Nido de Lenguas: Collaborative language education in Monterey Bay’s Oaxacan Diaspora

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Introduction

• Monterey Bay: home to thousands of immigrants from Oaxaca.

• Nido de Lenguas:
  • History
  • Activities
• Annual cultural festival in Oaxaca, LA, Central Valley, and Santa Cruz.
• Linguistic complement to Senderos’ programming
• Events:
  • Camp
  • Pop-Ups
  • Clases
Camp

- Workshop to learn a Oaxacan language
- Taught and led by native speakers
Koni ra lo'o tsina.
Koni ra lo’o tsina.
ntsika
plátano / banana

ita
flor / flower

leso
conejo / rabbit

itū
árbol / tree
Pop-Ups

• Tent at local cultural festivals
• Raising cultural awareness
beku

blull

[Image of a dog]

[Images of patterned fabric]

[Photo of a girl looking at a blue board]
blull
blull

beku'
Explore los idiomas de Oaxaca

- 3 familias de lenguas (otomangue, mixe-zoqueana, yuto-azteca)
- 15 grupos de lenguas indígenas
- > 40,000 indígenas oaxaqueños viven en la costa central de California

2.9 millones de hablantes
Clases

• Community classes on Santiago Laxopa Zapotec
• Taught by a native speaker with support of linguists
Many people work for the success of the fiesta in Laxopa. Each household contributes tortillas to the casa de la comisión, where musicians invited for the fiesta from other towns are hosted. Animals are slaughtered to make mole and soup served during the fiesta. A week before the fiesta, a group of elders goes to the mountain to pray for the success of the fiesta. They bring corn seeds and cacao to thank and feed the earth.

A few days before the fiesta, Beto, who still lives in Los Angeles, calls his friend Raquel to ask her how her family is preparing for the fiesta.
Beto: *Padziuxh, gak zuu'?
'Hello, how are you?'

Raquel: *Zua' wen. Chixhe lhe’?
'I'm good. How about you?'

Beto: *Zua' wen. Gak zualhe?
'I'm good. How is everyone?'

Raquel: *Lasu'ma de li'n.
'There is a lot of work.'

Beto: *Bi dzunh cho'o?
'What is your mother doing?'

Raquel: *Biyle' te' nne te' tse comisión.
'She had to cook for the comisión.'

Beto: *Bi dzunh xo'o?
'What is your father doing?'

Raquel: *Dute ke' bo'n.
'He is killing a pig.'

Beto: *Bi dzunh tawu'n? Bi dzunh xtawu'n?
'What are your grandmother and grandfather doing?'

'They went to the mountain.
They are praying for the fiesta.'

Beto: *Wakkse'. Na yillagdzu lla.
'That's fine. I'll see you.'
5.1 Inclusive vs. exclusive pronouns

There are two Zapotec pronouns that correspond to ‘we’/‘nosotros’. The one you use depends on whether you want ‘we’ to include or exclude the person you’re talking to.

Here’s another example:
Raquel is talking to her little sister Roxana. Their brother Raúl is also with them.

*Chejdzu* yego’n.
‘We (incl.) are going to the river.’

*Chejtu’ yego’n.*
‘We (excl.) are going to the river.’