The Phonological Patterns and Orthography of
San Juan Quiahije Chatino

by

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The Phonological Patterns and Orthography of
San Juan Quiahije Chatino

APPROVED BY

SUPERVISING COMMITTEE:
A mis padres

Isabel Cruz

y

Tomás Cruz,

donde quiera que se encuentre.
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ABSTRACT

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by
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The University of Texas at Austin,
2004
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Joel Sherzer

The Chatino language is actually a family of at least four mutually unintelligible languages associated with the geographical regions of Juquila, Nopala, Taltaltepec, and Zenzontepec. Chatino is a member of the Otomanguean language family. Within Otomangue, Chatino is classified as a branch of Zapotecan, alongside the Zapotec languages.

In the variety of Quiahije it is common to find the VSO structure. Although SVO is also accepted, but is possible that this form is because of Spanish language contact.
We document 34 consonants and twenty vowels in Quiahije Chatino. According to previous work, the language has nine tones, but the tones will be a topic of future work (Cruz and Woodbury 2004). The description of the Chatino analysis is based on recording of oral text and my own contribution as a native speaker.
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Introduction

The Chatino region is located in the southwest of Oaxaca. The territory is bordered at the north and east with Zapotec communities at the west with by the Mixtecs and at the south with coastal towns. The region extends from the mountainous heights of 2900 meters above sea level to the coast. Because the geographic nature of the region the weather varies the high temperate altitudes can be cold with low temperatures in the forties Fahrenheit, as one travels southeast to the coastal region the climate changes from temperate to sub-tropical reaching a tropical climate at sea level.

Census 2000 calculated 28000 Chatino speakers. We call ourselves “ Ne7 jn’a.” Ne7 means origin and jn’a means work. This translates to - “people of work”. The story told by elders about the Chatino origin is as follows: The Chatinos came from the south by water, first they were fish, and their home was destroyed. They asked for help from their god the sun, the sun told them to go north. They swam all the way north and landed in the Chacahua Lagoon. Javier Perez Sanchez (1997:20)
The municipality of San Juan Quiahije

The municipality of San Juan Quiahije is situated in the southeast mountains of the Sierra Nevada in the state of Oaxaca. It is located 3 hour driving distances from Santa Catarina Juquila.
The research takes place in the community called Cieneguilla and less in San Juan Quiahije. This Cieneguilla community had been a ranch community since the thirties and was founded as an agencia of San Juan Quiahije by Tomas Cruz and other members in 1969.

**Language**

Chatino appears to have nine-tone system, consisting of four level tones: super low (4), low (3), high (2), and super high (1); three rising tones: low rising (42), mid rising (32), and high-rising (21); and two falling tones: high falling (12) and low falling (24).

Chatino is in some aspects a mildly dependent marking and in other aspects mildly head marking language. On the sentence level it has characteristics of head marking to indicate the subject, but it shows dependent marking pattern for marking objects. The head-marking pattern is expressed by marking on the verb. However, the dependent marking structure is indicated by an accusative marker, but this occurs strictly with animate and referential direct objects.

The people from Cieneguilla community speak the Yaitepec variety of Chatino. Although Quiahije Chatino is classified as being of the Yaitepec variety it has tonal and lexical differences that differentiate it from that of Yaitepec, however they are mutually intelligible enough to communicate.
Previous Research

There has been more research conducted on Yaitepec Chatino than any of the other varieties. The Summer Institute of Linguistics has conducted various studies on Yaitepec Chatino, including several grammars, and it continues with ongoing research. (Upson and Longacre (1965), Upson (1968), Pride and Pride (1963), K Pride (1965,1970). Jeffery Rasch (2002) has also written an extensive grammar of Yaitepec Chatino serving as his Doctoral dissertation. Only one of the other Chatino languages, that of Zenzontepec, has been described in the work of Troi Carleton (1997 and Carleton and Waksler 2000). There has also been work on Chatino languages by members of the Chatino community: Alfonso Merino, who has created didactic material for the Zenzontepec variety; Tomas Cruz, who promoted language and culture preservation through his writing and speeches with the Chatino community; and Mario Molina who continues his work with the bilingual teachers in Oaxaca, Mexico.

In the Chatino region, economic and political pressures have brought rapid decline in the number of speakers (28,000 according to the 2000 Mexican census). This undermines the new generation's motivation for maintaining their linguistic heritage and negatively influences their attitude towards their native language. According to the 2000 Mexican census, of the 3223 people populating San Juan Quiahije, the majority speak Chatino, except for an estimated 49 who
speak only Spanish. There are a total of 1740 people who are bilingual in both Chatino and Spanish, or 53% of the total population. The great majority of these (1557) are under 30. Because the vast majority of those who are bilingual are young it is probable that this community will be largely bilingual with increasing monolingualism in Spanish in 20 years.

