

# The Kathryn Josserand Mixtec Language Surveys

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## About



A collection of handwritten transcriptions of syntax and vocabulary surveys gathered by linguist Kathryn Josserand and her collaborators across the Mixtec-speaking region of southern Mexico in the late 1970s and early 1980s.



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# Making Digital Texts and Datasets from Mixtec Manuscripts

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Archive of the Indigenous Languages of Latin America

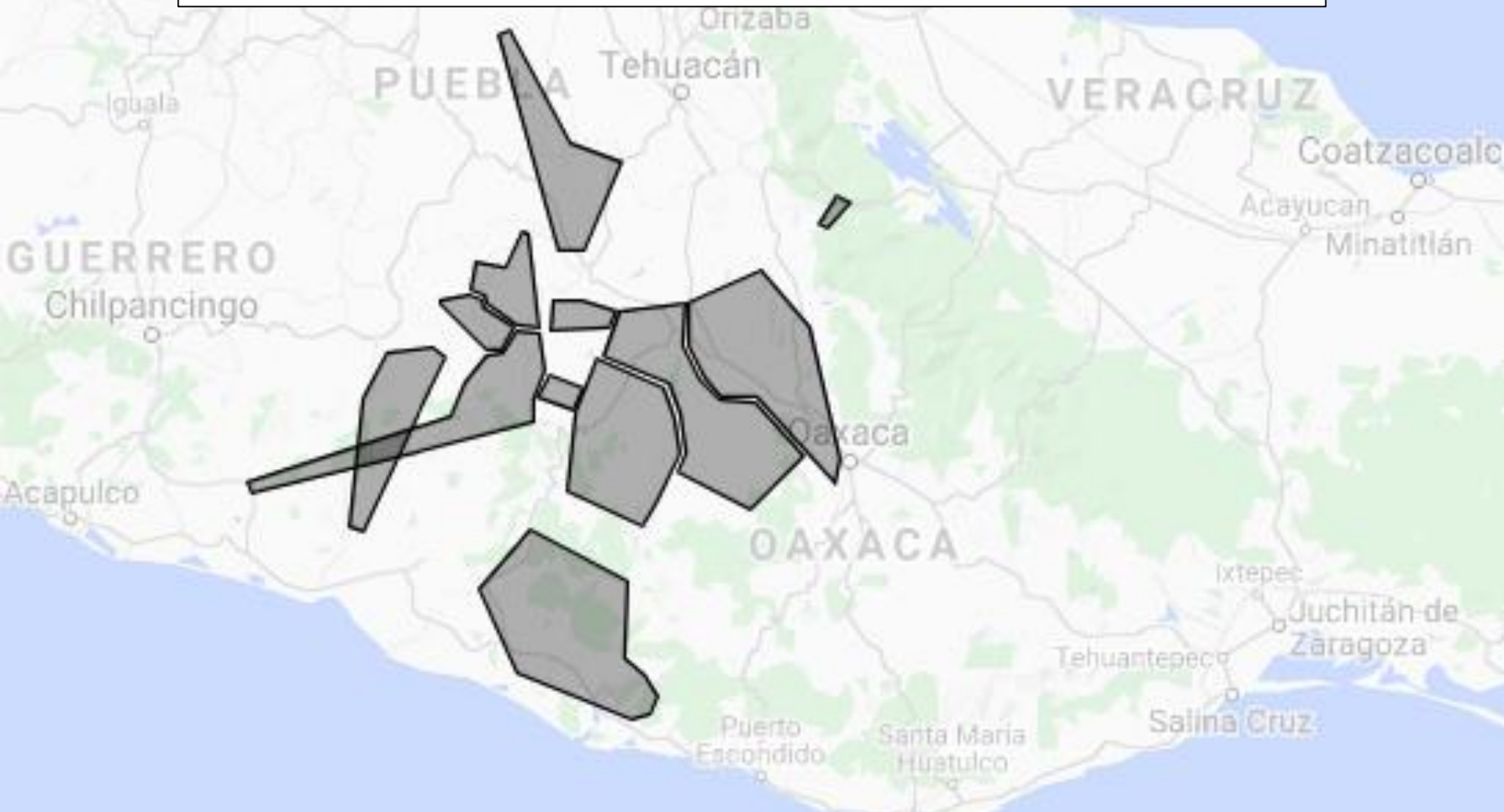
COLING Project Workshop December 13, 2019

