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ZAPOTECO NUMERAL SYSTEM

Zapoteco de Valle

Elinor V. Briggs

October 21, 1948

The material presented in this paper was obtained in Mitla, Oaxaca, Mexico, and is of the dialect spoken by the Zapoteco Indians of the Oaxaca Valley. The information was gained largely from study with one informant during 1947 and 1948.

This dialect of Zapoteco is tonal, but tone has been omitted in this paper. A tentative list of phonemes is as follows: t, d, p, b, g, k, k^w, ʔ, s, z, š, ž, č, ʝ, ʃ, l, r, y, h, x, w, a, ã, e, ɨ, o, u, i, n, m, ɲ, ɳ, ɸ, ñ; f occurs in borrowed Spanish words.

ZAPOTECO NUMERAL SYSTEM

The numbers 1 to 10 are single morphemes, as are also 13 to 15, 20, 40, 60, 80 and 100, and occur both free and bound: 1 teh (or teheb); 2 tyo?p; 3 čoon; 4 tahp; 5 gai; 6 šo?p; 7 gahaz; 8 šuhun; 9 gaa; 10 šfi; 13 šif'n; 14 šidah; 15 šif'in; 20 gahal; 40 tyuu; 60 gayon; 80 taha; 100 gayuu.

The numbers 11 and 12 are based on šfi, ten: 11 (10 and 1) šibiteeb; 12 (10 and 2) šibityo?p.

The numbers 16 to 19 are based on šif'in, fifteen: 16 (15 and 1) šinbiteeb; 17 (15 and 2) šinbityo?p; 18 (15 and 3) šinbičoon; 19 (15 and 4) šinbitahp.

The numbers between 20 and 40 are based on gahal, twenty: 21 (20 and 1) galbiteeb; 22 (20 and 2) galbityo?p; 25 (20 and 5) galbigai; 28 (20 and 8) galbišun; 30 (20 and 10) galbišfi; 33 (20 and 10 and 3) galbišibičoon; et cetera.

The numbers 41 to 59 are based on tyuu, forty; 61 to 79 are based on gayon, sixty; 81 to 99 are based on taha, eighty.

For fifty, half a hundred, garool gayuu may be used; also for 150, tegayuu garool; for 350, čon gayuu garool.

One hundred one is tegayuu kon teh (one hundred with one); 102: tegayuu kon tyo?p (one hundred with two).

A thousand is the Spanish mil adapted to Zapoteco: mil: 1100 mil tegayuu; 1200 mil tyo?p gayuu.

In buying and selling, the system of reales is most often used, though there is a tendency to use the Spanish centavo adapted to Zapoteco: half-real (6 centavos), temeel; one real (12 centavos), tebrəhəɬ; two reales (25 centavos), tyo?p rəhəɬ; two and a quarter reales (28

centavos), tyo?p ræhæ1 kwartij; three reales (37 centavos), čon ræhæ1; four reales (50 centavos), tap ræhæ1; five reales (62 centavos), gai ræhæ1; six reales (75 centavos), šo?p ræhæ1; seven reales (87 centavos), gahap ræhæ1; et cetera.

The word næhes is used in speaking of a pair, as, tenehes sabaat, a (one) pair of shoes; tenehes goon, a (one) yoke of oxen.

The ordinals, except 2nd, 3rd and 4th, are either borrowed Spanish ordinals, or the Zapoteco cardinal numerals are used: 2nd, ro?p; 3rd, ryon; 4th, rtahp.

-ni and -reni may occur on the cardinal numbers: šo?pní (it is six).

The prefix rka- may also occur: rkagaa (at 2 o'clock); rkatahp (at 4 o'clock).