

COATZOSPAN MIXTEC PRONOUNS

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There are four classes of pronouns in Coatzospan Mixtec:

1. Personal pronouns
2. Demonstrative pronouns
3. Interrogative pronouns
4. Relative pronoun

1. Personal pronouns. There are fifteen personal pronouns. Except for the second person singular nominative pronoun -n, which has the effect of regressively nasalizing the entire phrase of which it is a part, these pronouns are one-syllable enclitics which are grammatically free but phonologically bound to the nucleus of the word-phrase of which they are a part.

The first and second person pronouns show contrast in person, number and case and an inclusive (in) versus exclusive (ex) distinction in the first person plural:

	Nominative	Dative
First singular	ú	có
Second singular	-n	ō
First plural (in)	ǒ	cǒ
First plural (ex)	ntǎ	
Second plural	ntō	

In respectful speech the plural forms are used even when the referents are singular.

There are seven third person pronouns. They are distinguished by gender rather than by number or case and vary from generic to specific:

	Specific		Generic	
Masculine (m)	nā	xtá	nā	
Masculine (fe)	tí			
Feminine	tún			
Animal or spherical object			tā	
Neuter				

## Pronouns--PS

The choice of pronoun is limited partially by the gender class of the noun which it represents and partially by the social context of the speech act, reflecting the relationship or attitude of the speaker toward the referent.

As a general rule, the generic terms are more respectful. Only *nā* or *ī* may be used when referring to a deceased person. *nā* is usually reserved for adults and is considered extremely respectful when applied to a child. When *ī* is used with reference to a child or animal, it implies endearment. The use of *xtá* implies that the person is well-known and respected. It corresponds fairly closely to the Spanish title *don*.

The choice of masculine pronoun is further limited by whether the speaker is male (*ms*) or female (*fe*).

Each of the personal pronouns, with the exception of the neuter pronoun *ī*, has a corresponding free, two-syllable form from which it is derived. A free form can be pronounced in isolation but is rarely used in connected speech, and then primarily for emphasis or clarification, as in the following examples:

<i>xōhō</i>	'we (inclusive)'
<i>xōhō nā tīi</i>	'we fellows'
<i>xōhō quāhān o</i>	'we are going'
<i>cuenta iña co xoho</i>	'on our behalf'

The free forms, with their corresponding enclitic forms, are as follows:

<u>Free Form</u>	<u>Enclitic Form</u>	
<i>xuhú</i>	<i>ú, có</i>	First singular
<i>xōhón</i>	<i>-n, ó</i>	Second singular
<i>xōhō</i>	<i>ó, có</i>	First plural (in)
<i>ntāhí</i>	<i>ntí</i>	First plural (ex)
<i>ntōhó</i>	<i>ntō</i>	Second plural
<i>nāhā</i>	<i>nā</i>	Third person
<i>xtahá</i>	<i>xtá</i>	Third masculine (title)
<i>nāhā</i>	<i>nā</i>	Third masculine ( <i>ms</i> )
<i>tehnū</i>	<i>tí</i>	Third masculine ( <i>fe</i> )
<i>tahnū</i>	<i>tún</i>	Third feminine
<i>quātī</i>	<i>tī</i>	Third animal or spherical object
	<i>ī</i>	Third neuter

There is no free form pronoun corresponding specifically to the neuter pronoun *ī*. It may stand in place of any noun or third person pronoun.

When the pronoun is pronounced in isolation or is in focus in a sentence, either the free form is used or, more frequently, the enclitic form is postposed to the demonstrative verb *dāví*:

<i>dāví ú</i>	'I' or 'it is I'
<i>dāví tún quāhān tún</i>	' <u>she</u> is going' or 'it is she who is going'

A nominative pronoun may function as the subject of a clause:

cata ú	'I will sing'
quihán ú	'I will go'
ntahví ū	'I am poor'
nā dāhā ú	'I am a woman'

A dative pronoun may function as the direct or indirect object of a clause:

ēhni nā có	'they hit me'
tāxnuu nā có	'they sent it to me'

It may also function as the subject of a clause with a certain set of verbs involving sensory perception or psychological activity:

tēcú cō	'I hear'
cutuni có	'I feel, I perceive'
cunānī cō	'I forget'
ntio có	'I want'

Besides occurring with verbs, it may also function as the possessor of a noun or as object of a preposition:

ihxá cō	'my child'
dāquā có caēxnuū	'my head aches'
atā có caica tún	'she's walking behind me'
quihán tún nī có	'she's going with me'

In general, when a subject precedes the verb in a clause (usually for emphasis), the corresponding nominative pronoun redundantly follows the verb. However, when the object thus precedes the verb, no object pronoun follows:

nāha quihán nā	'people are going' (lit. 'people go they')
nāha éhni nā tún	'people hit her' (lit. 'people hit they her')
nāha éhni tún	'she hit people' (lit. 'people hit she')

Except in clauses containing xoo 'who', the neuter pronoun i is omitted when it functions as the subject of a verb:

cohxō	'(it) fell'
neé ntu cohxo	'what fell?'
librú co cohxo	'my book fell'
xoó cohxo i	'who fell?'