# Mixtec

group of 12-52 Indigenous languages

450,000 speakers

Similar to the Romance languages in diversity



**Syntax: San Miguel Achiutla**  
possibly ISO xtm, posiblemente ISO xtm, Mix-10.7

MIXT004R076I001.mp3

View Manage

### Object Details

Language(s)	Mixtec
Language PID(s)	aila:119677
Content type	primary text
Date Created	1975

# The MesoAmerican Languages Collection of Kathryn Josserand

- Tapes of Mixtec vocabulary and syntax surveys (1977-1981)
- Over 100 Mixtec-speaking towns represented
- Vocabulary survey info reported in 1983 Ph.D. dissertation
- Syntax survey results never published
- Josserand died in 2006
- Collection deposited 2008

**Syntax: San Miguel Progreso, Tlaxiaco**  
Mix-6.6

In collections



ALLA receives thousands of pages of handwritten transcriptions of the audio files.

A pilot [NEH grant](#) was awarded to support the digitization, transcription, and ingestion of these documents.

(Núm. de cinta \_\_\_\_\_)

Lugar de entrevista Mitla

Investigador \_\_\_\_\_

Fecha \_\_\_\_\_)

Nombre Raúl Alavez Chávez Sexo MLugar de nacimiento Sta Ma. Peñoles Edad 33

Municipio \_\_\_\_\_ Ex-Distrito \_\_\_\_\_

Actualmente radica en allí Desde cuándo hace 4-5 años

Años que ha radicado en otros lugares (lugares y núm. de años) \_\_\_\_\_

Mexico 3 años Istmo 3 añosEducación 5º Mixteco  Lee  Escribe Otros idiomas que habla Mixteco, EspañolIdioma que se habla en casa mixteco más, también español

86. Va la hermana de ella a su casa. (de ella)

*quhá? cáhúxi vehaxi.*

87. Su hijo de ella no la va a esperar.

*Vá cándetu ñaha déhe ducaxi.*

88. El hombre no esperó la fiesta.

*Ñá tūú ní xíndatadé vico.*

89. Su mujer está soplando la lumbre.

*Ñadéhidé dátachixi ñuhá.*

90. Es redondo el comal.

*tacaté xió.*

91. Comió el ratón el maíz allí.

*Yacó? ní xexi tapū? nūñí.*

*Ñadéhidé vaxé yauñe*

128. *se hizo bonita la flor.*  
'ča.ku.šə, 'ka 'ʔi.ta.'kuy

128. *Se hizo bonita la flor.* [The flower got beautiful]

'ča.ku.šə 'ka 'ʔi.ta.'kuy -- Americanist phonetic symbols

ʧakujã ka ʔita kui -- modern IPA symbols

tyacu xan ca ita cui -- Spanish-based spelling

chákù xán kà itá kúí -- Mixtec Language Academy

# Transcribing

Copy-pasting uncommon glyphs (ı, č, ř, ʔ, θ, ·, etc.).

Tone marking is omitted.

Nasal vowels marked with a tilde and not an ogonek

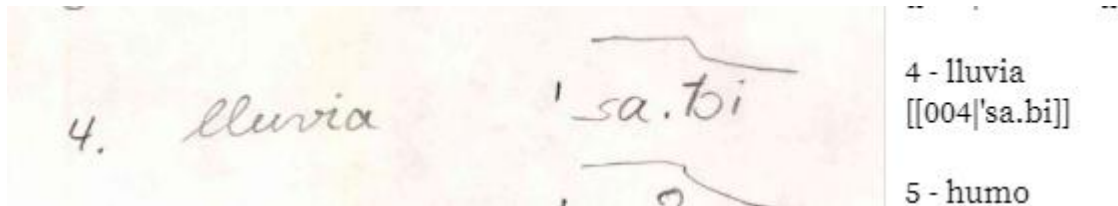
<b>vowel</b>	<b>a</b>	<b>e</b>	<b>i</b>	<b>o</b>	<b>u</b>	<b>ɨ</b>	<b>ü</b>
underhook	ą	ę	ɨ	ɔ	ɥ	[no glyph]	
tilde	a~	e~	i~	o~	u~	ɨ~	ü~

