

Person Marking in Petalcingo Tzeltal

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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 [øis fant].

What follows is a list of abbreviations used in interlinear glosses.<sup>1</sup> 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.”

1	First person	IMP	Imperative
2	Second person	INT	Intensifier
3	Third Person	INCL	Inclusive
A	Set A (ergative / possessive)	IRR	Irrealis
AGNT	Agentive	MID	Middle (voice)
ABS	Absolutive	MOD	Modifier (adjective)
APPL	Applicative	NEG	Negation
APASS	Antipassive (voice)	NC	Numeral classifier
B	Set B (absolutive)	N	Nominalization
CAUS	Causative	PART	Participle
CL	Clitic	PASS	Passive (voice)
COMP	Complementizer	PCHG	Possession changing
DEM	Demonstrative	PERF	Perfect
DET	Determiner	PL	Plural
DIM	Diminutive	PFV	Perfective aspect
DIR	Directional	POSS	Possessor marking
DIST	Distal	PRED	Predicational
EMPH	Emphatic	PREP	Preposition
EPN	Epenthetic	PROG	Progressive aspect
ERG	Ergative	PT	Particle
EVID	Evidential	Q	Question marker
EXCL	Exclusive	REFL	Reflexive
FOC	Focus	PROX	Proximal
F/T	Focus and/or Topic	REDUP	Reduplication
G	Gender	TRANS	Transitivizer
ICMP	Incomplete aspect	TOP	Topic
		V	Denominalization (Verbalization)

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<sup>1</sup> 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  
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