

12. The Birth of Grammar

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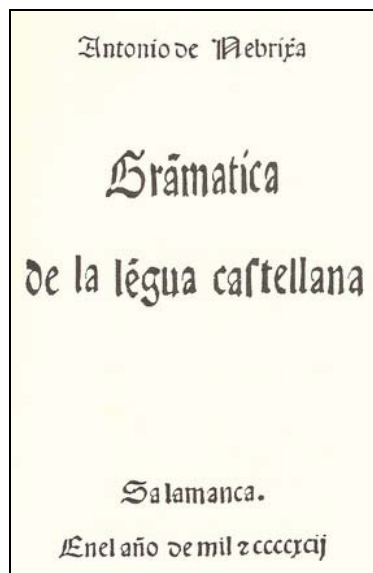
“The First Grammar of The Spanish Language” 1492

The train from Sevilla to Cadiz stops at a small station called Lebrija on the way. It is worth stopping over, since this is where Antonio de Nebrija (1444-1522), one of the most important persons in the history of the Spanish language was born. When I went to Lebrija with my Spanish friend one day in the summer, I found a statue of this great grammarian in front of the town hall (picture 12a). Nobody in the town hall or in the region knew which house he was born in, but for half a day we enjoyed walking around (until the next train came) the beautiful town, where the sun was reflected off the white walls of the town under the blue sky of Andalucía,.



【Picture 12a: Antonio de Nebrija】

In 1492, “The First Grammar of The Spanish Language” (Gramática de la Lengua Castellana) written by Nebrija was published in Salamanca (picture 12b). Nebrija is considered to have been the pioneer of modern grammar, as there were not any systematic grammar books in Spanish or any other European languages before his work. At that time, the main object of the study of grammar was a comparison with classical languages, especially Latin.



【picture 12b: Gramática de la Lengua Castellana】