Economy

Crops such as corn, beans, and squash are grown seasonally as food staples. Coffee is produced in small scale for individual economic gain. Overall food production is low because soil quality has been degraded due to decades long of incorrect pesticide use. Oaxaca is currently one of Mexico’s main timber producers. One of the most readily available sources of income for the community has been their timber. Since the Cieneguilla government lacks funds for community projects they have often turned to this natural resource for project funds. Over the past 10 years the main source of income for the community has been emigration. People leave their communities to work in the service sectors of Oaxaca City and United States.

The lack of opportunities has forced people to migrate to the cities and United States. This migration has made it difficult for the community to maintain their political system. Many of the human resources have left the community. Most of the middle aged and young men have left leaving behind elders, women,
and young children. Many indigenous people move "temporarily" from their community to work and send their income back home but often are away longer than ever planned. Migrants go and may work for as long as 10 years to send enough money home to buy a house.

**The aim of this work**

My goal is to raise the status of indigenous languages with the intention that non-profit organizations, the private and public sectors, and the scientific world can establish and use new standards for the equitable inclusion of indigenous people. I am Continuing to work to create an academic career of both teaching and research, centered on language in relation to culture and the environment of its speakers aimed at supporting the goals defined by the Chatino indigenous people and other communities with whom I will work. This work for my community and language is very important in that it is an opportunity for my culture and myself to document and preserve the largely undocumented Chatino language for our own cultural-linguistic integrity and self-determination.
Chapter 1-Phonology.

0. Introduction

The purpose of this work is to describe the phonological patterns in the Chatino language from San Juan Quiahije and propose, an orthography. My interest is to create a complete writing system for the municipality of San Juan Quiahije, in which includes the community of Cieneguilla. I agree with Jeff Rasch’s (2002:1) point that borrowing heavily from Spanish orthography would make it easier to carry out with typewriters and limited word processors, make it more accessible for the speakers, and make it most useful for future linguistic documentation. Rasch further suggested using the number “7” for glottal stop and “n” for nasalization of vowels. In this work I will be using the basic overall orthography that Rasch recommended for Yaitepec Chatino, a slightly different Chatino variety. Furthermore I will be using apostrophe (’) for laminal-alveolar position consonants, as well as for the palatal stops.

Under the direction of Dr. Woodbury, I took up the task of creating the following phonetic and orthographic analysis. According to our work there are 34 consonants in all. The consonants are arranged according to the places and manners of their articulation.
1. Phonetic Inventory.

a) Consonant summary chart

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Bilabial</th>
<th>Apical-Dental</th>
<th>Laminal-Alveolar</th>
<th>Palatal</th>
<th>Velar</th>
<th>Labial Velar</th>
<th>Laryngeal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stop</td>
<td>p, b</td>
<td>t, d</td>
<td>t', d'</td>
<td>k', g'</td>
<td>k, g</td>
<td>kw, gw</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Affricate</td>
<td>ts, dz</td>
<td>ch, dz'</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fricative</td>
<td>s</td>
<td>x</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>j</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flap</td>
<td>r</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lateral</td>
<td>l, l'</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nasal</td>
<td>m</td>
<td>n, 7n,</td>
<td>n', 7n'</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glide</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>y, 7y, jy</td>
<td>w, 7w, jw</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

b) Vowel summary chart.

There are five vowels and they come in 4 rime series (note that “n” signals nasalization of the vowel, and it is not a separate segment):

Vowel Chart

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Non-glottal</th>
<th>Glottal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>u</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>e</td>
<td>o</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>in</td>
<td>un</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>en</td>
<td>on</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a</td>
<td>n</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>i7</td>
<td>u7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>e7</td>
<td>o7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a</td>
<td></td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>in7</td>
<td>un7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>en7</td>
<td>on7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2. Syllable structure.

Before discussing and illustrating each sound, however we must first place the segmental phonology in the context of Chatino syllable structure. There are the following syllables structures in San Juan Quiahijе:

cv
ccv (with ncv a special case)
nccv

For each syllable structure we get all four rimes series in the vowel.

a) cv:

7o   y
7o   with you
7u   alive
ji   missing
ji   ashes
ji   skunk
ji   expenses
ke   flower
ke   head
ke   rock
ki   grass
ki   bamboo
ko   huge
ko   cloud
k'o  rain
la   church
la-ti almost
lo-kya7 market
lo-nten mountain
l'o-l'a take out
ne now
ne sound
sa-nu suddenly
si butterfly
cvn:
| tan     | I will give       | tsan | day    |
| kwan    | up                | tsan | lets go|
| kan     | you come          | tsen | fog    |
| kon     | I will eat        | tson | warm   |
| kun     | I will eat        | son  | root   |
| kon     | sweet potato      | son  | they fought |
| k’an    | will come         | ton  | who    |
| kin     | my head           | sen  | sand   |
| sen     | calm              | son  | old    |
| 7wan    | you all           | yan  | came   |
| tan     | grease            | yan  | poison |
cv7:
| cha7    | word              | ki7  | fire   |
| chu7    | badger            | kwe7 | pig    |
| ja7     | carpet            | jl’a7| bitter |
| k’a7    | feet (petate)     | kwa7 | work for a party |
| k’a7    | up                | kwi7 | ring   |
| ku7     | dirty             | te7  | fabric |
piece  ya7  hand
kwe7  crab  ma7  smashed
kwe7  pig  yu7  humming bird
kwi7  affirmation  kwi7  baby
kwi7  ring  na7  I
l’a7  outside  sa7  to rip
li7  parrot  si7  next to
t’a7  slow  t’e7  acid (food)
ta7  sound  to7  sound
xe7  weasel  ku7  to dress
cvn7:

