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**Comaltepec Chinantec Syntax
Studies in Chinantec Languages 3**

Judi Lynn Anderson

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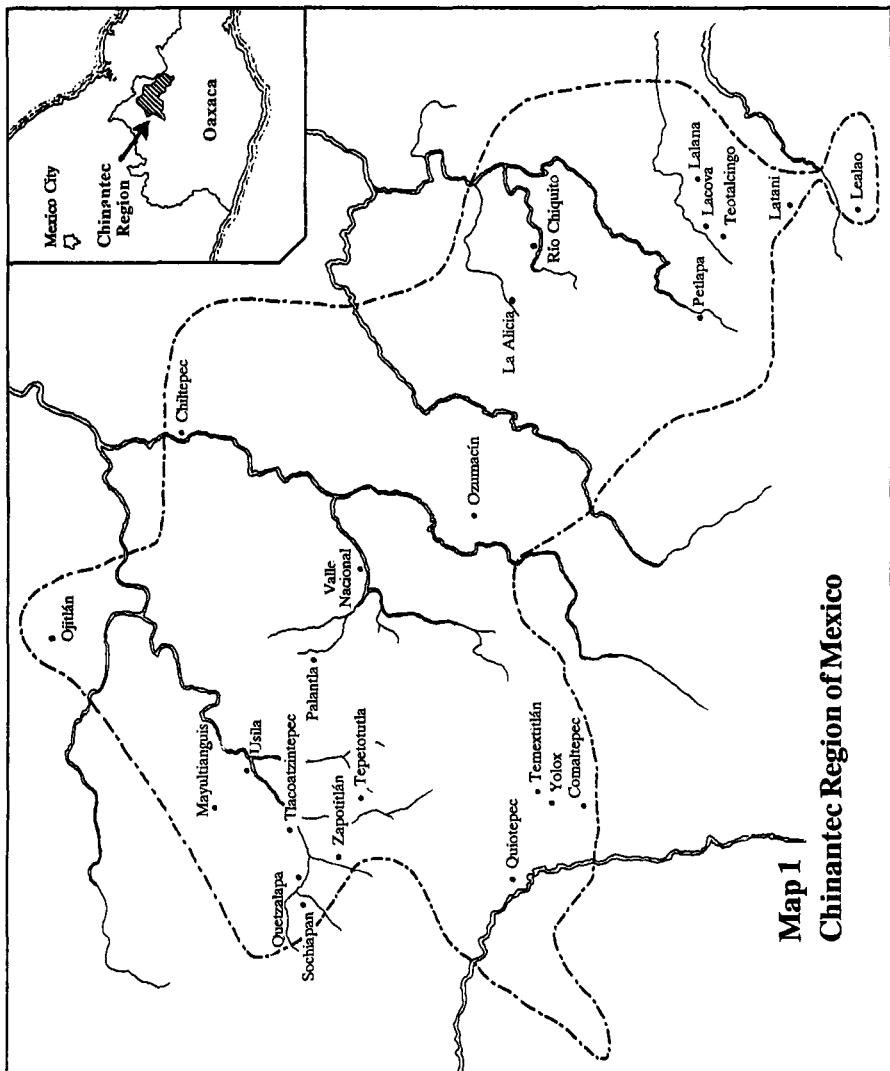
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Map 1
Chinantec Region of Mexico

Preface

Comaltepec Chinantec is the language spoken in the town of Santiago Comaltepec, which is located approximately 65 miles north of the city of Oaxaca, in the ex-District of Ixtlán, in the Sierra Juárez mountains of Southern Mexico. Approximately 1500 Chinantec people speak this language, living either in Santiago Comaltepec itself or in one of the ranch areas pertaining to it. Comaltepec Chinantec is one of the dozen or so mutually unintelligible Chinantec languages which make up the Chinantec language family.

These data were collected from 1970 to the present from several different speakers of Comaltepec Chinantec, both by oral and written texts and personal interaction.

This study is a basic sketch of Comaltepec Chinantec syntax. The phonology is sketched only very briefly, but see Anderson, Martinez, & Pace (forthcoming) for a detailed presentation of Comaltepec tone. More study needs to be done to complete a more comprehensive study of syntax. This study was drafted during the months of February through April, 1988, at a workshop designed for that purpose in Catalina, Arizona, near Tucson, under the direction of Dr. William R. Merrifield. The information upon which the study is based was gathered both in Comaltepec as well as with Chinantec speakers outside of the immediate area. I am indebted to my two colleagues, Wanda Jane Pace and Diane Poole, who have spent considerable time with me in the language area and have also involved themselves in the study of this language. I am also greatly indebted to a number of speakers of this language who have given me the privilege of being their friend. Rudy Troike read a draft of the manuscript and made numerous helpful comments which have improved it greatly.