

WANTED: LINGUISTS

The following are Ethnologue entries for endangered Otomanguean and Oaxacan languages you might like to work with. They are followed by bulleted comments kindly sent to me by linguists more familiar with these languages. The distinction made here between “severely endangered” and just “endangered” is somewhat arbitrary and based on data with different degrees of accuracy. In most cases there are fewer speakers than reported in the Ethnologue. It is my hope that the most endangered and underdocumented of these will all find linguists. Tell a friend!---Rosemary Beam de Azcona

RIP(?)

Chiapaneco *Population* 150 including 17 speakers out of 32 ethnic population in Chiapas (1990 census). *Region* State of Chiapas, El Bosque (2), Las Margaritas (2), Ocosingo (4), Palenque (2), Sabanilla (7). *Classification* [Oto-Manguean](#), [Chiapanec-Mangue](#). *Comments* Reported to be quite similar to Chorotega of Costa Rica and El Salvador. Nearly extinct.

- Several linguists suggested that this language is already extinct.
- In 1991 Heriberto Avelino found no speakers in Palenque, Ocosingo, Yajalon, or Sabanilla, despite the 1990 census reports.

SEVERELY ENDANGERED, NO WORK IN PROGRESS?

Zapoteco de Asunción Mixtepec *Population* 100 or fewer speakers out of a population of 2,476 (1990 census). *Region* Southwest of Oaxaca City in central Oaxaca, Asunción Mixtepec and another town. *Alternate names* NORTH CENTRAL ZIMATLÁN ZAPOTECO, ASUNCIÓN MIXTEPEC ZAPOTEC *Classification* [Oto-Manguean](#), [Zapotecan](#), [Zapotec](#). *Comments* 22% intelligibility of Ayoquesco (closest), and 3% of San Pedro el Alto. Bilingualism in Spanish. Nearly extinct.

Zapoteco de Totomachapan *Population* 259 speakers out of a population of 1,009 (1990 census). *Region* Western Oaxaca, 2 towns. *Alternate names* WESTERN ZIMATLÁN ZAPOTECO, SAN PEDRO TOTOMACHAPAN ZAPOTECO, TOTOMACHAPAN ZAPOTEC *Classification* [Oto-Manguean](#), [Zapotecan](#), [Zapotec](#). *Comments* No intelligibility with other Zapoteco. Bilingualism in Spanish. Most speakers are over 50 years old (1990). Nearly extinct.

Zapoteco de Xadani *Population* 338 speakers (1990 census). *Region* Oaxaca, Pochutla District, San Miguel del Puerto Municipio, Santa María Xadani, 16 towns or villages. *Alternate names* XADANI ZAPOTEC, SANTA MARÍA XADANI ZAPOTECO, EASTERN POCHUTLA ZAPOTECO *Classification* [Oto-Manguean](#), [Zapotecan](#), [Zapotec](#). *Comments* Bilingualism in Spanish. 122 speakers over 50 years old, 90 between 35 and 50, 1 monolingual (1990). Coastal.

- In 2002 residents of Santa María Xadani told Rosemary Beam de Azcona that there were 20-some speakers there. They did not know of other mutually intelligible towns.

Zapoteco de Yautepec *Population* 314 speakers (1990 census). *Region* Eastern Oaxaca, San Bartolo Yautepec. *Alternate names* SAN BARTOLO YAUTEPEC ZAPOTECO, NORTHWESTERN YAUTEPEC ZAPOTECO, YAUTEPEC ZAPOTEC *Classification* [Oto-Manguean](#), [Zapotecan](#), [Zapotec](#). *Comments* 10% intelligibility with Tlacolulita (closest), no intelligibility of other Zapoteco. Bilingualism in Spanish. 126 speakers between 35 and 50 years old, 138 over 50, 4 monolinguals over 50 (1990).