chin7  little
chon7  back
chon7  my back
chon7  our back
jan7  then
kan7  that
kan7  then
kwen7  armadillo
sin7  nose
yan7  my hand
yan7  our hand

b) ccv:

sla  3 sg. open
sla  2 sg. open
sna  2 sg. run
sna  3 sg. run
sna  apple
sna  2 sg. shoes
sna  3 sg. shoes
sna  I run
sna  my shoes
sta  2 sg. smashed
sta  2 sg. open
sta  3 sg. open
sti  3 sg. smile
ston 2 sg. cut
x7e rooster
x7i little
x7i 2 sg. will buy
xta line
xti machete
xti 2 sg. laying down

ccvn:

jy7an I wash
jy7an 2 sg. wash
jy7an 3 sg. washes
jy7an 3 pl. wash
jy7an washed
jy7an 3 sg. mom
jy7an 2 sg. mom
jy7an Inc. mom
jy7an- wa we washed
stan 1 pilled
stan 2 sg. pilled
stan 3 sg. pilled
stan 3 pl. pilled
sten my father
ston 1 sg. cut
ston 2 sg. cut

ccv7:

kti7 It will untangling
kn’a7 chile
kn’a7 honey
kn’a7 rat
kn’a7 brief case
kno7 worm
ska7 gourd
sku7 grasshopper
kt’e7 ant
k’ti spirit
kt’i7  frog

c) ncv:

nka  yesterday
nkwa  you were
nkwa  you were
nkwa  was
nkwi  boiled
ncv7:
nda7  broken
nda7  fruit (huajinicuil)
nke7  cooked
ntsa7  he told
ntsa7  wheat

ncvn:
nkwan  I was
nkwen  I vomited
nkwen  you vomited
nkwen  he vomited

ncvn7:  not found

d) ncev:

nk7a  green
nk7a  red
nk7a  fire red
ntja  3 sg. lazy
ntja  you lazy
ntja-wan  2 sg. are lazy

ncevn:
nt’kwen  it went up
nt’kwen  you went up
nt’kwen  we are talking
3. Compounds:

Technically any word of more than one syllable is a compound. In Jeff Rasch’s (2002:4-5) discussion on syllables, he argues for Yaitepec Chatino that they may have a second “neutral” vowel nucleus. However, in Quiahije Chatino, all of these are simple monosyllables, sometimes showing the historical neutral vowel /i/ as a palatalization of a proceeding velar.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Older speakers</th>
<th>Rasch Yaitepec</th>
<th>of Quiahije</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ti7a</td>
<td>t’7a</td>
<td>water</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>t7a</td>
<td>t’7a</td>
<td>party</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kita</td>
<td>k’ta</td>
<td>dust</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kta</td>
<td>kta</td>
<td>you will bath</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kti</td>
<td>kti</td>
<td>fragile</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ki7o</td>
<td>k’7o</td>
<td>lime (for corn)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kicha7n</td>
<td>k’chan7</td>
<td>hair</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kila</td>
<td>k’la</td>
<td>male</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kwe7</td>
<td>kwe7</td>
<td>crab</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kuwe7</td>
<td>kwe7</td>
<td>pork</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kwrya7</td>
<td>jwjya7</td>
<td>rich</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4.0  The consonant phonemes are as presented in the consonant and summery chart. Before systematically considering them according to their place of articulation, let me make a general comment on the voicing of stops and affricates.

The voiced stops and affricatives /b, d, dz, d’, dz’, g’, g, gw/ only occurs after a nasal. However, often a nasal their voiceless counter parts can also occur, as the following minimal pairs show:

| /d/  | nden | are collecting |
| /t/  | nten | people         |
| /dz/ | ndzi | got of fire    |
| /ts/ | ntsi | fruit (nanche) |
| /d’/ | nd’I | gone           |
| /t’/ | nt’I | garbage        |
| /dz’/| ndz’in| monkey         |
| /ch/ | nchin| untangle       |
| /g’/ | ng’in| to take it     |
| /k’/ | nk’in| burned         |
| /g/  | ngan | 3 sg. throw    |
| /k/  | nkan | I am           |
| /gw/ | ngwen| ripe           |
| /kw/ | nkwen| vomited        |

The minimal pairs prove that voicing stops is phonemic, even thought there contrasts are restricted to post-nasal environments. No pairs were available
for /p, b/, while are very limited sounds and which could, technically be collapses as a single phoneme.

4.1 The bilabials

The bilabials are unusual in the language. Most of those found in the lexicon are borrowed from Spanish, although this is not always the case for the phoneme /b/, which occurs in a few lexical items that are not Spanish borrowings.