Verbs are rarely, if ever, followed by three consecutive personal pronouns. If there is both a direct object and an indirect object, one or the other is omitted, or else the direct object is expressed by a noun:

tāhxī nā tē	'they gave it (to me)'
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	tahxi n̄a có	'they gave (it) to me'
	tahxi n̄a có tinǎ	'they gave me a dog'
<u>but not</u>	tahxi n̄a có t̄i	'they gave it to me'

Pronouns may be modified by quantitative expressions:

ntuvi n̄a	'both of them'
m̄i s̄á n̄a	'he alone (i.e., all by himself)'
un nt̄i nt̄i n̄a	'all of them'
n̄á tē d̄á d̄i n̄a	'not just a few (i.e., a whole lot) of them'

Third person pronouns may be modified by a following demonstrative pronoun:

cuehēn n̄a s̄án	'they went away' (lit. 'went person that')
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However, unlike nouns, pronouns may not be followed by descriptive modifiers or by possessors.

2. Demonstrative Pronouns. There are two demonstrative pronouns with their corresponding enclitic forms:

<u>Free Form</u>	<u>Enclitic Form</u>	
sahá	s̄á	'this, these'
tzicán	s̄án	'that, those, the'

A demonstrative pronoun may substitute for or modify a noun or a third person pronoun. When substituting for a noun, or when in focus, a free form is more frequently used, whereas an enclitic form more often occurs as a modifier:

ntio có sahá	'I want this'
tzicán ntio có	'that (is the one) I want'
quāt̄i s̄ahá	'this animal'
n̄a d̄ih̄i tzicán	'that woman'
n̄a d̄ih̄i s̄án	'the woman (already mentioned)'
ēhn̄i san t̄un	'that (one) hit her'
caquid̄i t̄i sa	'this animal is sleeping'

A demonstrative pronoun calls attention to the relative position of a person or thing in space and time in relation to the speaker. sahá 'this' corresponds to the adverbs iha 'here' and vevii 'now', while tzicán 'that' corresponds to ican 'there' and quidaa 'then':

v̄ih̄i s̄ahá	'this house (here)'
itzi tzicán	'that road (there)'
cuia s̄ahá	'this year (now)'
ntuvi tzicán	'those days (then)'

tzicán 'that' may also function as an adverb of cause, referring to the reason behind an action:

tzicán é vehxi ú	'that (is why) I've come'
tzicán é cohxō t̄i	'that (is why) it fell'

sahá 'this' has a special temporal function in the phrase da sahá 'for the first time' (lit. 'until this'):

da sahā vehxi ú 'this is the first time I've come'

3. Interrogative pronouns. There are two interrogative pronouns, with their corresponding enclitic forms:

<u>Free Form</u>	<u>Enclitic Form</u>	
xoo	xo	'who?'
neé	ne	'what?'

They may stand alone or in combination with a specifying noun or noun phrase, to which they stand in apposition. When in combination, the enclitic form is used:

xo nahā	'who?' (lit. 'who person?')
xo tahnu	'which girl?' (lit. 'who female?')
xo ta María	'which Marv?'
	(lit. 'who female Marv?')
ne iñá	'what?' (lit. 'what thing?')
ne quítā	'what (kind of) animal?'

The interrogative pronouns occur initially in the clauses which they introduce and may or may not be followed by the interrogative marker ntu 'is it?'. They may function as subject, object, or possessor:

xoo ntū	'who is it?'
xoo quihin i	'who is going?'
xoo éhni tún	'whom did she hit?'
xoo íhxá ī	'whose child?'
xoo é xií tún	'who is her husband?'
neé vii ú vē	'what shall I do now?'
neé ntu ntio nā	'what is it they want?'

When interrogative sentences are embedded in larger sentences, the interrogative pronouns function as relative pronouns:

ini ú xoo quihin i	'I know who is going'
nā īnī ū neé vii ū	'I don't know what to do'

The interrogative pronouns are used in negative expressions:

nā tē xoo	'no one'
nā tē neé	'nothing'
nā tē ne iñá	' " '

They are also used in an indefinite sense in phrases introduced by da:

da xoo	'whoever'
da xoo ca	' " '
da xoo ca nahā	' " '
da neé ca	'whatever'
da neé ca tziñu	'whatever work'

4. Relative pronoun. There is one relative pronoun, e 'that'. It has a wide range of usage and may be translated in many different ways.

It most commonly introduces dependent clauses and relates them to independent ones:

ntio co é quih̄in nto	'I want that you go'
d̄ivī é ntio có	'that (is the one) that I want'

It introduces indirect quotations:

cachan tún é quih̄in tún	'she says that she'll go'
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It introduces purpose clauses:

quih̄nī nto t̄i é n̄a c̄aca t̄i	'tie it up (so) that it won't get loose'
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It introduces causal clauses:

cudiin n̄a é n̄a n̄i n̄éhē ú	'he will be angry that I didn't go'
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It likewise introduces relative clauses which modify nouns:

tahnu é n̄anī M̄aria	'a girl that is named Maria'
ita é d̄oo vahá	'tortillas that are very good'
duh̄xen san é cuvī quid̄āā	'the war that took place back then'
uun é cacahan n̄a piramidē	'a (thing) that they call a "pyramid"'

It may function as a nominalizer, forming noun phrases from verbs or adjectives:

e d̄iqū	'plaything'
é cah̄xi o	'food (i.e., what we eat)'
é vahá	'that which is good'
é cuh̄xín s̄an	'the white one'

It introduces some temporal phrases:

é uun xoo máu	'on the first of May' (lit. 'that one month May')
é viha é uten	'every day' (lit. 'that now that tomorrow')
un cientu é un xoo	'a hundred a month' (lit. 'one hundred that one month')

It introduces a subject complement; with the meaning 'as':

quih̄in n̄a é tzatā	'he is going as go-between'
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It appears in comparative clauses, with the meaning 'than':

dif ca atā tún é tāhan tún	'she is older than her sister'
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