Biography

Otto Schick is a Mechanical Engineer who has travelled and lived overseas many years, involved with engineering projects both professionally and on a volunteer basis. His interest in foreign languages started early.

Through necessity he learned other languages quickly by focusing on the most common words in each language, placing less emphasis on obscure words in many dictionaries.

Mr. Schick speaks several languages to various degrees and has been involved with projects in Haiti using both French and Haitian. His first trip to Haiti was in 1985.

Introduction

The Diksyonè Otto began several years ago as a ministry project to help Haitians learn the most important English vocabulary.

In this dictionary we refer to the language as Haitian (Ayisyen) instead of Creole or Haitian Creole. Several other recent dictionaries and texts also call the language Haitian and this may be a future trend.

Many dictionaries contain 10,000, 20,000 even 50,000 word entries or more, and this level of detail is necessary for advanced study.

But a person who masters the most common 2000 to 3000 words of any language will be able to understand 80 to 90% of most daily communication in that language.

Our strategy was to focus only on those words that will be used frequently on a daily or weekly basis.

There are about 3000 words translated in each direction and a student who focuses on these 3000 words will be well on their way to speaking English or Haitian.

Haitian is changing rapidly which no doubt will continue as spellings are standardized with IPA and local phonetic standards.

English speakers learning Haitian should know the Haitian language often contains multiple variations of the same word.

This dictionary usually gives the student only one spelling of the Haitian word based on our current recommendation. While perhaps not ideal for some situations, we have filtered out many alternate spellings to keep the document brief and cost of distribution low.

With only 14 pages of dictionary users can rapidly view the entire language with only a few turned pages, a feature unique among available Haitian language reference materials.

Students seeking a more detailed dictionary will be well advised to make use of the excellent scholarly texts referenced here. These dictionaries will provide alternate Haitian spellings as well as essential usage examples.

Our dictionary has given more priority to the usage found in references written in the year 2000 or later.

We have also surveyed usage of Haitian on websites where beneficial to compare our entry recommendations to usage found there.

We also usually provide Haitian speakers only one recommended English word which we believe to be the most common word used by everyday Americans in daily conversation.

Some words we may consider "Ayiysangle", "English words in original form or close equivalent such as twòk (truck). These are words already seen in other dictionaries (though spelling might vary) and for these types of words we have included a recommended spelling for our users.

Other words are not frequently seen yet in other dictionaries but have been included. For example "titi" (tutor), not common in other dictionaries, is seen on the internet, such as Haitian translations on US school district websites. Whether title is arriving via French "tuteur", or English "tutor" is less known to us, but since these types of words are commonly seen we found them worthy of addition.

We have listed in our references those French based documents that were also useful in our phonetic or origin analysis.

I am very optimistic Haiti will grow and prosper through the hard work, intelligence and dedication of the Haitian people.

My sincere hope is that this dictionary will be a part of that progress, and will help you, your friends, family and colleagues prosper in learning English or Haitian.

This document is dedicated to my parents, Otto and Mildred Schick, who have always given freely and fully of themselves to help their children live their dreams.

Otto Schick
San Juan, Puerto Rico
March, 2009

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References: Year 2000 or later

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Abrevyasyon yo. (Abbreviations)

adj  adv
adv  advè
elec  elektrik
konj  konjonksyon
med  medical
prep  preposiyon
n  non
v  vèb

Comments: If this dictionary has helped you, your mission or your organization, we would be glad to receive an email from you sharing your story. Ou kapab ekti en Ayisyen osinon Angle.

Also, if you have any content or format recommendations, we will retain and consider them for possible future updates, but we cannot guarantee a response to each technical recommendation.

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