4.1.1 /p/

The phoneme /p/ is a bilabial voiceless stop [p] represented as “p” in the orthography. Most of the lexical items with /p/ are from Spanish, but a few are apparently native words.

The phoneme /p/ is found as follows:

As c in cv:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
<th>Source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>pendejo4</td>
<td>asshole</td>
<td>(&gt; Span.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pericu4</td>
<td>parrot</td>
<td>(&gt; Span.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pero4</td>
<td>but</td>
<td>(&gt; Span.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pantalon4</td>
<td>pants</td>
<td>(&gt; Span.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pala4</td>
<td>shovel</td>
<td>(&gt; Span.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pi</td>
<td>turkey</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As c1 in ccv:

ple stupid

As c2 in ccv: Not found

As c in ncv: Not found
As c1 in nccv: Not found
As c2 in nccv: Not found

4.1.2 /b/

The phoneme /b/ is a bilabial voiced stop [b] represented as “b” in the orthography. It is also not a common consonant, and it is generally found in borrowed Spanish words. It only occurs after a nasal consonant.

As c in ncv:

mba4 compadre (> Span.)
mbo3 plant

As c in cv: Not found
As c in ccv: Not found
As c2 in ccv: Not found
As c1 in nccv: Not found
As c2 in nccv: Not found

4.1.3 /m/

The phoneme /m/ is found in borrowed Spanish vocabulary, specially people’s names. Rasch also lists “nw” pronounced as [m] in Yaitepec as a bilabial nasal in word initial position. However, Yaitepec “nw” surfaces in San Juan Quiahije Chatino as /n/ or not at all:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yaitepec</th>
<th>Quiahije</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>nwkin</td>
<td>nkin</td>
<td>burned</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

19
The phoneme /m/ is found as follows:

As c in cv:

Melaa3    Carmela    (> Span.)
Maraa4    Mara        (> Span.)
Marcu4    Marcos      (> Span.)
Mbaa4     compadre    (> Span.)
ma7       smashed     (> Span.)

As c in ccv: Not found

As c2 in ccv: Not found

As c in ncv: Not found

As c1 in nccv: Not found

As c2 in ccv: Not found

4.2 Apical-dental

The apical-dentals are t, d, ts, dz, s, r, l, n, 7n. They are produced by putting the very tip of the tongue against the back of the teeth.

4.2.1 /t/

This is an apical dental voiceless stop [t], written as “t” in the orthography. The phoneme /t/ is found as follows:
As c in cv:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Symbol</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ta</td>
<td>2 sg. will give</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ta</td>
<td>3 sg. will give</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ti</td>
<td>ten</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ti</td>
<td>root</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As c1 in ccv:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Symbol</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>t7a</td>
<td>party</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>t7a</td>
<td>3 sg. sibling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>t7a</td>
<td>2 sg. sibling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>t7i</td>
<td>3 sg. sick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>t7i</td>
<td>2 sg. sick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>t7i</td>
<td>you are sick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>t7a</td>
<td>party</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tla</td>
<td>hard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>t’la</td>
<td>lunch</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As c2 in ccv:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Symbol</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>kti</td>
<td>smooth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sta</td>
<td>3 sg. smashed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sta</td>
<td>2 sg. smashed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sti</td>
<td>2 sg. father</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>xta</td>
<td>line</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As c in ncv:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Symbol</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>nta</td>
<td>smashed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nta</td>
<td>2 sg. waited</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nta</td>
<td>black</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nta</td>
<td>2 sg. planted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nti</td>
<td>garbage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ntu</td>
<td>dress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ntu</td>
<td>stupid</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As c1 in nccv:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Symbol</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ntja</td>
<td>3 sg. is lazy</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ntja  2 sg. are lazy
ntka  3 sg. smart
ntka  2 sg. are smart
ntka  got well
ntka  you got well

as c2 in nccv:

nsti  3 sg. smiled
nsti  2 sg. smiled
nxti  3 sg. smiles
nxti  2 sg. smile
nxti  he lays down
nxti  2 sg. lay down

4.2.2  /d/

This is an apical dental voiced stop [d], written as “d” in the
orthography. The phoneme/d/ it only occurs after a nasal, as follows:

As c in ncv:

nda  2 sg. to give
nda  3 sg. gives
nda  you give
nda  beans
nde  here
ndi  3 sg. thirsty

As c1 in nccv:

ndya  all
ndye  2 sg. well
ndye  3 sg well
ndye  2 sg. take it
ndyu  2 sg. falling
ndyu  3 sg. fell
ndla  3 sg. sings
ndla  fast
ndle  napkin

As c2 in nccv: Not found

4.2.3  /ts/

This is an apical dental voiced stop \([t^S]\), written as “ts” in the orthography. This sound is a single integral affricate. The phoneme /ts/ is found as follows:

As c in cv:

tsa  tied
tsa  2 sggo fut.
tsa  3 sggo fut.

