRI A. BORGMANN
Dayton, Washington

The increase in the number of individuals of Hispanic ancestry living in the United States in recent years has been paralleled by a corresponding increase in the number of English nouns and noun phrases designating such individuals. So far, no dictionary and no combination of dictionaries has kept pace with this growing segment of the English language. It therefore remains for logology to enter the picture, providing a stopgap glossary of English terms for Hispanics. A list of 64 such terms follows, with brief definitions. The list is inherently incomplete, and readers are encouraged to add to it, so as to bring the total number of terms to one hundred or more.

AFRO-CUBAN. A Cuban of Black-African descent, especially one now living in the United States.

BEAN-EATER. A nickname for a Mexican, especially a poor one.

BORIÑQUENA. A female Boriñqueno.

BORIÑQUENO. A native of Puerto Rico, especially one now living in the United States itself.

BRACERO. A Mexican legally in the United States, performing chiefly seasonal contract work, in agriculture or industry.

CABOCLO. A Brazilian of mixed white and Indian blood, having a dark complexion; especially, one now in the United States.

CENTRAL AMERICAN. Someone of Central-American birth or descent; especially, one now in the United States.

CHICANA. A female Chicano.

CHICANO. Someone of Mexican birth or descent now living in the United States. Logologically, the word is a zetagram or sixth-letter change upon CHICAGO. Every Chicano should, therefore, live in Chicago.

CHILI EATER. A nickname for a Mexican, especially a poor one.

CHILI PICKER. A nickname for a Mexican peon.

CHOLO. (1) A mestizo. (2) A pejorative term for a lower-class Mexican or individual of Mexican ancestry.

CUBAN. A native of Cuba, especially one now living in the United States.

CUBANA. A female Cuban.

CUBANO. A male Cuban.

CURIBOCA. A Brazilian of mixed white and Indian blood, having a dark complexion; especially, one now living in the United States.

DON. A Spaniard, or a male of Spanish descent, especially one now living in the United States.

FEET PEOPLE (pl.). Refugees from war-torn countries in Central America, traveling to the United States overland, on foot.

FRIJOLE GUZZLER [sic]. A nickname for a Mexican, especially a poor one.

GIBARO. A variant of JIBARO.

GREASEBALL. A pejorative term for a Latin American in general, or for a Mexican in particular.

GREASER. A greaseball.

HISPANA. A female Latin American.

HISPANIC. A Latin American.

HISPANIC AMERICAN. A Latin American.

HISPANO. A male Latin American.

HOT TAMALES. A slang term for a Mexican señorita, especially one currently in the United States.

JIBARO. A Puerto Rican small farmer, rural worker, or laborer living in one of the mountainous areas of Puerto Rico.

LADINA. A female Ladino.

LADINO. A westernized, Spanish-speaking Latin American not of pure Spanish extraction; especially, a mestizo.

LADINA. A female Latin American.

LATIN AMERICAN. Someone of Latin-American birth or descent, especially one now living in the United States.

LATINO. A male Latin American.

LÉPERA. A female lépero.

LÉPERO. A Mexican of low social and economic standing - someone ragged, possibly half-naked, and wretched.

MAMELUCO. A Brazilian mestizo; the offspring of a white man and an Indian woman.

MEJICANA. A female Mexican.

MEJICANO. A male Mexican.

MESTIZA. A female mestizo.

MESTIZO. Someone of mixed Spanish and American-Indian ancestry.

MEXICAN. Someone of Mexican birth or descent, especially one now living in the United States.

MEXICANA. A female Mexican.

MEXICAN AMERICAN. Someone of Mexican birth or descent, now living in the United States.

MEXICANO. A male Mexican.

NEORICAN. A Puerto Rican living on the United States mainland; especially, one living in New York.

NUYORICAN. A Neorican.

OLLER. A pejorative term for a Mexican.

PACHUCA. A female pachuco.

PACHUCO. A young, underprivileged Mexican-American living in the Los Angeles area who is, typically, a gang member and someone who wears flashy clothing, speaks a special jargon, and indulges in fast living.

PORTO RICAN. A variant of PUERTO RICAN.

PRIMA. A female primo.

PRIMO. A slang, or a pejorative, term for a Mexican - the word means both "cousin" and "simpleton" in Spanish.

PUERTO RICAN. Someone of Puerto-Rican birth or descent, especially one now living on the United States mainland.

QUADROON. Someone whose ancestry is three-quarters Spanish and one-quarter American Indian.

SEXY MEX. A slang term for a Mexican señorita, especially one currently in the United States.

SOUTH AMERICAN. Someone of South-American birth or descent, especially one now living in the United States.

SPANISH-SPEAKING (as a noun). Someone of Spanish or of Latin-American birth or descent, now living in the United States, who speaks Spanish.

SPANISH-SURNAMED (as a noun). Someone of Spanish or of Latin-American birth or descent, now living in the United States, who bears a Spanish last name.

SUNGRINNER. A pejorative term for a Mexican.

TAMALE. A hot tamale.

TIO TACO. A pejorative term for a Mexican American who adopts the culture and values of white American society.

TIRILÓN. A typically young, male Hispanic living in the United States, a member of the lower classes, noted for using drugs, having a "crazy" walk, and being a troublemaker - usually a gang member or hoodlum.

TIRILÓNA. A female tirilón.

WETBACK. A Mexican who has entered the United States illegally by wading or swimming across the Rio Grande.