

## Words with [š] in the Sandoval dictionary: Coxco

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*Coxco* ~ *cosco* offers an interesting example of the oscillation between [š] and [s] in some words. It may also be a case of apocope, or word shortening through syllable loss. As in the case of nicknames and other shortenings, the shortening would be presumed to occur as a result of the informal usage to which the word is usually put. Sandoval's entry and related entries are as follows:

COXCO, m. = "Coscorrón". Golpe dado con el nudillo del dedo cordial, o de en medio, teniendo cerrada la mano. "Tengo un *chinchón* en la cabeza, a consecuencia del \**coxco* que me dió el maestro albañil".

COSCO, m. = Apócope de *coscorrón*. *Coxco*.

COSCORRÓN, m. = No sólo es el golpe en la cabeza que no saca sangre y duele (Diccionario Académico), sino el golpe dado en la cabeza, pero especialmente con el nudillo del dedo cordial. "El dicurión me daba con mucha frecuencia mis coscorrones por ser yo muy travieso". *Casquín* o *ñique*, en Nicaragua. *Cocotazo*, en Cuba.

COSCORRONEADOR, RA = Que coscorronea. "Los maestros de la antigua escuela fueron muy *coscorroneadores* y muy aficionados a dar *cuero*".

COSCORRONEAR = Dar coscorrones a una persona. "A mí no me gusta que nadie me *coscorronee*". Véase la terminación "*lar*".

COSCORRONIAR = "Coscorronear".

Armas cites the shortened word with a raised vowel and the palatal fricative in both editions of his dictionary, but slightly alters the example sentence in the 1982 edition:

*Cushque* Coscorrón.

– A Lipito le dio unos *cushques* su profesora.

– A Lipito, por caprichoso, le dio unos *cushques* hoy su profesora.

Like Armas, Rubio includes only the shortened form as an independent entry and only with the palatal pronunciation. He does, however, retain the Sandoval vowel:

*Coshco*: Coscorrón || Estevado

As Sandoval notes, the Diccionario de la Real Academia (DRAE) provides a detailed description of the kind of blow to the head that is represented by a *coxco*. The current DRAE entry for *coscorrón* defines it as a "golpe en la cabeza, que no produce sangre y duele" or a golpe dado en la cabeza con los nudillos de la mano cerrada." The DRAE also includes an entry for *cosque* as an onomatopoeic colloquial variant of *coscorrón*.

This analysis suggests that the presumed apocope may in fact instead be a lengthening, resulting from use of an augmentative suffix. The DRAE does not record the special usage in Guatemala of the palatal pronunciation even though the evidence of Armas and Rubio is that the palatal pronunciation is the more frequent for the short form.

The word seems still to be in active usage, in both pronunciations.

As an interesting side social note, it is worth looking at the entries related to a now obsolescing word that Sandoval uses in his main entry: *dicurión*. Note that his example uses the so-called vulgar pronunciation.

DECURIÓN, m. = En el sistema antiguo usado en las escuelas, muchacho a quien el maestro encargaba celar el orden y vigilar a cierto número de condiscípulos, generalmente mayor de diez.

DECUREÓN, m. = "*Decurión*".

DICURIÓN, m. = Vulgarismo por *decurión*. "*Decurión*".

This word is not cited in later dictionaries although it is still found in the current DRAE.