As c1 in ccv: Not found

As c2 in ccv:

ktsa-ri7 learn your lesson
ktsa-ri7 3 sg. learn a lesson
ktsi  yellow

As c in ncv:

Ntsi  fruit (nanche)
Ntson  warm
Ntsi  2 sig. to hide
Ntsa7  told
Ntsa7  got wet

As c1 in nccv: not found
As c2 in nccv: not found

4.2.4  /dz/

This is an apical dental voiced stop [dʒ], written as “dz” in the orthography. This sound is also a single integral affricate [dʒ], the voiced counterpart of /ts/. It is written as “dz” in the orthography. As with all the voiced stops and affricates, it only occurs after a nasal. The phoneme /dz/ is not very common. It is found as follows:

As c in cv: Not found

As c1 in ccv: Not found

As c2 in ccv: Not found

As c in ncv:

7o  ndzi  god of fire

The lexical item is used to describe the rock that is used for a new born ceremony. It is possible that it is the name for fire in 7o-ndzi “god of fire.” Note a possible semantic connection with “orange” and “fire” listed just below.

As c1 in nccv:

ndzwa7  herb (hierva santa Span.)
ndzwen  orange
ndzwi7  charcoal
As c2 in ncv: Not found

4.2.5 /s/

This is an apical-dental tap [s], “s” in the orthography. The phoneme /s/ is found as follows:

As c in cv:

sa 3sg. fast
sa 2sg. fast
sa cup
si butterfly
si borrowed from Spanish yes.

As c1 in ccv:

s7an full
s7en scorpion
s7en I bought
s7en-nu where
skon arm
skwan corn flavor (masa)
sta smash
stan7 branch
sten plum (ciruela in Spanish)
sten feather
ston ribbon

As c2 in ccv:

ksa will break
ksi cruz
ksu its back
ksu avocado

As c in ncv: Not found
As c1 in nccv:

nska you are laying
nskwon I am laying
nskwa they are laying
nskwon we are laying

As c2 in nccv: Not found

4.2.6 /r/

This is an apical-dental flap [ɾ] or, occasionally, trill [r], “r” in the orthography. The phoneme /r/ is not common in the language, but it occurs in certain words for directions. The phoneme /r/ is found as follows:

As c in cv:

ra time
ren7 them
ri-7ya down
ri-ka left
ri-kwan up
ri-kwen right handed
ri-ky7 up there
ri-nde over here
ri7 bald
ru7 wrinkled

As c1 in ccv: Not found

As c2 in ccv: Not found

As c in ncv:
nra    scratched

As c1 in nccv: Not found

As c2 in nccv: Not found

4.2.7  /l/

This is an apical-dental lateral [l], “l” in the orthography. It is pronounce

[~] when it follows [j] or precedes a voiceless consonant. The phoneme /l/ is

found as follows:

As c in cv:

  la    take
  la    open
  la-ti fast
  li7    swing
  lo    surface
  lu    liver

As c1 in ccv:

  jL7ya  2 sg. tooth
  jl7ya  3 sg. tooth

As c2 in ccv:

  jla    mean
  jla    night
  jle    community leader
  jlo    skirt
  jlo    his face
  jlo    2 sg face
  jlo    first time
  kla    fish
  kla    to work in the field
kla  fish
kla  twenty
klu  soup
klu  3 sg. will grow
klu  2 sg. will grow
sli  pants
slu  splinter
xla  chocolate
yla  3 sg. arrived
yla  2 sg. arrived
ylu  it felt

As c in ncv:

nla  his is singing
nla  you sing
nla  sing (habitual)
nla  are being born

As c1 in nccv: Not found

As c2 in nccv: Not found

4.2.8 /n/

This is a nasal apical-dental nasal [n], “n” in the orthography. Before [k, g] it is pronounced [N]. Before [t, t] it is voiceless. It is also voiceless after [J].

The phoneme /n/ is found as follows:

As c in cv:

na  things
na  2 sg. cried
na  3 sg. cry
ne  today
ne  2 sg. asked
ne  3 sg. asked
ni  strait
As c1 in ccv:

nda beans
ndzi god of fire
nga is
ngwi it is clean
nka yesterday
nkwi old (item)
nle napkin
nra scratched
nsi fruit (nanche)
nta black
ntsa it broke

As c2 in ccv:

Xna Josefina
xna 1 sg. run
xna 2 sg. run
xna 3 sg. run
xni 1 sg. take
xni 2 sg. take
sni 1 sg. took
sni 2 sg. took
sni 3 sg. took
sni smoke
sni penis
jna7 meat
jne7 young
jne blood
jne to spray
jni money
jno big
nda jne7 green beans
nda jno tipe of beans (frijolon in Spanish)
ti jna mecapal (rope to carry things)
As n in ncv: Not found

As c1 in nccv Not found

As c2 in nccv Not found

As n in nccv:

ntja  lazy

4.2.10/7n/

This is an apical dental pre-glottalized nasal [n], “7n” in the orthography. The phoneme/7n/ is found as follows:

As c in cv:

7na  sympathy
7na  pure
7ne  animal
7ne  2 sg. did
7ne  3 sg. did
7ne  to touch
7ne  direction
7ne  hit
7ni  deep
tis-7ne  before

As c1 in ccv: Not found

As c2 in ccv:

s7na  infrequent
s7na  food from a party
s7ne  long ago
x7na  cheap
x7na  3 sg. owner
x7na  2 sg. your bass
x7ni  scary

As c in ncv:  Not found
As c1 in nccv: Not found
As c2 in nccv: Not found

4.3 Laminal Alveolar

The laminal alveolars are t’, d’, ch’, d’, ch, dz’, x, l’, n’7n’. They are produced by putting the blade of the tongue against the alveolar ridge.