SEVERELY ENDANGERED, WORK IN PROGRESS OR PLANNED

Huave de Santa María del Mar *Population* 500 speakers in 100 families (1993 G. Stairs SIL). *Region* Southeastern coast, Oaxaca, Santa María del Mar. *Classification* [Huavean](#). *Comments* Very limited intelligibility of other Huave, although closest to San Dionisio. Bilingualism in Spanish. Children learn Spanish first, but learn Huave by adulthood, because adults speak Huave. Investigation needed: bilingual proficiency in Spanish. Nontonal. Desert. Coastal. Fishermen. 0 to 60 meters.

- According to Maurizio Gnerre (p.c.) there are four distinct varieties of Huave: Santa María now only has one elderly speaker left. The variety spoken in San Francisco is only spoken by elders 60 years and up. The variety of San Dionisio is spoken by adults 40 or 50 years and older. The variety of San Mateo is spoken by all age groups. Beginning in the summer of 2004, fieldwork will be carried out by the new Huave Language and Culture project. Linguists and anthropologists interested in joining the project or learning more about it should contact the principal investigators: Maurizio Gnerre, Flavia G. Cuturi, and William F. Hanks.

Mixteco de Sindihui *Population* 138 speakers (1990 census). *Region* West central Oaxaca. *Classification* [Oto-Manguéan](#), [Mixtecan](#), [Mixtec-Cuicatec](#), [Mixtec](#). *Comments* Distinct from Yutanduchi. All over 50 years old (1990). Nearly extinct.

Zapoteco de San Agustín Mixtepec *Population* 59 speakers (1994 SIL). *Region* Oaxaca, Miahuatlán, town of San Agustín Mixtepec. *Classification* [Oto-Manguéan](#), [Zapotecan](#), [Zapotec](#). *Comments* A separate language from San Juan Mixtepec Zapoteco [ZPM]. Nearly extinct.

- Rosemary Beam de Azcona working on Dictionary, Grammar, Collection of texts since 2002. More fieldwork planned for Summer 2004. There are only 2 fluent speakers and 2-3 semi-speakers. The youngest fluent speaker is 71.

Matlatzinca de Atzingo

Population 50 to 100 fluent speakers (1993 SIL), 642 in the ethnic group, no monolinguals (1990 census).

Region State of México, Ocuilán municipio, San Juan Atzingo, Santa Lucía del Progreso.

Alternate names OCUILTECO, OCUILTEC, ATZINTECO, TLAHURA, TLAHUICA

Classification [Oto-Manguéan](#), [Otopamean](#), [Matlatzincan](#).

Comments Closely related to Matlatzinca of Francisco de los Ranchos, but not inherently intelligible. Bilingualism in Spanish. Mountain slope. Nearly extinct.

Entries from the SIL Bibliography about this language:

[Bartholomew, Doris A. 1989. "The Proto Otopamean vowel system and the development of Matlatzinca."](#)

- Better known as Tlahuica or Ocuilteco.
- Martha Muntzel, INAH, has published on the phonology of the language. Her doctoral thesis, SUNY Albany, was on syntax. She continues to work on this language.
- Elpidia Reynosa, a local teacher, has compiled a vocabulary of over 2,000 terms.
- The Colegio de Lenguas y Literatura Indígenas of the Instituto Mexiquense de la Cultura published a vocabulary.
- This is one of the target languages of the Project for the Documentation of the Languages of Meso-America, which has already done some fieldwork on it.

Matlatzinca, San Francisco de los Ranchos. *Population* No estimate available. *Region* State of México, 1 village: San Francisco de los Ranchos. *Alternate names* MATLATZINCA *Classification* [Oto-Manguean](#), [Otopamean](#), [Matlatzincan](#). *Comments* Bilingualism in Spanish. Those 30 and over still use the language; those under 30 use Spanish as first language. About half the people are working in Mexico City or elsewhere most of the time. Nearly extinct.