Struck-through and superscript symbols written as plain characters

<del>b</del>	<del>d</del>	<del>g</del>	<sup>n</sup> d
b	d	g	nd



# Making datasets



## 4. lluvia [[004|'sabi]]

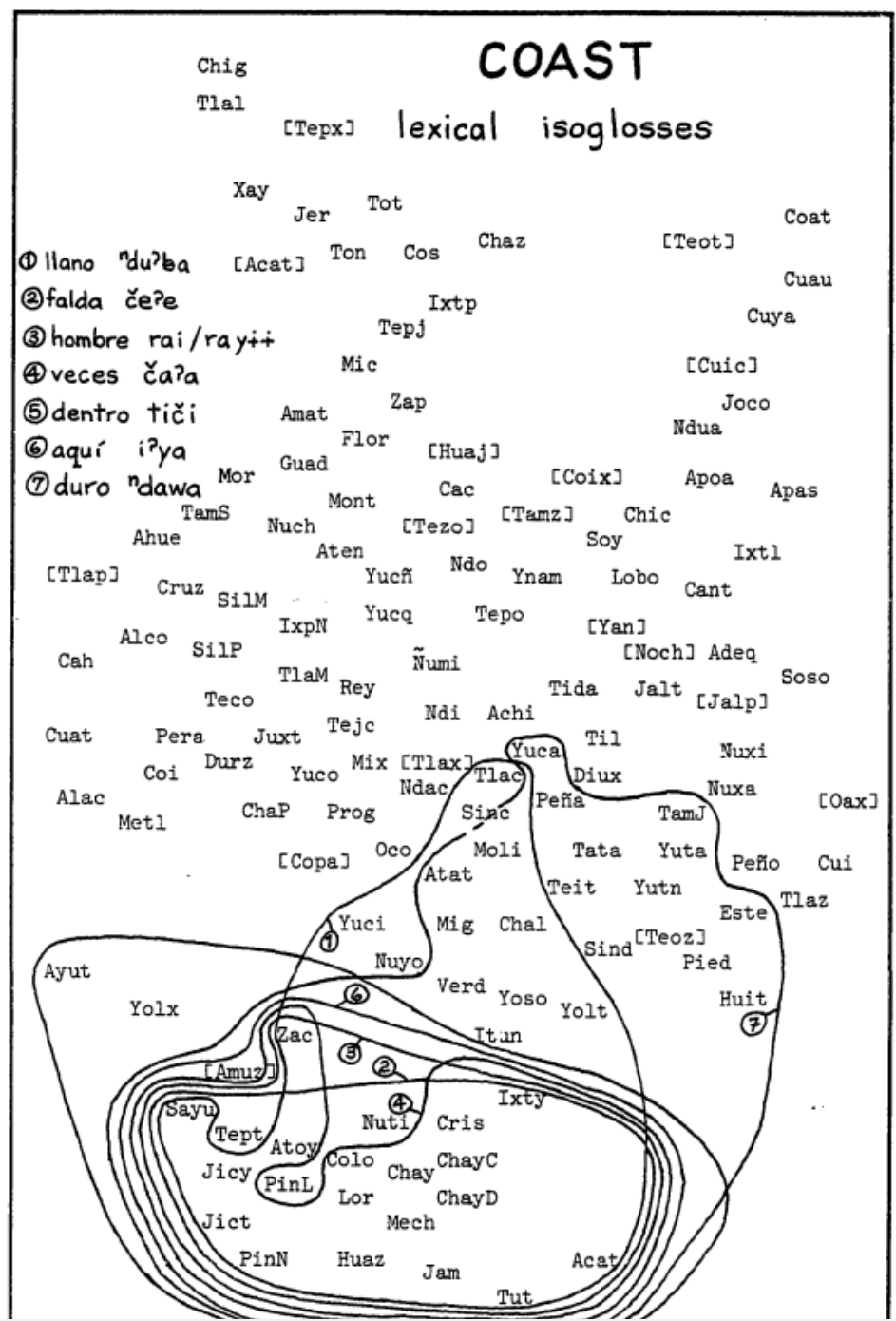
With some markup, questionnaire responses can be browsed on the FromThePage site or exported for further use and analysis

