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MSS FILE

MARZAHUA BORR LING

San Miguel Tenoxtitlan,
Edo. de Mex.
Jan. 31, 1945

Dear Friends,

This material may be too late for the present need but perhaps it can be used sometime.

In case the orthography needs to be changed, the j following a consenant can be changed to h. As to the vowels, I will try to give the equivalents of those that might give trouble.

ë - 2

ä - 2

ö - 3

ü - tt (?)

I believe that the rest can be pretty easily understood.

Sincerely,

Hazel Spotts



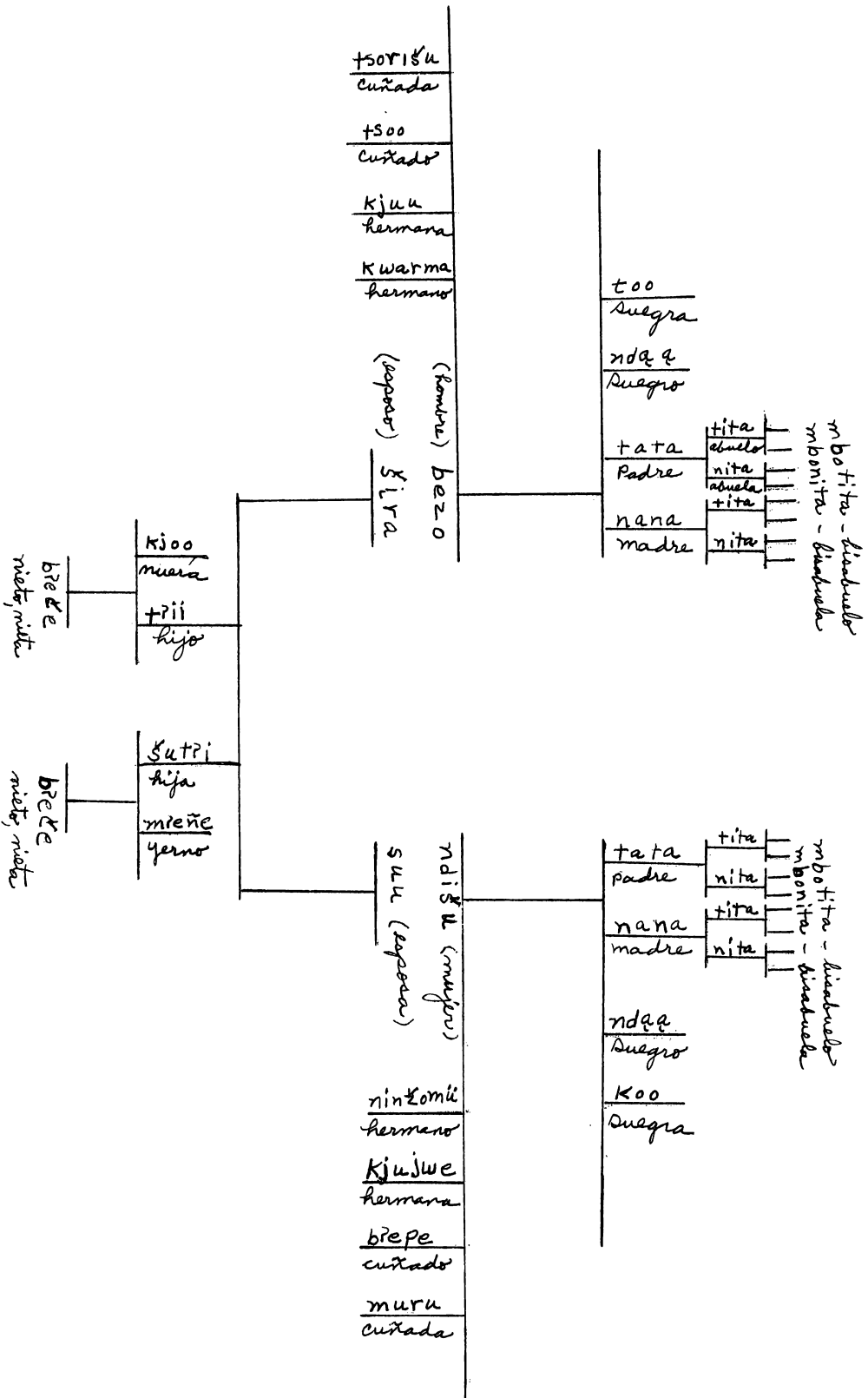
A Typical Mazahua House

House (ngumü)

The house is made of adobe	ñiomü (cabeza + ^{tierra} casa)
Frame for making adobe	sjäkä
Walls	ndüngümü (apretado + casa)
Front of house	ajmii ngumü (cara, casa)
Walls are described by direction of sunrise and sunset.	
	ndüngümü janimbese jyarü (wall where comes out sun)
	ndüngümü janingibi jyarü (wall where goes in sun)
Door	ngoštji (cerrado + afuera)
Floor	ajomü (tierra)
Roof	ndënzümü (cobijar + casa)
Ceiling	šičë (a covering + cobijar)

Words for most of the materials that go into the roof and ceiling are borrowed. The commonest roofing material is tile but there is no native word.

The Mpagadua Family Tree



There are no names for aunt, uncle, cousin, niece and nephew except borrowed.

The Colors

verb prefix + noun-like word
(it is)

white	na	tʔöšü	(like maguey fiber?)
yellow	na	kʔaštʔü	(like wet maguey fiber?)
rose	na	išpaja	(sour + red)
red	na	mbaja	
dark red and purple	na	kʔipobʔü	(blood + black + ?)
blue	na	kʔanga	(used to describe plants and sky)
green	na	mbeže	(used to describe clothing of both blue and green)
gray	na	pošü	(dirty or black quality)
black	na	potü	

A color light in shade is described by using the word jñörü.

Sometimes blue and green seem to be used interchangeably.