Person Marking in Petalcingo Tzeltal

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________________________

John B. Haviland
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**Typographic Conventions and Abbreviations**

The majority of Tzeltal data in this work is transcribed using practical orthography, which is implicitly described in “Phonemic Inventory,” below. However, there are times when an IPA transcription (of varying broadness) is used: then the text is enclosed in brackets and is transcribed using [ðɪs ʃaːnt].

What follows is a list of abbreviations used in interlinear glosses. Dashes (-) indicate morpheme boundaries. Colons separate the paradigm specification from the specific instance indicator, for example “A:1” means Set A (ergative/possessive) cross-reference, first person. Different meanings of a portmanteau morpheme are separated by a dot, for example “ICMP.A:2” means “Incomplete, Set A first person.”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>First person</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Second person</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Third Person</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Set A (ergative / possessive)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AGNT</td>
<td>Agentive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ABS</td>
<td>Absolutive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APPL</td>
<td>Applicative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APASS</td>
<td>Antipassive (voice)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>Set B (absolutive)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAUS</td>
<td>Causative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CL</td>
<td>Clitic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMP</td>
<td>Complementizer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEM</td>
<td>Demonstrative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DET</td>
<td>Determiner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DIM</td>
<td>Diminutive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DIR</td>
<td>Directional</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DIST</td>
<td>Distal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EMPH</td>
<td>Emphatic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EPN</td>
<td>Epenthetic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ERG</td>
<td>Ergative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EVID</td>
<td>Evidential</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EXCL</td>
<td>Exclusive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FOC</td>
<td>Focus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F/T</td>
<td>Focus and/or Topic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G</td>
<td>Gender</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICMP</td>
<td>Incompletive aspect</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V</td>
<td>Denominalization (Verbalization)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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1 The abbreviations used in examples from other works are the original authors’. Their abbreviations are not included in this table.
Abstract

This thesis is a heterogeneous study of the Petalcingo variant of the Tzeltal, a Mayan language. The first chapter presents a grammatical sketch of the language based on nine months of fieldwork in Petalcingo. The chapters that follow analyze some of the grammatical features of this language in more detail. The common thread uniting the diverse topics is the person marking in verbal and nominal paradigms. A nominal account of Tzeltal participles is offered, contra previous analyses which claimed that these participles are infinitive. The proposal offered herein seeks to explicate the distribution of the preposition in combination with these participles, as well as optional appearance of ergative markers that cross-reference the patient argument in a maximally non-disjunctive way. In the latter part of this thesis, a clitic theory of Set A (ergative/possessive) is advanced, and some options for explaining the identity of ergative and possessive markings are examined.
This thesis is dedicated to all the persevering boys and girls, men and women who despite being born in abject poverty to families with no scholarly tradition nonetheless valued learning enough to put themselves through school — you are an inspiration.