110 pages refer to 004

[Show pages that mention 004 in all works](#)

- 4 - 'dabi
- 17 - 'dau
- 4 - daú
- 1 - 'dabi
- 6 - 'dabi
- 3 - daabi
- 3 - dabi
- 3 - 'dau
- 2 - 'daabi
- 2 - dabi
- 3 - 'sau
- 3 - 'sabi
- 1 - 'dabi
- 6 - dabi
- 4 - 'dabi
- 1 - 'dabi
- 4 - 'dabi
- 1 - 'tikaya
- 2 - tikaya

<u>NE Alta</u>	1) lluvia	2) magu
	rain	agave
P-Mixtec	*sawi?	*yawí'
Tepo	ɛawi	yawi
Tida	ɛawi/ɛau	zawi/yawí
Til	ɛau	zau
Diux	ɛau	zau
Nuxi	ɛabi	zabi
Nuxa	ɛawi	zawi
TamJ	ɛawi	zawi
Yuta	ɛau	—
Peño	ɛáú	zau
Este	ɛau	zau
Cui	ɛawi/ɛabi	zabi



# Phonology

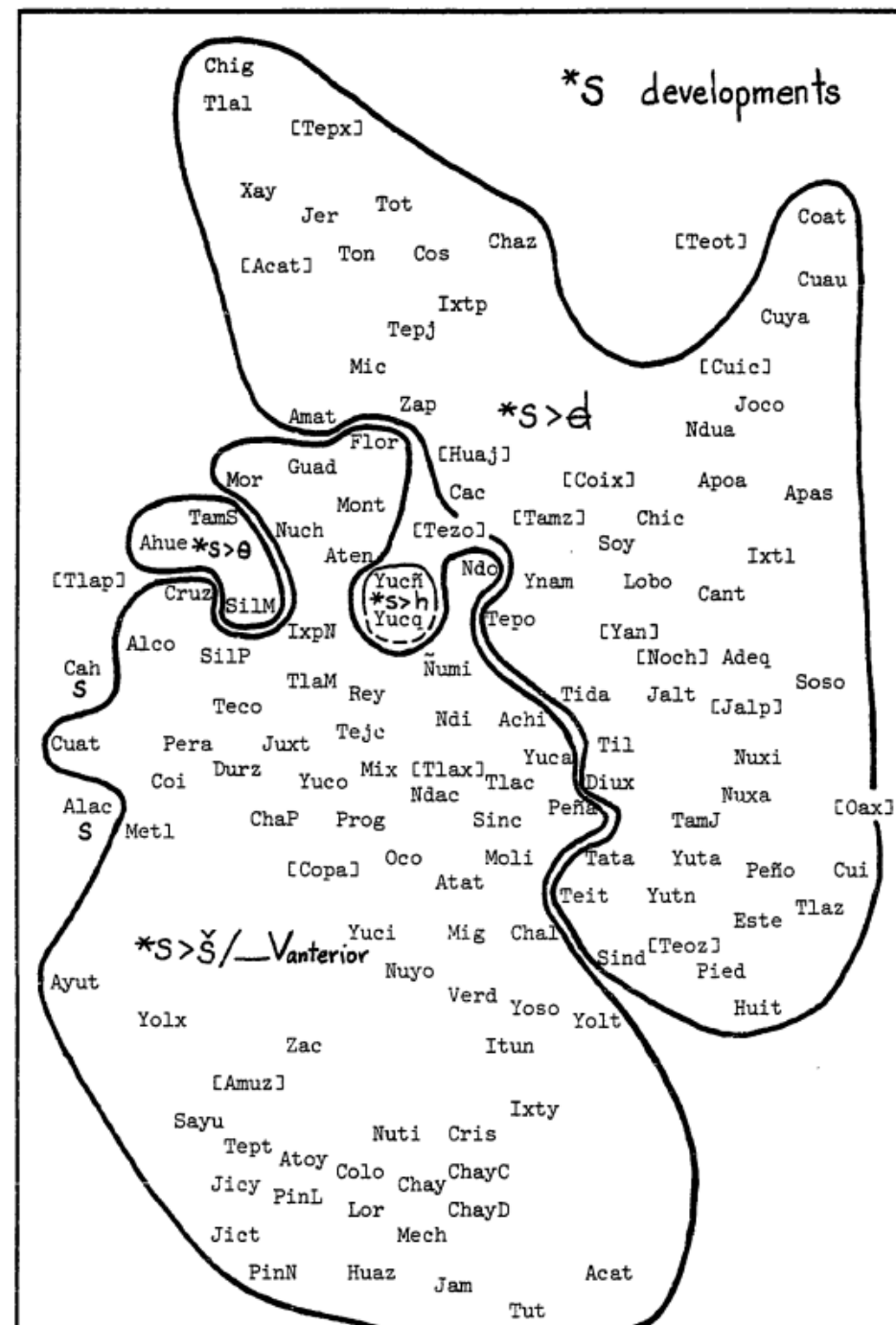
