

Words with [š] in the Sandoval dictionary: Cucuxque

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Cucuxque is word that appears to have been lost in contemporary Guatemalan Spanish. It is not documented in any dictionary later than Sandoval whose entry follows:

*CUCUXQUE, adj. = "*Malvestido, da*". Sucio, cia, como limosnero. "¿Quién es esa muchacha tan bonita, pero tan **cucuxque?*"

Batres Jáuregui does not include a separate entry for *cucuxque* but the word does appear in the entry for *lana*, as a synonym for this insulting term for indigenous men. The entire entry consists of a quote from Salom Jil's discussion of "El lana" in his *Cuadro de costumbres*, which begins

"El lana, lo mismo que el *cucuxque*, del cual hablaba yo hace pocos días, es una producción indígena de este país... (vol. II:358.)

The description goes on to compare these poor, and poorly dressed, street people with "las ínfimas" of other countries and to contrast them to "hombres decentes." (The entire entry can be found by searching the Batres Jáuregui dictionary at this site.) An interesting study of social class in Guatemala by José Ramón González Ponciano, "No somos iguales: la 'cultura finquera' y el lugar de cada quien en sociedad en Guatemala" quotes José Milla in describing the *cucuxque* as the lowest form of indigenous beggar: "la incarnación de la miseria y degradación humana."

(http://www.istor.cide.edu/archivos/num_24/dossier3.pdf, [last access November 2006])

Sandoval also includes *lana* with a slightly less extreme definition.

LANA, m.= "Un lana".

UN LANA = Persona de la íntima plebe, canalla, lépera, pícara. Más se usa en plural. "Los hijos de don Bartolo son unos lanas".

Interestingly, the despective meanings associated with *lana* continue to be documented in later dictionaries, even though *cucuxque* seems to have disappeared.

Both editions of Armas include *lana*, now associated with a style of speaking rather than a style of dressing. Armas also includes a derived form with interesting related meanings. His examples are notably blunt.

Lana: adj. m.

1) Antiguamente calificaba al individuo del pueblo, que, fuera de ser malhablado, cargaba arma blanca.

– Ya vi que te gusta juntarte con lanas.

2) Malhablado.

– No hables así ante mujeres; no seas lana.

Lanada: s.f.

- 1) Acción vulgar, grosera.
 - Eso de insultar a tu tía fue una lanada.
- 2) Acción innoble, traicionera.
 - Tu abogado le hizo a papá una lanada.
- 3) Mala palabra.
 - Si querés que estemos juntos, no digás lanadas.

Rubio's entry shows a new an unexpected meaning for lana – money – but does not disregard the implications of tricky and vulgar behavior. (González Ponciano attributes this meaning to influence from Mexico.) Rubio does not document the derived form.

Lana

Dinero. || Persona insolente, procaz, pícara.

Morales Pellecer suggests that the base noun has lost all of the earlier reference to individuals and only the derived form persists.

lana f dinero

lanada f acción o dicho vulgar o grosero

2. Acción innoble, traicionera.

The *Diccionario de la Real Academia* (DRAE) cites lana as a Guatemalanism with the meaning 'persona de la plebe,' but does not include an entry for *lanada* with any of the related meanings.

No etymology for *cucuxque* has so far presented itself. The word does not seem to have any currency in modern slang lists or other usage.