4.3.1 /t’/

This is a laminal alveolar stop [t¶], “t’” in the orthography. The phoneme /t’/ is found as follows:

As c in cv:

| t’a | 2 sg. give back |
| t’a | 3 sg. give back |
| t’i | everything |
| t’iu7 | salty |
| t’u | brick |

As c1 in ccv:

| t’jyu7 | far |
| t’kan7 | since then |
| t’kan7 | since then |
| t’ke7 | hot |
| t’kwi7 | talk |
As c2 in ccv:

kt’e7  ant
jyt’i  dried
kt’i  paper
st’in  feather
xt’i 2 sg. smiles
xt’i 3 sg. smiles
xt’i  machete
xt’u  clay pot (jarro)
x’t’u he made it fall

As c in ncv:

nt’a 2 sg. to shower
nt’a 3 sg. to shower
nt’i 3 sg. to nurse
nt’i 2 sg. to nurse

As c1 in nccv:

nt’7ya he is carrying it
nt’7ya you bring
nt’kwi7 3 sg. talks
nt’kwi7 3 sg. is saying
nt’kwi7 2 sg. says
nt’7o-cha7 this is how it is.
n’t’ku 3 sg. eats
nt’ku 2 sg. eats
nt’kwen7 3 sg. swallows
nt’kwen7 2 sg. shallows
nt’ke7 3 sg. angry
nt’ke7 2 sg. angry
nt’ja was found
nt’ke7 upset
nt’kin is burning
nt’kon7 close
nt’kon7  to wear cloths
nt’ku7    2 sg wears
nt’ku      3 sg. eats

As c2 in nccv: Not found

4.3.2  /d’/

This is a voiceless laminal alveolar [dᵊ], “d’” in the orthography. It only
occurs after a nasal. The phoneme /d/ is found as follows:

As c in cv:

As c in ncv:

nd’e     to take it
nd’e     well being
nd’i     finished
nd’i-skwa to laid down
nd’i-sna  started
nd’i-tkwa sat down
nd’i-ton  got up

As c1 in nccv:

nd’ga    everything
nd’wi7    off
nd’wi7    said

As c2 in nccv  Not found

4.3.3 /ch/

This is a laminal alveolar affricate [tʃ], “ch” in the orthography. The
phoneme /ch/ is found as follows:
As c in cv:

cha7 word
chin7 little
chon7 back
chu7 pineapple
chon7 my back
che friend (only for men)
cha sharpen

As c1 in ccv: Not found
As c2 in ccv:

kchi tiger (monster)
kchi rock to grain
kchan7 hair
kcha sun

As c in ncv:

ncha 2 sg. broke it
ncha 3 sg. broke it
nchan brake
ncha7 2 sg. got wet
nchan7 3 sg. got wet
nchan7 1 sg. got wet

As c1 in nccv Not found
As c2 in nccv Not found

4.3.4 /dz’/

This is a laminal alveolar affricate [dz], “dz’” in the orthography. The phoneme /dz’/ has been found in only a single lexical item:

As c in ncv:
ndz’in  monkey

4.3.5 /x/

This is a laminal alveolar fricative [s], “x” in the orthography. The phoneme /x/ is found as follows:

As c in cv:

xa  light
xa  mass
xi  sweet
xi  tomato
xin  wide

As c1 in ccv:

xke7  imagination
xta  line
xt’i  he smiles
xkin7  crooked
xka7  fly
xka  to pull

As c2 in ccv:  Not found

As c in ncv:  Not found

As c1 in nccv: Not found

nxkwan  1 sg. to lay down (hab.)
nxkwan  2 sg. to lay down (hab.)
nxkwa  3 sg. to lay down (hab.)
nxkwan  we lay down (hab.)

As c2 in nccv: Not found
4.3.6 /l’/

This is a laminal alveolar lateral [l¶], “l’” in the orthography. The phoneme /l’/ is found as follows:

As c in cv:

l’o l’a take it out
l’on I felt
l’u 2 sg. felt
l’u 3 sg. felt
xa-l’u mezcal
xa- l’u world

As c1 in ccv:

l’wi clean
xa-lwi lighting

As c2 in ccv:

sl’a7 cotton
tl’a7 its cold
xl’a will accept
xl’a worn
xl’u knife

As c in ncv:

nl’a7 2 sg. touches
nl’a7 3 sg. touches
nl’a7 1 sg. touch
nl’a sufficient
nl’a to get out

As c1 in nccv Not found

As c2 in nccv Not found
4.3.8  /n’/

This is a laminal alveolar nasal [n¶], “n’” in the orthography. The phoneme /n’/ is found as follows:

As c in cv:

n’a7  2sg washed
n’a7  3sg. washed
n’an  comal
n’an  movement
n’an7  1sg. washed

As c1 in ccv: Not found

As c2 in ccv:

kn’a7  chile
kn’a7  honey
kn’a7  dirty
jn’a  work
jn’a  1 sg. ask
jn’a  2 sg. ask
jn’a  3 sg. ask

As c in ncv: Not found

As c1 in nccv: Not found

As c2 in nccv: Not found

4.3.10  /7n’/

Is a pre-glottalized laminal alveolar nasal [/n¶], “7n’” in the orthography.

