

Twentieth Century Sound Change in Zenzontepec and Tataltepec Chatino

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Goals of this talk

Show direct evidence of presumed sound changes in two Chatino lgs

Date these changes to early 20th C.

Structure of this talk

Introduction to the Chatino lgs.

The processes of monosyllabification

The rise of Zenzontepec Chatino's /hC/
clusters

The lowering of *e in Tataltepec Chatino

Conclusion

A brief introduction to the Chatino languages

The Chatino languages

4 attested lgs., 3 extant

Zenzontepec (ZC)

Tataltepec (TC)

Eastern (EC)

- Zapotecan
 - Zapotec (many lgs.)
 - Chatino
 - Teojomulco (†)
 - Core Chatino subgroup
 - **Zenzontepec**
 - Coastal subgroup
 - **Tataltepec**
 - Eastern

The Chatino languages

Zenzontepec Chatino

~ 8000 speakers

Various ages

12+ communities

3 very similar dialects

- Main core dialect
- 2 peripheral dialects

(Campbell 2014)

Tataltepec Chatino

~ 500 speakers

Mostly over age 30

One community

No known dialect variation

(Sullivant 2015a)

The processes of monosyllabification

Monosyllabification

Proto-Zapotecan had disyllabic roots

C- or CV- prefixes

Enclitics

But most modern lgs. have words
smaller than CV-CVCV

(Kaufman 1997)

Monosyllabification

Reduction and deletion of unstressed V

Different prosodic patterns

Zapotec lgs. stress first syllable of roots

Chatino lgs. stress second syllable

Monosyllabification

*ketse	*k ^w -e:ʔlla	*tjoʔwa	PZ
gedʒ	bæ:l:	roʔ	MZ
ktʃĩ	knã ^H	tʔwa	QEC
‘town’	‘snake’	‘mouth’	

MZ = Mitla Z (Stubblefield & Stubblefield 1994)

QEC = Quiahije EC (Cruz et al. 2010)

Monosyllabification

*tj^o?wa

PZ

V loss can be
directly seen
in Valley
Zapotec lgs.

< t^ohua >

CZ

(1578)

r^o?

MZ

‘mouth’

(1994)

The rise of ZC consonant clusters

ZC's /hC/ clusters

Proto-Chatino had few consonant clusters

medial *ʔn, *ʔw, *ʔj

initial *nt, *nk, *nk^w

ZC has many word-initial /hC/ clusters

ZC's /hC/ clusters

/hC/ < loss of a penult
(=unstressed) *i or *u
under certain
circumstances

(Campbell 2014:181)

$C_1V_1C_2V_2 > hC_2V_2$ *iff.*

$C_1 \in \{t \ k \ s \ f\}$

$V_1 \in \{i \ u\}$

$C_2 \in \{n \ l\}$

$V_2 \neq V_1$

ZC's /hC/ clusters

Could have occurred anytime after ZC-Coastal split (~600-1000 ya)

But not present in the earliest ZC data.

(Campbell 2013)

ZC's /hC/ clusters

	PC	Belmar 1902	U&L 1965	C. 2014
'child'	*sine?	< shiñé >	hnʃi?	hni?
'chile'	*kìná?	< quiña >	hnʃã?	hnʃá?
'cold'	*tila?	< quilia >	hlʃa?	hlʃa?

(Belmar 1902; Upson & Longacre 1965; Campbell 2014)

ZC's /hC/ clusters

Belmar's ZC is likely the ancestor of modern ZC, therefore...

$C_1V_1C_2V_2 > hC_2V_2$ between 1902-1963
(when Upson and Longacre collected ZC data for their paper).

The lowering of penult *e
in TC

TC's *e lowering

The unlabeled language in Belmar (1902) can be shown to be TC based on a number of diagnostic criteria.

TC's *e lowering

TC or EC

PC *ts, *s > tʃ, ʃ /i_

/n-/ on 'spider'

*ta + loo = 'face'

/ʃi-/ CAUS on 'leave'

*-ahaʔ = 'sleep'

*-kùnáʔ = 'get lost'

Spanish 'fiscal' > /ʃkali/ / = ma/ 2PL pron.

TC only

*C_[+cor] > C^j /e_ ; *kj > t^j

/nkwa-/ , /ntj-/ , /k-/ prefixes on 'make'

/ntj-/ , /ntj-/ , /tj-/ prefixes on By verbs

/soʔõ/ = 'hen' ; /ntʃeʔe/ = 'rooster'

/santtu/ = 'doll' , /triseʔẽ/ = 'guts'

Mid vowel in 'light'

'cat' < Mixtec /tʃumi/

TC's *e lowering

One sound change presumed for TC's historical development is the lowering of penult (=unstressed) PC *e /_C*V_[-high] after TC-EC split.

(Campbell 2013)

However, the data show change was incomplete until ca. 1970.

TC's *e lowering

	Belmar 1902	U&L 1965	P&P 1970	Sull. 2015
'tooth'	< leya >	leʔja	laʔja	laʔja
'fish'	< kuellia >	k ^w aiʔja	k ^w aʔja	k ^w aʔja
'hawk'	< kueya >	k ^w aʔja	k ^w aʔja	k ^w aʔjà
'blood'	< tañi >	tanʔi	tanʔi	tanʔì

TC's *e lowering

All *e > a candidates in U&L

*e > e	*leʔja	leʔja	'tooth'
[cor]_	*telà	telʔa	'night'
*e > ai	*k ^w èjáʔ	k ^w aijaʔ	'fly'
k ^w _	*k ^w ela	k ^w ailʔa	'fish'
	*k ^w ená	k ^w ainʔa	'snake'
*e > a	*k ^w eʔna	k ^w aʔnʔa	'caiman'
k ^w _ʔ	*k ^w èʔjà	k ^w aʔja	'hawk'
*e > a ('02)	*tènè	tanʔi	'blood'

TC's *e lowering

TC's *e > a change may have been
incipient in 1902,
was in progress in 1960,
and was complete by 1970

Conclusion

Conclusions

In two Chatino lgs, posited sound changes have been confirmed by historical sources.

$C_1V_1C_2V_2 > hC_2V_2$ in ZC

*e > a/_CV_[-high] in TC

Changes occurred rather quickly and recently

Conclusions

Sound change can happen quickly

Today's CV Chatino topolects could have been CVCV in recent past

Need for speaker metadata

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