
Isthmus Zapotec

Original problem by Steve Marlett based on data from Pickett, Black and Cerqueda (1998) and Pickett, et al. (1973). Presentation by Tom Payne.

The data below appear in the official spelling of Isthmus Zapotec. Word division follows the sources. Some items are indicated with an asterisk because they are not grammatical for the meaning indicated, though they may have some other non-systematically derivable meaning.

1. ñéelu'	<i>your foot</i>	23. bí'cu ca	<i>that dog</i>
2. *ñée xtílu'	<i>(your foot)</i>	24. xpí'culu'	<i>your dog</i>
3. cañéelu'	<i>your feet</i>	25. cabí'culu'	<i>your dogs</i>
4. guié'	<i>flower(s)</i>	26. *bí'culu'	<i>(your dog)</i>
5. guié' ca	<i>that flower</i>	27. bí'cu xtílu'	<i>your dog(s)</i>
6. *ñée ca	<i>(that foot)</i>	28. bí'cu xtíbe	<i>his/her dog(s)</i>
7. *guié'lu'	<i>(your flower)</i>	29. xíñibe	<i>his/her son</i>
8. *xcuié'lu'	<i>(your flower)</i>	30. tóu' xtílu'	<i>your turkey</i>
9. guié' xtílu'	<i>your flower(s)</i>	31. _____	<i>his/her turkey</i>
10. xhígui	<i>chin</i>	32. bére ca	<i>that hen</i>
11. xhíguiulu'	<i>your chin</i>	33. bére xtí bixhózelu'	<i>your father's hen</i>
12. *xhígui xtílu'	<i>(your chin)</i>	34. xpére Juan	<i>Juan's hen</i>
13. xhígui bixhózelu'	<i>your father's chin</i>	35. _____	<i>his/her hen</i>
14. *xhígui xtí bixhózelu'	<i>(your father's chin)</i>	36. _____	<i>his/her foot</i>
15. xí'quelu'	<i>your shoulder</i>	37. xpérelu'	<i>your hen</i>
16. caxí'quelu'	<i>your shoulders</i>	38. *xpére ca	<i>(that hen)</i>
17. *xí'que xtílu'	<i>(your shoulder)</i>	39. yóo ca	<i>that house</i>
18. xí'que María	<i>María's shoulder</i>	40. *yóolu'	<i>(your house)</i>
19. _____	<i>María's shoulders</i>	41. yóo xtílu'	<i>your house(s)</i>
20. xí'quebe	<i>his/her shoulder</i>	42. lídxilu'	<i>your house</i>
21. *bixhóze xtílu'	<i>(your father)</i>	43. *lídxu ca	<i>(that house)</i>
22. *xpixhózelu'	<i>(your father)</i>		

A. List and gloss all the morphemes in this data set. Describe the function of the morpheme *xtí* in some detail.

B. Propose a subclassification of the nouns based on these data. Indicate which nouns fall into each class.

C. Try to "motivate" the subclasses of nouns that you identify in B. Be sure your statement takes the ungrammatical examples into account.

D. Indicate whether the following structures would be grammatical or ungrammatical, according to your analysis in A-C. If they are grammatical, give the probable meaning:

- i. xhígui ca _____
- ii. bixhózebe _____
- iii. cabixhózelu' _____
- iv. caxíñilu' _____

E. Extra credit: Any guesses as to the historical source of the morpheme *xtí*? Explain your answer.

References:

Pickett, Velma B. Cheryl Black and Vicente Marcial Cerqueda. 1998. *Gramática popular del zapoteco del Istmo*. Juchitán, Oaxaca, México: Centro de Investigación y Desarrollo Binnizá.

Pickett, Velma B. 1973. *Vocabulario del zapoteco del Istmo*. México City: Instituto Lingüístico de Verano.