- Doris Bartholomew did some fieldwork in the 1960's.
- Daniel Cazes did his undergraduate thesis on Matlatzinca 1967.
- Roberto Escalante, deceased, did a number of studies of Matlatzinca.
- Heriberto de Avelino did fieldwork here in 1996-7. He has a draft about noun morphology and tone. there are more than 100 speakers. The community is larger than reported in the census.
- Nancy Koch has been working on this language since 1997.
- The government of the State of Mexico published a small dictionary of Matlatzinca about six years ago.
- A student of Yolanda Lastra's is also working on this language

SEVERELY ENDANGERED, SOME DOCUMENTATION, NO WORK IN PROGRESS?

Ixcateco *Population* 119 speakers (1983 Jorge Suárez). *Region* Santa María Ixcatlán, Oaxaca is the original town, surrounded by Mixteco speakers. *Classification* [Oto-Manguean](#), [Popolocan](#), [Ixcatecan](#). *Comments* Primer, description of phonology, tone. Dictionary.

Zapoteco de Tlacolulita *Population* 135 speakers out of a population of 904 (1990 census). *Region* Eastern Oaxaca, Asunción Tlacolulita and San Juan Alotepec. *Alternate names* SOUTHEASTERN YAUTEPEC ZAPOTECO, ASUNCIÓN TLACOLULITA ZAPOTECO, TLACOLULITA ZAPOTEC *Classification* [Oto-Manguean](#), [Zapotecan](#), [Zapotec](#). *Comments* 15% intelligibility with Lachixila (closest), 10% on Mitla and Guelavía, 0% on Lachiguiri, Juchitán, Guevea de Humboldt, Petapa, San Juan Mixtepec, and Quiegolani. Bilingualism in Spanish. 111 speakers are 50 years old or older (1990). Nearly extinct.

- A student of Thom Smith-Stark's collected some data there.

Zapoteco de Tejalapan *Population* 124 (1990 census). The town has 4,656 people. *Region* Oaxaca, Etla District, town of San Felipe Tejalapan. *Alternate names* SAN FELIPE TEJALAPAN ZAPOTEC, TEJALAPAN ZAPOTEC, TEJALÁPAM ZAPOTECO, SAN FELIPE ZAPOTECO *Classification* [Oto-Manguean](#), [Zapotecan](#), [Zapotec](#). *Comments* A separate language from Santo Tomás Mazaltepec Zapoteco. Bilingualism in Spanish. 92 speakers are over 50 years old, including the 2 monolinguals. They came from Ixtepeji area 300 years ago. Nearly extinct.

- Beth Merrill did some salvage work a few years ago. She has a 500-word vocabulary, a phonology sketch, and some texts. Some articles will be published on the SIL-Mexico website. At the time of her fieldwork there were about 30 speakers, all except one over 70. There are probably less than half that now.

ENDANGERED, NO WORK IN PROGRESS?

Chinanteco de Chiltepec *Population* 1,000 or fewer (1994), including some possible monolinguals. They live in villages with speakers of other Chinanteco varieties, so it is difficult to know how many there are. 4,000 in Chiltepec municipio with 250 monolinguals (1990 census). *Region* Oaxaca, San José Chiltepec. *Classification* [Oto-Manguean](#), [Chinantecan](#). *Comments* 76% intelligibility of Tlacoatzintepec (closest), 20% of Usila and Ojitlán, 13% of Valle Nacional. Speakers use Spanish as second language, but outlying towns are not as bilingual as the center. Riverine. below 3,000 feet.

Chinanteco de Valle Nacional *Population* 1,000 to 2,000 (1990 census). *Region* North Oaxaca, San Juan Bautista Valle Nacional and mainly in San Mateo Yetla. *Classification* [Oto-Manguean](#), [Chinantecan](#). *Comments* 71% intelligibility of Chiltepec (closest), 70% of Palantla, 53% of Ozumacín, 40% of Tepetotutla. Bilingualism in Spanish. Investigation needed: bilingual proficiency in Spanish.

