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A
GENERATIVE
SYNTAX
OF
PEÑOLES
MIXTEC

by John P. Daly

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## **PREFACE**

The present analysis of Peñoles Mixtec within the generative framework was begun during the longest, most stable period in the development of transformational-generative theory, the period between the publication of Noam Chomsky's Syntactic Structures in 1957 and his Aspects of the Theory of Syntax in 1965. This study, completed in the same year, was influenced by Chomsky's later work, but for the most part is based on the former. Since that time there have been many further innovations in transformational theory; nevertheless this study is of interest not only because of what it reveals about the structure of Mixtec grammar, but because it is the only analysis of a Mixtec language which has yet appeared that draws upon any version of transformational theory.

This study in its original form was presented to the faculty of the Graduate School of Indiana University in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy. In this revision, only those changes that seemed essential have been made, changes that involve for the most part some minor adjustment in the rules or an occasional revision in the text. In all the changes I have attempted to maintain the perspective held at the time of the first writing, with one exception: I have modified the tone orthography to conform to a subsequent reanalysis of the tonal system. Many other improvements could have been made, but have not, since not only would there be diminishing returns from the time spent in anything short of a major revision at this point, but there would be the danger of obscuring what is distinctive in work done in one period in the development of grammatical theory.

This analysis of Mixtec grammar makes use of the Syntactic Structures model as adapted by Fred W. Householder, who directed my graduate

work and to whom I am indebted for many insights. The basic analysis which I did on field trips to Mexico was influenced, especially in the earlier stages, by the work of Robert E. Longacre on Trique, a language related to Mixtec. Some details in the final formulation of the rules were suggested to me by Joseph E. Grimes.

Many Mixtec Indians have instructed me in their language, but I am particularly indebted to Raúl Alavez Chávez, who supplied much of the data during the process of analysis. Acknowledgment is due also to those of my colleagues in the Summer Institute of Linguistics who for a number of years have encouraged me to publish this attempt at a generative syntax of Peñoles Mixtec.

Finally, I am especially grateful to my wife, Margaret H. Daly, for her constant encouragement in field work and writing, and for her willingness to do much of the stenographic work.

Mitla, Oaxaca November 29, 1972 John P. Daly