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Spanish Grammar Amigo for Windows. WestCliff Software, 343 Soquel Ave., Box 207, Santa Cruz, CA 95062; distributed by Character Language Resources, 2130 Sawtelle Boulevard, Suite 304A, Los Angeles, CA 90025, 800 900-8803. The program, sold "as is," requires Windows 3.1, 2M of memory and 2M of disk space. Although the documentation does not say so, Windows must run in Enhanced Mode. \$69.00.

In contrast to the *Grammatik* included with the Spanish language WordPerfect 6.1 for Windows (reviewed in *La Corónica*, 23.2, Spring 1995, 118-22), this grammar checker was designed for Anglos writing Spanish. I therefore hoped it would be more helpful than a program written for Hispanics writing their own language. Unfortunately, the program was a disappointment. The documentation and help files are elementary and filled with errors: in accents, capitalization, and grammatical facts. (The list of demonstrative pronouns, for example, omits accents and neuter forms; the list of clitics omits "le.") The bibliography includes such basic texts as *Dos mundos* and *¿Habla español?*, and then, incredibly, Isaías Lerner's *Arcaísmos léxicos del español de América*. The sign-on screen says that it is "The Ultimate Grammar Cheking [sic] Tool," and that is about the size of it.

The program has an unusual installation procedure; it comes on two disks, each of which has a "setup.exe" that one must run separately from the File menu. Because of a manufacturing error, the two disks I received were identical, although the labels were not. I obtained a replacement disk from the distributor.

The program is complicated to use. It is first loaded into memory, then summoned from within the word processor using a hot key (not customizable). From within Microsoft Works and Microsoft Write, which are supported word processors, the program hung every time I ran it, requiring rebooting the computer, or caused General Protection Faults. Although WordPerfect 5.1 and 6.0 for DOS were on the program's menu of supported word processors, I never could find how to summon a Windows accessory from within a DOS program. I could only use the program by blocking text within WordPerfect for Windows 6.1 (not a supported word processor) and checking the blocks.

Unfortunately, the program's grammar checking, which could not be customized, was very disappointing. Sentences had to be shorter than 25 words. The program apparently flags every instance of "su," "suyo," and impersonal "se," suggesting rewording to avoid ambiguity. "Soy una estudiante buena" produced the observation that "una" and "buena" did not agree in gender with "estudiante," apparently because the noun was indexed as masculine only. "Añadió a estas palabras las siguientes" produced the suggestion that the article "las" precede the noun "palabras." "Se trata de un apunte suyo incorporado a la segunda edición..." generated a request for attention to the lack of noun-verb agree-

ment in “suyo incorporado.”

This program might have some usefulness for an elementary student writing simple sentences. It is of no use to anyone attempting to write Spanish at an advanced level.

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