The aim of this work was the production of a database of Mexican-Spanish Word Association Norms (MexWAN). In order to achieve this objective, 234 words typically acquired at an early stage of lexical development, were selected. A graphical user interface was designed through a data management system which allowed controlling the application of the Word Association test to 460 young adults between the ages of 18 and 28 years (each one answering 117 words). The task consisted in the following: 1) presenting a stimulus word on a screen, and 2) the participants wrote the first word which came to their minds in a lapse of 10 seconds when reading each particular stimulus word at a time.

We obtained a total of 53,118 word answers. Two types of analysis were performed: a) quantitative, and b) qualitative.

The quantitative analysis consisted of the calculation of eight measurements: 1) Associative Strength of the First Associate, 2) Associative Strength of the Second Associate, 3) The Sum of the Associative Strength of the Two First Associates, 4) Difference in the Strength of the First and Second Associate, 5) Number of Different Associates, 6) Omitted Responses, 7) Idiosyncratic (unique) Responses and 8) Cue Validity of the First Associate.

The results allowed us to know the degree of association between pairs of words, with the purpose of having a systematic and representative measure of its use in the selection of linguistic stimuli in investigations exploring the effects of word relatedness in speakers of a language within the same context.

The qualitative analysis consisted in both the classification of answers regarding its grammatical class, and the classification of types of lexical relationships established between words. The categorical classification distinguished six types of lexical relations between words: 1) Taxonomic, 2) Thematic, 3) Based on Components, 4) Descriptive, 5) Functional, and 6) Others. The most frequent answer was thematic (e.g. coat-cold). This result agrees with the concept of contiguity (Ervin, 1961; McNeill, 1966), which explains that words are related according to the closeness between them. The participants also provided answers indicating descriptive (e.g. coat-brown), functional (e.g. coat-protect), taxonomic (e.g. coat-sweater), based on components (e.g. coat-button), and other relations, in percentages ranging from 18% to 1%.

Despite the possible limitations, this database is a valuable source of information which offers necessary, updated and representative data concerning the relations formed in Mexican Spanish. The produced corpus will be useful for researchers in fields related to memory, cognition, linguistics, semantic networks or the mathematic modelling of words, among other areas.