The phoneme /7n’/ is found as follows.
As c in cv:

7n'an    my
7n'an    elegant
7n'an    hunger
7n'o     fifteen

As c1 in ccv:  Not found

As c2 in ccv:

x7n’a jn’a piece of clay (pedazo de comal in Spanish)

As c in ncv:    Not found
As c1 in nccv: Not found
As c2 in nccv: Not found

4.4 Velar phonemes /k/g/.

4.4.1 /k/

This is a velar stop [k], “k” in the orthography. The phoneme /k/ is found as follows:

As c in cv:

ke    flower
ke    head
ke    rock
ki    bamboo
ki    grass
ko    huge
ko    cloud

As c1 in ccv:

klaa    fish
klaa  twenty
klu   soup
kna   snake
kni   bird
ksi   yellow
ksi   cruz
ksu   back from maguey
ksu   avocado
kta   dust
kta   cigars
kta-k7yaa   edible plant (quintoniles)
kti   smooth
ktu   chicken

As c2 in ccv:

jyka   tree
jykwa  corn drink
k7ni   deep
xka    another
xka    pull

As c in ncv:

nka   yesterday
nka7   leaves
nke7   cooked
nkin   burn
nko    big

As c1 in nccv:

nk7a  red
nk7a  green
nk7a  life red
nk7i  roasted

As c2 in nccv:

nt’kun   1 sg. eats (hab.)
nt’ku 2 sg. eat (hab.)
nt’ku 3 sg. eats (hab.)
nt’kun we eat (hab.)

4.4.2 /g/

This is a velar stop [g], “g” in the orthography. It occurs as follows:

As c in cv: Not found
As c1 in ccv: Not found
As c2 in ccv: Not found

As c in ncv:

nga is
nga you are
ngan coconut
ngan I am
ngan we are

As c1 in nccv: Not found
As c2 in nccv:

nd’ga everything (older speakers, younger speakers have ndya)

The above example, from an older speaker, is remarkable in that the initial nasal affects the voicing not only of /d’/ but also of /g/.

4.5 Palatals are k’, g’, y, 7y, jy.

4.51 /k’/
This is a velar stop [k’], “k’” in the orthography, the phoneme /k’/ is found as follows:

As c in cv:

k’a 2 sg. go
k’a 3 sg. go
k’an lets go
k’o rain
k’o7 maguey

As c1 in ccv:

k’7o lime
k’chín San Juan Quiahije
k’ja tortilla
k’t’e forest
k’t’in lice
k’laa male
tii-k’n’a candle

As c2 in ccv: Not found

As c in ncv: Not found

As c1 in nccv: Not found

As c2 in nccv: Not found

4.5.2 /g’/

This is a palatal stop [g’], “g’” in the orthography, the phoneme /g’/ is always after a nasal, is found as follows:

As c in cv: not found

As c1 in ccv: not found
As c2 in ccv: not found

As c in ncv:

ng’a       is gone
ng’a       blend
ng’an      you are coming

As c1 in nccv: Not found
As c2 in nccv: Not found

4.5.3 /y/

This is a palatal glide [j], “y” in the orthography. This phoneme is found as follows:

As c in cv:

ya        cactus
yo        food
yu        earth
yu7       humming bird

As c1 in ccv: Not found
As c2 in ccv:

jwyu       horse

As c in ncv:

n’an       3 sg. arrived
n’an       everything
N’an       Antonieta

As c1 in nccv: Not found
As c2 in nccv:

ndya   exist

4.5.3 /7y/

This is a pre-glottalized palatal glide [/y], “7y” in the orthography, the phoneme /7y/ is found as follows:

As c in cv:

7ya   down
7ya   things to see
7ya   eagle
7yu   flies
7yu   five

As c1 in ccv: Not found

As c2 in ccv:

s7ya   2 sg. screamed
s7ya   3 sg. screamed
s7ya   your fault
s7ya   his fault
x7ya   you cry
x7ya   3 sg. cries

As c in ncv: Not found

As c1 in nccv: Not found

As c2 in nccv: Not found

4.5.4 /jy/
This is a palatal glide [jy], “jy” in the orthography, the phoneme /jy/is found as follows:

As c in cv:

| jya   | sugar cane   |
| jyan  | corn field   |
| jyan  | 2 sg. come   |
| jyan  | 3 sg. comes  |

