LangBot: a tool for vocabulary learning

Lead contact: Kelly Arispe, kellyarispe@boisestate.edu
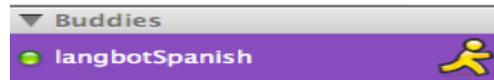
What is LangBot?

LangBot is one of the newest language learning tools offered to students learning a foreign language. It works quickly and efficiently to help you find the meaning of a word or a translation request, while giving you **much more** than a typical dictionary…

What can LangBot do?

- Provide **translation requests** (word and sentence level) in Spanish and English

- Provide numerous **examples** of authentic contexts of the word you look up

- Give you a **links** to access the actual website(s) where the word shows up

- Introduce/review the words you need to know through "**word-of-the-day**"

- Provide **vocabulary tests** with words you look up as well as words you need to know at your level

- Provide **records** of your overall usage to log progress over the quarter

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How do I access LangBot?

1. You must have an IM client like iChat (comes with Mac OSX) or instant messenger (AIM). If you currently do not have one, you will have to sign up for one. It is free to do so and can be done here: http://www.aim.com/ (Use LangBot w/your iPad, iPhone or smart phone too!)

2. Once you are signed into your online chat tool, add "LangBot Spanish" to your buddy list.

3. It should pop right up and lead you through a brief (4 minute), **introductory interview**. Once you "agree" to let LangBot Spanish record your entries, you are ready to use LangBot for learning (see options below).

4. If for some reason it does NOT work, please email the researcher, Kelly Arispe at kellyarispe@boisestate.edu

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How do I use LangBot?

Like *any* online translator, *be careful* when asking LangBot to translate idiomatic phrases or expressions that are colloquial. **LangBot is best used at the word level or when you want the meaning of a complex sentence from Spanish to English**.

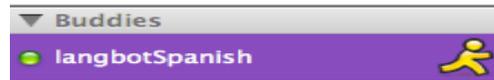Tr= translate [Tr space word (Spanish or English); example: tr árbol]
Y = yes
N = no
Wotd = to trigger the word of the day (this occurs automatically after 4 minutes)
Quiz = to trigger the quiz (this occurs automatically once a week)

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▼ Buddies
● langbotSpanish

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Below is an example of what the researcher will see when you access LangBot (your AIM name would appear in bold, for example "langbot12"):

langbot12 (AIM)

Transcript	Usage		
Langbot: would you like another example of the word 'soberania'?		2011-03-25 15:49:27
Langbot: decir, son aquellas en las cuales el monarca, en su carácter de titular de la soberanía, las otorga al pueblo. En este caso, se parte de las siguientes premisas: Desde la		2011-03-25 15:49:21
langbot12: yes		2011-03-25 15:49:20
Langbot: Would you like an example of the word 'soberania'?		2011-03-25 15:49:17
Langbot: The English word for 'soberania' is 'sovereignty'.		2011-03-25 15:49:15
langbot12: what does soberania mean in english		2011-03-25 15:49:13
Langbot: Would you like an example of the word 'soberania'?		2011-03-25 15:48:59
Langbot: The English word for 'soberania' is 'sovereignty'.		2011-03-25 15:48:57
langbot12: what does soberania mean		2011-03-25 15:48:55

This is the log that will let the research know what words you request, etc.

langbot12 (AIM)

Transcript   Usage

135
103
69
58
50
48
24
16
3
11

1/27   2/15   3/6   3/24
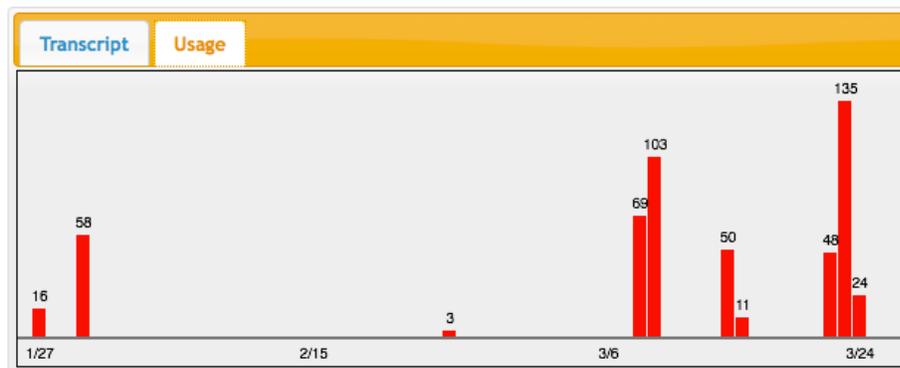
This is the daily usage chart that lets the researcher know just how often and how much you are using the tool.

Troubleshooting any possible problems:

- LangBot can handle **accents**, but it can also detect the word without the accents. If for some reason your translation request was misunderstood, try again without the accents.
- Be careful when **copying** and **pasting** large segments of text from a website into LangBot. LangBot is best at the word level or with shorter segments.
- If you get the **message** "I did not understand what you said. Would you like to help me learn?" this means you need to ask LangBot help in a different way.