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**Tepetotutla Chinantec Syntax
Studies in Chinantec Languages 5**

David O. Westley

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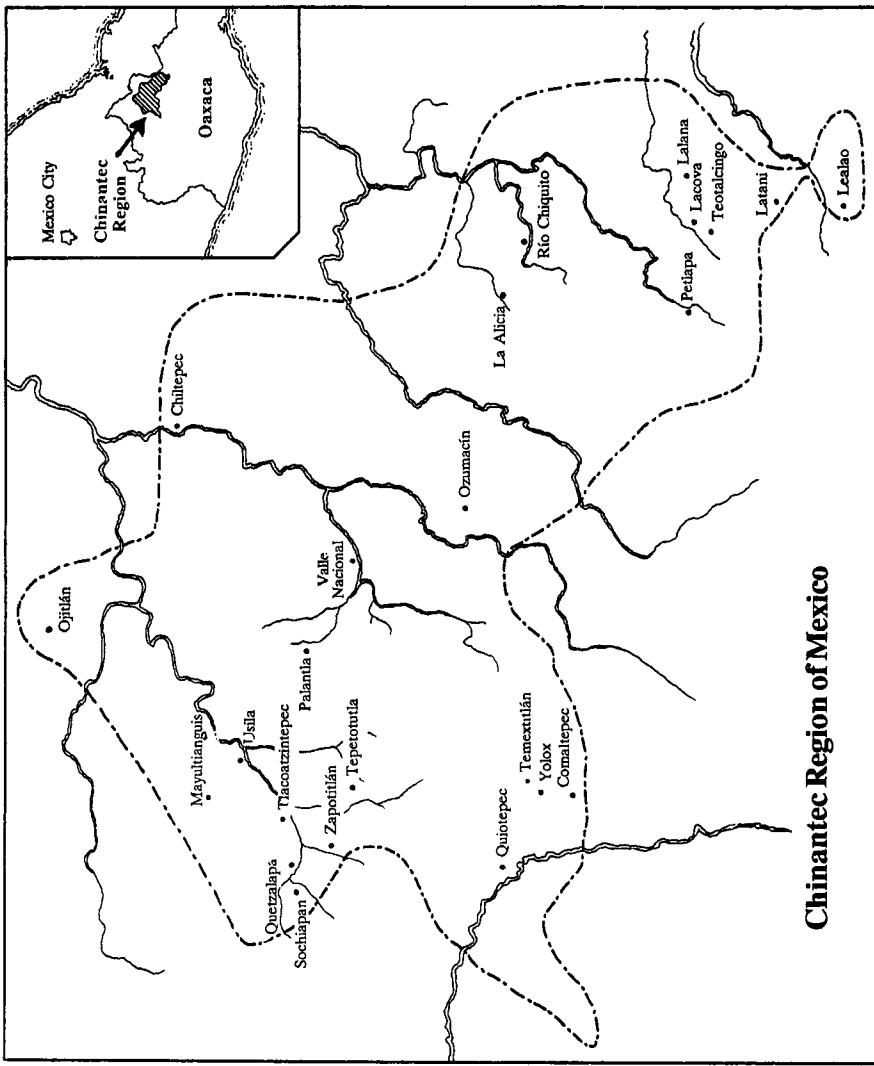
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Preface

Santa Cruz Tepetotutla is a village of about 1500 inhabitants, located in the middle of the Chinantla crescent that sweeps northern Oaxaca State, Mexico, from San Pedro Sochiapan on the west, northward to Usila and Ojitalán and southeastward to Lalana and San Juan Lealao. At 4,000 feet elevation, Tepetotutla is at the dividing line between the low-and high-country Chinantec. Its physical location is approximately seventy air miles north of Oaxaca City; politically it is a municipal agency of Usila, which in turn is a municipality that answers to the district headquarters in Tuxtepec.

Tepetotutla Chinantec is also spoken by an estimated 300 inhabitants of San Antonio del Barrio, a sister town just downhill to the north, a half hour's walk, or between one and two miles distant. Between 1935 and 1940 a large number of people left these two towns to settle in other towns to the east, notably San Pedro Tlatepusco, just over a mountain to the east, and Vega del Sol, located at the confluence of the San Cristóbal and the Valle Nacional rivers, six miles northeast of Valle Nacional. In these two towns and in a number of unsurveyed villages in the Tuxtepec area, there are approximately another 1,000 to 2,000 speakers of Tepetotutla Chinantec.

Data were collected between March, 1968, and November, 1979, during field work in Tepetotutla under the auspices of the Summer Institute of Linguistics (sIL). A number of speakers provided text material for the studies, but Leoncio Hernández Osorio and Félix Osorio Martínez were my principal collaborators and resource persons for helping in my understanding of Chinantec.

This present study was prepared during a workshop involving five related Chinantec languages, conducted by William R. Merrifield at the

Tucson, Arizona center of SIL. The other four projects have been or will be reported as Anderson 1989, Anderson and Merrifield to appear, Lewis to appear, and Rupp 1989. Many of the illustrations used in this study were located in natural text material with the aid of the computerized database program FIESTA (Alsop 1990). I am indebted to Dr. Merrifield for his help in the presentation of this material.