Well-known isogloss

/ð/ in the north

/s/ in the south

/h/ in one region

*based on the transcription of 'rain' < \*sawi?*



# Phonology

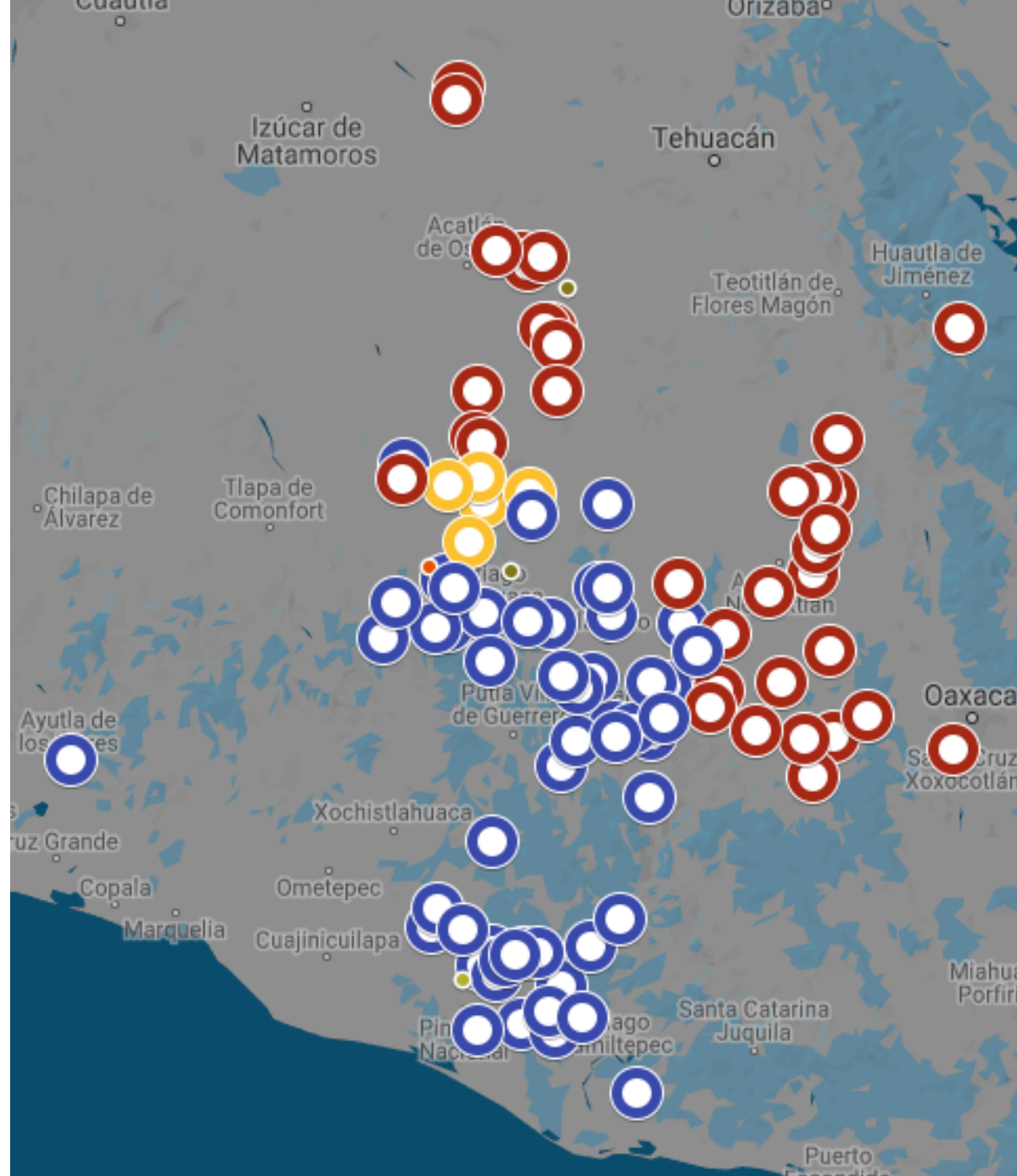
Well-known  
isogloss

/ð/ in the north

/s/ in the south

/h/ in one region

*based on the  
transcription of  
'rain' < \*sawi?*



# Morphology

- All Mixtec languages have modest inventories for 3<sup>rd</sup> person pronouns

Pronouns (from Daly's Penoles Syntax)

man	tée	-dé
woman	n̄a-d̄+ʔí	-š̄i
gente	n̄a-ž̄iu	-ž̄u
deity	n̄diöš̄í	-ká
animal	k̄it̄i	-d̄i
neutral	beʔe	-š̄i it