Mixteco de Chazumba *Population* 2,477 speakers including 32 monolinguals (1995 census). *Region* Oaxaca, close to the Puebla border, with a few in Puebla. Near Southern Puebla Mixteco. The largest group speaking Mixteco is in Santiago Chazumba. Some other villages with speakers are San Pedro y San Pablo Tequixtepec (in Oaxaca), Zapotitlán, Petlalcingo, and Totoltepec de Guerrero (in Puebla). *Alternate names* CHAZUMBA MIXTECO, NORTHERN OAXACA MIXTECO *Classification* [Oto-Manguanean](#), [Mixtecan](#), [Mixtec-Cuicatec](#), [Mixtec](#). *Comments* A distinct language. 65% inherent intelligibility of Xayacatlán, 53% of Cacaloxtpec, 24% of Chigmecatitlán, 19% of Cuyamecalco (Coatzacoapan). 75% of the speakers are over 50 years old. 75% of the speakers are scattered over a large area, with most villages having fewer than 15% of the population able to speak Mixteco. A large percentage of the populations of each village no longer speak Mixteco, but speak Spanish. Investigation needed: bilingual proficiency in Spanish.

Mixteco de Itundujia *Population* 1,082 speakers including 33 monolinguals (1990 census). *Region* Oaxaca, Putla District, 10 km. southwest of Yosondúa, 40 km. southeast of Putla. Most in Morelos and Guerrero villages. *Alternate names* SANTA CRUZ ITUNDUJIA MIXTECO, ITUNDUJIA MIXTEC, EASTERN PUTLA MIXTECO *Classification* [Oto-Manguanean](#), [Mixtecan](#), [Mixtec-Cuicatec](#), [Mixtec](#). *Comments* 60% intelligibility of Yosondúa, 59% of Chalcatongo, 25% of San Martín Peras, 15% of Amoltepec, 12% of Zacatepec, 10% of San Esteban Atatlahuca, Nuyoo, 0% of Ixtayutla. Bilingualism in Spanish. Nearly all of the monolinguals and over half of the speakers are over 50 years old.

Mixteco de San Miguel Piedras *Population* 448 speakers out of a population of 1,123 (1990 census). *Region* Oaxaca, Nochixtlán District, Yutanduchi de Guerrero. *Classification* [Oto-Manguanean](#), [Mixtecan](#), [Mixtec-Cuicatec](#), [Mixtec](#). *Comments* 49% intelligibility of Estetla (Eastern), 29% of Soyaltepec, Yosondúa, 18% of Peñoles, 15% of Chalcatongo, 13% of Tilantongo, 11% of Chicahua. Bilingualism in Spanish. A few speakers are in the lower age categories, but most are over 50 years old.

Mixteco de Soyaltepec *Population* 322 speakers out of 926 population (1990 census). *Region* Oaxaca, Teposcolula District, village of San Bartolo Soyaltepec and Guadalupe Gabilera. *Alternate names* SAN BARTOLO SOYALTEPEC MIXTECO, SOYALTEPEC MIXTEC *Classification* [Oto-Manguanean](#), [Mixtecan](#), [Mixtec-Cuicatec](#), [Mixtec](#). *Comments* 28% intelligibility of Tilantongo, 25% of Ñumi, 23% of Apoala. Bilingualism in Spanish. All ages in some places. Children are learning Mixteco in Guadalupe. Investigation needed: bilingual proficiency.

Mixteco de Tidaá *Population* 550 speakers out of a population of about 900 (1990 census). *Region* Oaxaca. *Alternate names* TIDAÁ MIXTEC, NORTH CENTRAL NOCHIXTLÁN MIXTECO *Classification* [Oto-Manguanean](#), [Mixtecan](#), [Mixtec-Cuicatec](#), [Mixtec](#). *Comments* 60% intelligibility with Peñoles (Eastern); closest. Nuxaa is close. Bilingualism in Spanish. 2 monolinguals are over 50. Most speakers are over 40. 13% of children 5 to 15 years old are speakers (1990). Other children are not learning Mixteco. Investigation needed: bilingual proficiency in Spanish.

