

SUMMER INSTITUTE OF LINGUISTICS

PUBLICATIONS IN LINGUISTICS

Publication Number 56

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**Studies in
Uto-Aztecan Grammar**

**Volume 1
An Overview of Uto-Aztecan Grammar**

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A PUBLICATION OF

THE SUMMER INSTITUTE OF LINGUISTICS

and

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON

1977

ISBN Part I 0-88312-070-4

Set 0-88312-069-0

Library of Congress Catalog Card No: 77-75775

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the Summer Institute of Linguistics may be obtained
from

Summer Institute of Linguistics
Academic Publications
7500 W. Camp Wisdom Rd.
Dallas, TX 75211

FOREWORD

The present volume is the first of a three-volume set containing grammatical sketches of a variety of Uto-Aztecan languages. This first volume contains An Overview of Uto-Aztecan Grammar, written by the editor and based in large measure on research supported by a National Endowment for the Humanities Senior Fellowship (1973-74). The second volume, Modern Aztec Grammatical Sketches, includes sketches of Tetelcingo Nahuatl by David H. Tuggy; North Puebla Nahuatl by Earl Brockway; Huasteca Nahuatl by Richard and Patricia Beller; and Michoacán Nahuatl by William R. Sischo. The third volume, to be called Uto-Aztecan Grammatical Sketches, will contain sketches of Northern Paiute by John and Joy Anderson; Papago by Dean Saxton; Northern Tepehuan by Burton Bascom; Western Tarahumara by Don Burgess; and Cora by Eugene Casad. These comments and those in the Overview pertain to all three volumes, which form an integral unit.

This work grows out of a Uto-Aztecan workshop sponsored by the Summer Institute of Linguistics and held in Ixmiquilpan, Hidalgo, Mexico from January through April 1976. I was invited to be the guest director of this workshop and participated from January through March while on sabbatical leave from the University of California, San Diego. In discussions of objectives with the various participants, it soon became apparent that virtually all of them had a serious interest in arriving at some kind of reasonably comprehensive grammatical description of the language they were studying. This interest dovetailed neatly with my own comparative-historical work in Uto-Aztecan, which involves assembling grammatical information about all the daughter languages attested and organizing this information in some coherent and reasonably uniform way. We decided, therefore, that the main activity of the workshop would be the preparation of grammatical sketches for each language involved in a fairly uniform format and notation. This project was successful to the extent that we further decided to revise the sketches for publication, with the result now before you. To these sketches I have added my own Overview, which provides the background information, pertaining both to grammatical concepts generally and Uto-Aztecan traits in particular, necessary for the preparation, interpretation, and appreciation of the individual sketches.

The practical value for Uto-Aztecan scholars of fairly comprehensive grammatical sketches in simple, straightforward notation and uniform format should be readily apparent. On the other hand, it would be neither feasible nor desirable to impose a notation and format so rigid and detailed as to preclude individual variation and creative responses to linguistic problems. We have therefore tried to steer a middle course. Such things as phonetic symbols and grammatical abbreviations have been standardized, so that, for instance, e will always stand for a mid front vowel (never for a high back unrounded vowel, for which we use ɛ), and IMP will always stand for 'imperative'. Moreover, all of the sketches follow a common broad outline (discussed and illustrated in the Overview) and consider the same general range of phenomena within each section of that outline. Within this outline, however, a considerable degree of variation will be noted. There is little variation in the inventory or ordering of

major sections, but a great deal in the grouping of material into subsections and arrangement and description of material within each subsection. The analysis and treatment of parallel phenomena will sometimes differ in sketches of languages even as closely related as the Aztec dialects. Authors naturally vary with respect to writing style, linguistic sophistication, familiarity with the language, individual interests and objectives, and many other factors. These differences are inevitably reflected in the sketches they have written, and I have not tried to level them through heavy-handed editing. I hope that what has resulted combines the advantages of a uniform format with the strengths of the individual writers.

I would like personally to acknowledge the contributors to these volumes for their interest, cooperation, and dedication through a long and arduous period. All of us would like collectively to thank and acknowledge the various people who have contributed in one way or another to the successful completion of this project. These include Doris Bartholomew, for organizing the Uto-Aztecan workshop and providing substantial help and encouragement at every stage; the language helpers and their communities, for making the resources of their languages available; the families, friends, and workers at the Centro Lingüístico Manuel Gamio in Ixmiquilpan, for their fellowship and cooperation; and all the other people who have contributed in their individual ways to the evolution, preparation, and production of these volumes.

RWL

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