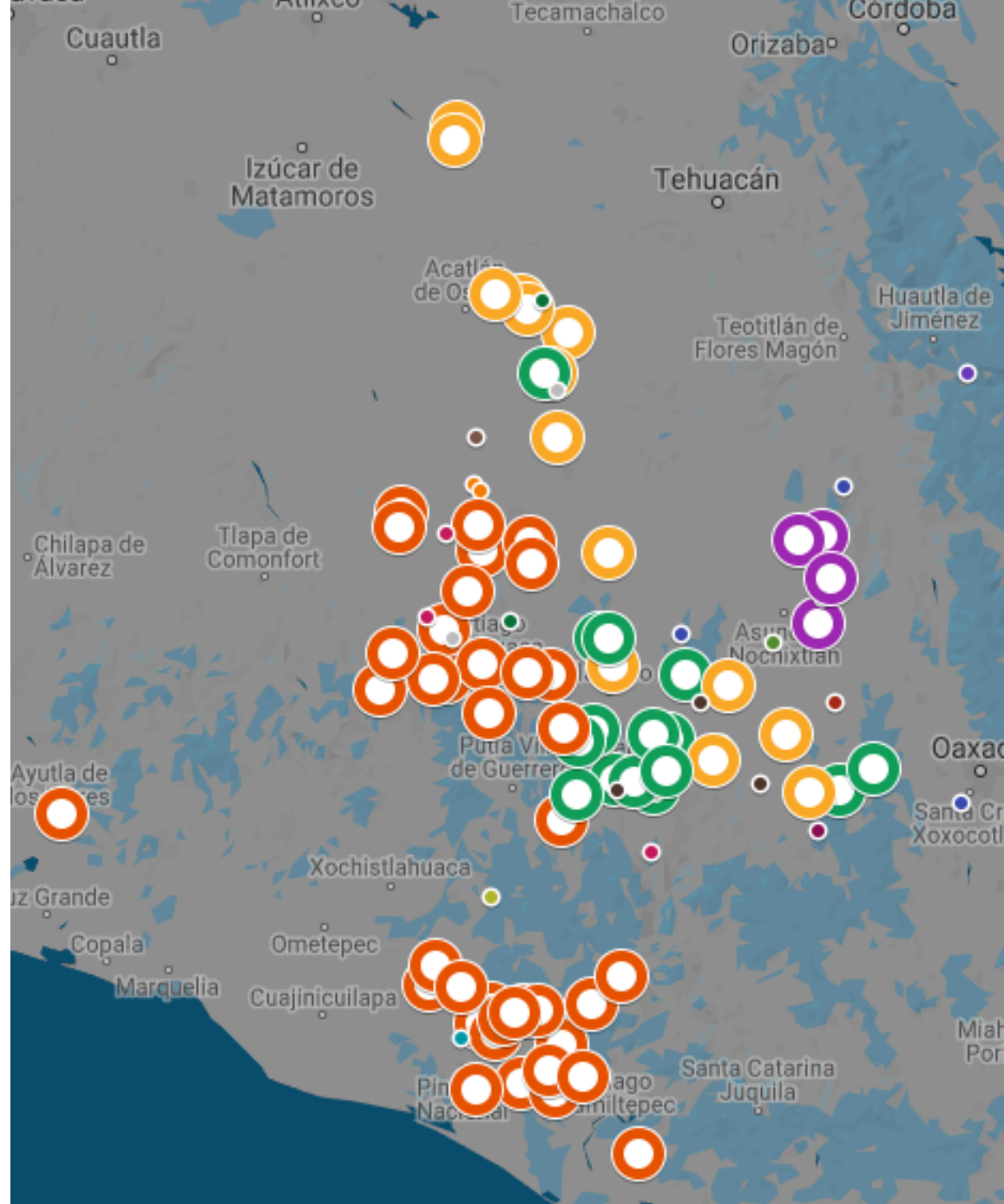
# Morphology

3.MASC pronoun

**ra** in south and west

**te/de** in north and east

**t<sup>s</sup>a** in one northeast cluster



## Syntax of yes/no questions is known to vary across Mixtec

Based on evidence from relatively few languages, e.g. Macaulay (1996:126) lists 9.