Náhuatl de Ometepec *Population* 433 (1990 census), 12 towns. *Region* Southern Guerrero, Arcelia, Acatepec, Quetzalapa de Azoyú, Rancho de Cuananchinicha, and El Carmen; and some in Oaxaca, Juchitahuaca District, Cruz Alta and San Vicente Piñas towns; and Putla District, Concepción Guerrero town. *Alternate names* OMETEPEC AZTEC *Classification* [Uto-Aztecan](#), [Southern Uto-Aztecan](#), [Aztecan](#), [General Aztec](#), [Aztec](#). *Comments* Intelligibility testing in Quetzalapa yielded 77% on Santa Catarina, México (near Texcoco) and 70% on Atliaca, Guerrero. May be 3 languages. Bilingualism in Spanish. Investigation needed: intelligibility with dialects, bilingual proficiency.

Otomí de Ixtenco *Population* 736 speakers including 4 monolinguals out of a population of 5,356 (1990 census). *Region* Tlaxcala, San Juan Bautista Ixtenco. *Alternate names* SOUTHEASTERN OTOMÍ *Classification* [Oto-Manguanean](#), [Otopamean](#), [Otomian](#), [Otomí](#). *Comments* 41% intelligibility of State of Mexico Otomí (closest), 23% of Mezquital, and Eastern Otomí, 22% of Tenango Otomí. Bilingualism in Spanish. Speakers are over 50 years old.

Popoloca de Coyotepec *Population* 500 speakers out of a town of about 7,000 (1990 census). *Region* State of Puebla, west of Tehuacán city, east of Ahuatempan, towns of Coyotepec and San Mateo (2 miles from Coyotepec). *Dialects* SAN VICENTE COYOTEPEC POPOLOCA, SAN MATEO ZOYAMAZALCO POPOLOCA. *Classification* [Oto-Manguéan](#), [Popolocan](#), [Chocho-Popolocan](#), [Popolocan](#). *Comments* 41% intelligibility of Otlaltepec, 23% of Atzingo, 15% of Tlacoyalco Northern Popoloca. San Mateo may be intelligible with Coyotepec, San Felipe, or may be a separate language. Bilingualism in Spanish. Fluent speakers are fewer than 500. Investigation needed: intelligibility with San Mateo, bilingual proficiency in Spanish.

Tlapaneco de Azoyú *Population* 682 speakers. 17,000 in the Municipio including Spanish-speaking mestizos (1990 census). No monolinguals. However, there are reports of 1,000 to 10,000 speakers. *Region* East and a little south of Chilpancingo, Guerrero, Azoyú, Maxnadi, Toxnene, Zapotitlán del Puente, San Isidro del Puente, El Carrizo. *Classification* [Subtiaba-Tlapanec](#). *Comments* 50% intelligible with Malinaltepec. Reported to be bilingual in Spanish. Investigation needed: intelligibility with other Tlapaneco, bilingual proficiency.

Zapoteco de Zaachila *Population* 550 speakers out of a population of over 10,000 (1990 census). *Region* Oaxaca, 15 km. south of the city of Oaxaca, past Xoxo, town of Zaachila (416 speakers out of 10,601 population) and San Raymundo Jalpan (116 speakers out of 1,270 population). A few in San Bartolo Coyotepec, San Pablo Cuatro Venados, and Santa María Coyotepec. *Alternate names* SAN RAYMUNDO JALPAN ZAPOTEC *Classification* [Oto-Manguéan](#), [Zapotecan](#), [Zapotec](#). *Comments* 85% intelligibility of Zegeche, 75% of Tilquiapan, 72% of Guelavía, 10% of Ocotlán. Bilingualism in Spanish. Only those over 50 years of age understand but do not normally speak it, but this includes 3 women monolinguals (1990). No children speak it.

