A HIERARCHICAL SKETCH OF MIXE
as spoken in San José El Paraíso
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as spoken in San José El Paraíso

by
Julia Dieterman Van Haitsma
and
Willard Van Haitsma

A Publication of the
SUMMER INSTITUTE OF LINGUISTICS
of the
UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA
Norman
To Robert E. Longacre, pioneer in discourse analysis, who inspired and guided this description of Mixe, as well as descriptions of other little-known languages around the world.
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## ABBREVIATIONS

Part I

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Adverbial Clause Nucleus</td>
<td>Imp</td>
<td>Imperative Clause Nuclei</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AH</td>
<td>Attribute Head</td>
<td>intr.</td>
<td>intransitive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AOC</td>
<td>Actor-Oriented Conjunct Clause Nucleus</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Modifier</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AONC</td>
<td>Actor-Oriented Nonconjunct Clause Nucleus</td>
<td>NC</td>
<td>Nonconjunct Clause Nuclei</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>Conjugt Clause Nuclei</td>
<td>ND</td>
<td>Noun Determiner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>consonant with/without palatalization (used in CV combinations, not alone)</td>
<td>NF</td>
<td>Nuclear Feature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CACS</td>
<td>Concomitant-Action Compound Stem</td>
<td>NPS</td>
<td>Noun Phrase Specifier</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCl</td>
<td>Consonant cluster</td>
<td>Peri</td>
<td>Peripheral Element</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CM</td>
<td>Comparison Modifier</td>
<td>pl</td>
<td>plural</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C/NC</td>
<td>Conjunct/Nonconjunct Clause Nuclei</td>
<td>Po</td>
<td>Possessive</td>
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<tr>
<td>CNP</td>
<td>Comparative Noun Phrase</td>
<td>QM</td>
<td>Question Marker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CT</td>
<td>Conjunct Trigger</td>
<td>QW</td>
<td>Question Word</td>
</tr>
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<td>DNP</td>
<td>Descriptive Noun Phrase</td>
<td>RAP</td>
<td>Relator-Axis Phrase</td>
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<td>DVS</td>
<td>Derived Verb Stem</td>
<td>SACS</td>
<td>Specified-Action Compound Stem</td>
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<td>E</td>
<td>Explanatory</td>
<td>sg</td>
<td>singular</td>
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<td>GOC</td>
<td>Goal-Oriented Conjunct Clause Nucleus</td>
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<td>Head</td>
<td>SOC</td>
<td>Subject-Oriented Conjunct</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>SONC</td>
<td>Subject-Oriented Nonconjunct Clause Nucleus</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>SVS</td>
<td>Simple Verb Stem</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>tr.</td>
<td>transitive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>V</td>
<td>vowel quality and nuclear feature (used in CV)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
combinations, not alone) VH Vowel Nucleus: Aspirated Glottalization  
V Vowel Nucleus: Short Length 1st Person Imperative Clause Nucleus  
V Mid Length 1PI  
V Long Length 2nd Person Imperative Clause Nucleus  
V' Vowel Nucleus: Checked 2PI  
Glottalization  
V" Vowel Nucleus: Interrupted 3PI  
Glottalization  

Part II

A Answer Parenthesis  
Alter Alternative "Pig Hunt"  
Anti Antithetical Preliminary  
BU Build Up Procedural  
BU-n Build Up Final Proposal  
Coord Coordinate "Pine Trees"  
D Denouement Question  
Dial Dialogue Recapitulation  
DH "Deer Hunt" Recap  
EP Episode Reinforcement  
Exch Exchange Response  
Exhort Exhortation S "Savage"  
Expo Exposition Sa Section  
Expo P Expository Paragraph Sec Countersession  
Hort Hortatory Simultaneous  
JG "John Garabato" Sentence Final  
L "Lent" SP Speech  
M "Manners" SS "Slide Show"  
MC "Marriage Customs" Term Terminal  
Narr Narrative TR "True Religion"  
OC "Orphan Child" . repeated (step)  
P or Para Paragraph
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Data for this study in Mixe were collected under the auspices of the Summer Institute of Linguistics during the years 1968–1972 when the authors lived in San José El Paraíso, Oaxaca, Mexico. The principal informants were Delfino Juárez, Fausto Ortiz, and Eugenio Ortiz, whose ages were 19, 38, and 16 years respectively at the time when each began contributing to the study. The authors owe a debt of gratitude to these informants for their patience in teaching their language and for their own insights into the structure of the language. We are also deeply grateful to the people of San José El Paraíso for their hospitality and willingness to accept us in our attempts to learn their language and culture.

Previous work in this and other Mixe dialects has been done by other members of the Summer Institute of Linguistics: Walter and Vera Miller in Juquila and Camotlán; Searle and Hilda Hoogshagen in Coatlán; Alvin and Louise Schoenhals, and John and Gwen Crawford in Totontepec; Norman Nordell in San Juan Guichicovi; Don and Shirley Lyon in Tlahuitoltepec (see Bibliography). Our sincere appreciation to each of them for their help and suggestions in regard to the language data and the analysis. We are grateful to Searle and Hilda Hoogshagen whose previous work in the immediate area made our work there so much easier. A special note of thanks to Norman Nordell whose broad knowledge of various languages in the Mixe-Zoque family and his willingness to share this knowledge with us was of great help in our study of Mixe.

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The present analysis reflects insights into Mixe structure first stated by some of our colleagues in the study of the various dialects of Mixe. However, the author of Part I of this monograph is responsible for the interpretation and incorporation of those observations, as well as her own, into a unified description.

No previous work had been done on the sentence, paragraph, or discourse levels. Chapters 6 and 7 are the first attempts to describe these levels for Mixe.

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(author of Part I)

Willard Van Haitsma
(author of Part II)