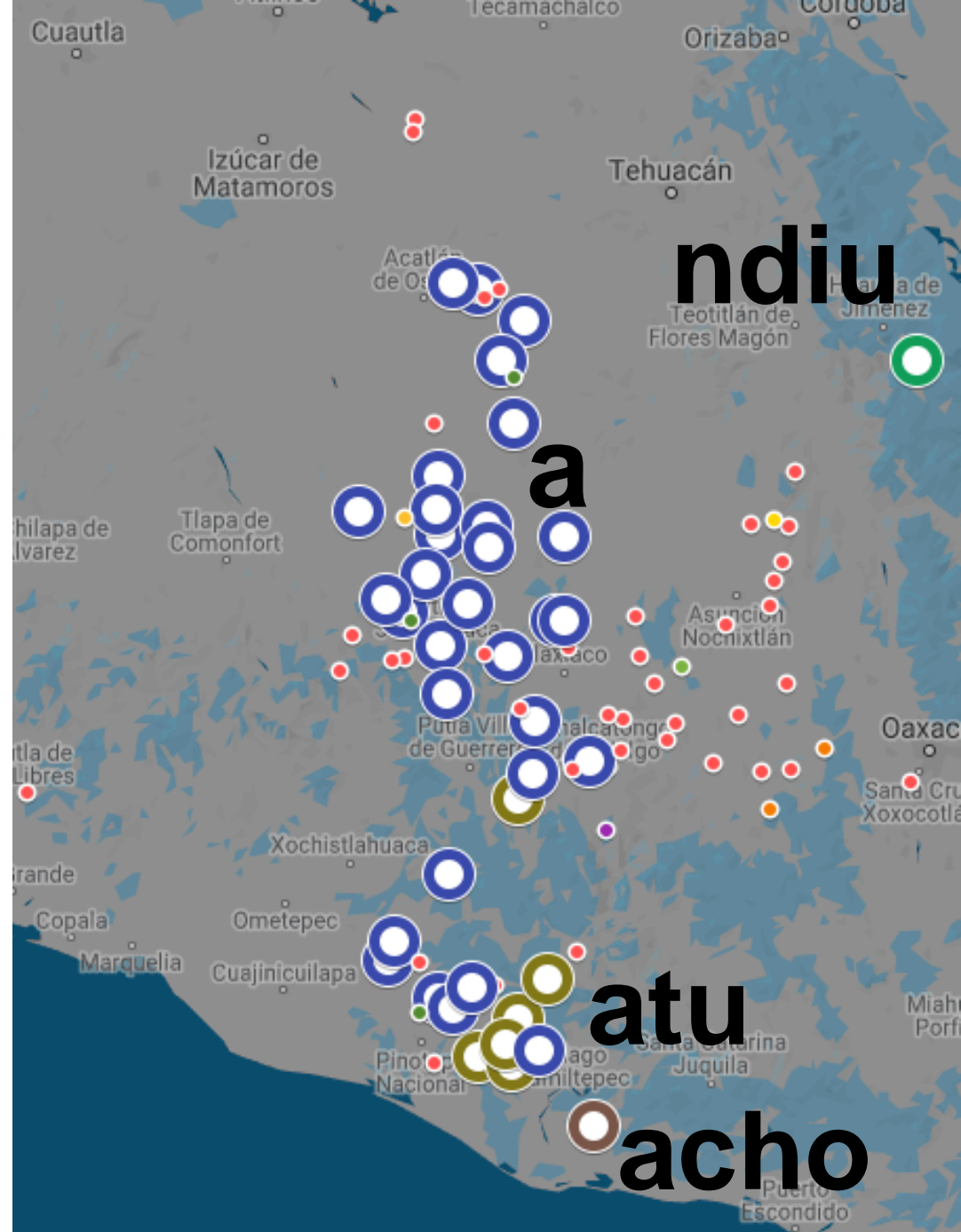
The formation of yes/no questions across the Mixtec dialects is quite diverse. Most other dialects mark such questions with a question particle. In most cases these are sentence-initial, but some are sentence-final, and at least one dialect places the question particle in second position. The sentence-initial forms include **án** (Alacatzala Mixtec, see Zylstra 1991), **ñáá/áán** or a tone change (Ayutla Mixtec, see Hills 1990), **atu** (Jamiltepec Mixtec, see Johnson 1988), and **á** (Ocotepc Mixtec, see Alexander 1988; Silacayoapan Mixtec, see Shields 1988). Two dialects have sentence-final question markers: Diuxi-Tilantongo Mixtec uses **á** (Kuiper and Oram 1991), and Yosondúa Mixtec uses sentence-final **nú** (Farris 1992).<sup>16</sup> Finally, Coatzospan Mixtec has a question particle **ndu**, which is placed in second position (Small 1990).

Like Chalcatongo Mixtec, the closely-related San Miguel dialect also lacks overt marking of yes/no questions (Pike 1944:136), so this may well be a small-scale areal phenomenon.

# Syntax

## *Yes-no question formation*

- Initial question particle **a**, **atu**, or **acho**
- Second-position question particle **ndiu**







*Kúta'ū ná nuū ní jíná'an ní!*

## Get involved

[http://bit.ly/AILLA\\_mixtec](http://bit.ly/AILLA_mixtec)

<https://ailla.utexas.org>

## Contact

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## References

Dyk, Anne & Betty Stoudt. 1973. Vocabulario mixteco de San Miguel el Grande. Instituto Lingüístico de Verano: México.

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<https://ailla.utexas.org/islandora/object/ailla:124466>

Macaulay, Monica. 1996. A Grammar of Chalcatongo Mixtec. University of California Press: Berkeley.