ENDANGERED, WORK IN PROGRESS

Zapoteco de Coatlán *Population* 500 or fewer (1992 SIL). *Region* Southern Oaxaca near Chatino region, about 7 towns, but mainly in Santo Domingo Coatlán. *Alternate names* WESTERN MIAHUATLÁN ZAPOTECO, SANTA MARÍA COATLÁN ZAPOTECO, COATLÁN ZAPOTEC, SAN MIGUEL ZAPOTECO *Classification* [Oto-Manguéan](#), [Zapotecan](#), [Zapotec](#). *Comments* 54% intelligibility of Loxicha (closest), 51% of San Gregorio Ozolotepec, 44% of Cuixtla, 29% of Logueche, 16% of San Juan Mixtepec, 1% of Santa Catalina Quierí. Speakers are reported to be bilingual in Spanish.

- Rosemary Beam de Azcona working on dictionary, grammar, collection of texts since 1996, more fieldwork planned for Summer 2004.

ENDANGERED, SOME DOCUMENTATION, (NO WORK IN PROGRESS?)

Chochoteco

Population 770 (1998).

Region Oaxaca, Nochixtlán district, Santa María Nativitas (428 out of 764 population), San Juan Bautista Coixtlahuaca (272 out of 3,111 population), San Martín Toxpalán (207 out of 2,462 population), San Miguel Tulancingo (72 out of 553 population).

Alternate names CHOCHO

Classification [Oto-Manguéan](#), [Popolocan](#), [Chocho-Popolocan](#), [Chocho](#).

Comments Bilingualism in Spanish. 'Chocho' speakers were also reported in the 1990 census in Puebla and other parts of Mexico, apparently referring to Popoloca speakers. Investigation needed: bilingual proficiency in Spanish.

Entries from the SIL Bibliography about this language:

[Mock, Carol, compiler. 1977. *Chocho: Santa Catarina Ocotlán, Oaxaca.*](#)

Otomí de Tilapa *Population* 400 speakers (1990 census). *Region* Santiago Tilapa town between Mexico, D. F. and Mexico Toluca, State of. *Classification* [Oto-Manguean, Otopamean, Otomian, Otomi.](#) *Comments* Bilingualism in Spanish. Speakers mainly over 50 years old (1990). Linguistic island. Nearly extinct.

- Doris Bartholomew and Roberto Weitlaner collected a wordlist in the 1960's.
- Otto Schumann has also worked with this language
- The most recent work on this language is probably that of Yolanda Lastra and she discusses it in *Relatos Otomíes*.

Popoloca de Mezontla

Population 2,000 (1993 SIL). There may be fewer fluent speakers.

Region State of Puebla, 1 town.

Alternate names LOS REYES METZONTLA POPOLOCA, SOUTHERN POPOLOCA

Classification [Oto-Manguean, Popolocan, Chocho-Popolocan, Popolocan.](#)

Comments 52% intelligibility with Atzingo Popoloca, 35% on Tlacoyalco (Northern Popoloca), 11% on Otlaltepec. Investigation needed: bilingual proficiency in Spanish. Grammar.

Entries from the SIL Bibliography about this language:

[Hollenbach, Barbara E. 1993. *Review of Gramática del Popoloca de Metzontla \(con vocabulario y textos\)*, by Veerman-Leichsenring, Annette.](#)

Zapoteco de Elotepec *Population* 200 speakers (1990 census). *Region* Western Oaxaca, west of Zimatlán, 1 village. *Alternate names* SAN JUAN ELOTEPEC ZAPOTEC, PAPABUCO *Classification* [Oto-Manguean, Zapotecan, Zapotec.](#) *Comments* 68% intelligibility of Santa María Zaniza (closest), 10% of Texmelucan. Bilingualism in Spanish. All are 50 years old and older (1990). Mountain slope. Nearly extinct.

- Natalie Operstein, who has been working on Zaniza Zapotec since 1999, has worked with the written materials for this language which include the Peñafiel questionnaire of the 1890's and a short sketch by Belmar from 1901.
- Juan José Rendón did fieldwork in the 1960's and some of his work is published.
- Speakers of Zaniza Zapotec consider this variety as mutually intelligible with their language.