As c1 in ccv:

| jy7an | mom          |
| jy7an | washed       |
| jy7we | wings        |
| jy7we | piece        |
| jy7wi | existence    |
| jyjo  | squash       |
| jyka  | tree         |
| jyku  | eat          |
| jyt’i | it dried     |
| jyja  | tortilla     |
| jy7o  | 2 sg. drank  |
| jy7o  | 3 sg. drank  |
| jy7a  | green        |

As c2 in ccv: Not found

As c in ncv: Not found

As c1 in nccv: Not found

As c2 in nccv: not found

4.6 Labio-velar kw, gw, w, 7w, jw.

4.6.1 /kw/
This is a labio-velar fricative. [kw], “kw” in the orthography, the phoneme /kw/ is found as follows:

As c in cv:

kwa  
  _broom_

kwa  2 sg. swipe
kwa  3 sg. swipe
kwan  up
kwan  heat
nu-kwa  that

As c1 in ccv: Not found

As c2 in ccv:

skwa 23  six
skwa 3  his is laying down
skwa1  Easter
skwa2  soup
skwa4  chayote
skwa742  shell
skwa712  cucaracha
skwa713  corn
skwan32  I am laying down
skwan42  corn

As c in ncv:

nkwa  I counted
nkwa  you counted
nkwa  happened
nkwi  when bad

As c1 in nccv: Not found

As c2 in nccv:
nxkwa 2sg. lay down (hab.)
nxkwa 3sg. lay down (hab.)
nxkwan I lay down (hab.)
nxkwan 2sg. sew
nxkwen 2sg. to answer
nt’kwen 1 sg. talk (hab.)
nt’kwi 2 sg. talk (hab.)
nt’kwi 3 sg. talk (hab.)
nt’kwen we talk (hab.)

4.6.2 /gw/

This is a labio-velar fricative. [gw], “gw” in the orthography, The phoneme /gw/ is only found after a nasal, it is found as follows:

As c in ncv:

ngwa was
ngwa you wore
ngwan we wore
ngwen ripe
ngwi clean

As c1 in nccv: Not found
As c2 in nccv Not found

4.6.3/w/

This is a labial-velar glide [w], “w” in the orthography, The phoneme /w/ is found as following:

As c in cv:

wa already
ware we exclusive
As c1 in ccv: Not found

As c2 in ccv:

lwi   clean
jyjwi  hit

As c in nev: Not found

As c1 in nccv: Not found

As c2 in nccv: Not found

4.6.4 /7w/

This is a labio-velar glide [/w], “7w” in the orthography, The phoneme /7w/ is found as follows:

As c in cv:

7wa   banana
7wa   it got cold
7we   bottle

As c1 in ccv: Not found

As c2 in ccv:

jy7we   piece
jy7wi  it was
jy7wi  you wore
jy7wi  it was

As c in nev: Not found

As c1 in nccv: Not found

As c2 in nccv: Not found
As c2 in nccv: Not found

4.6.5 /jw/

This is a labio-velar glide [jw], “jw” in the orthography. The phoneme /jw/ is found as follows:

As c in cv:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>jwi</th>
<th>whistling</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>jwa</td>
<td>long</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>jwi</td>
<td>got</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As c1 in ccv:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Elder generation</th>
<th>younger generation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>jwya7 mushroom</td>
<td>jya7 mushroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>jwya7 soap</td>
<td>jya7 soap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>jwya7 to measure</td>
<td>jya7 to measure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>jwyu horse</td>
<td>jyu horse</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As c2 in ccv: Not found

As c in ncv: Not found

As c1 in nccv: Not found

As c2 in nccv:

nkjwi die

Notice that in clusters with following y, the phoneme /jw/ was found in Quiahije only in the elders speech; in such cases, it is lost in the speech of the younger generation.
4.7  Laryngeal /l/ and /j/

4.7.1  /ʔ/

This is a laryngeal stop [ʔ], “ʔ” in the orthography. The phoneme /ʔ/ is found as follows:

As c in cv:

\begin{tabular}{ll}
\text{7an} & \text{weak} \\
\text{7o} & \text{and} \\
\text{7o} & \text{with you} \\
\text{7u} & \text{alive} \\
\end{tabular}

As c1 in ccv: Not found

As c2 in ccv:

\begin{tabular}{ll}
\text{tu-x7in} & \text{guts} \\
\text{x7e} & \text{rooster} \\
\text{x7i} & \text{little time} \\
\end{tabular}

As c in ncv:

\begin{tabular}{ll}
\text{s7an} & \text{full} \\
\text{s7en} & \text{scorpion} \\
\text{s7en-nu} & \text{where} \\
\end{tabular}

As c1 in nccv  Not found

As c2 in nccv:

\begin{tabular}{ll}
\text{n7an} & \text{saw} \\
\text{nd7an} & \text{house} \\
\text{nd7an} & \text{is going} \\
\text{nd7en} & \text{it was} \\
\end{tabular}
4.7.2 /j/

This is a laryngeal fricative [x], “j” in the orthography. The phoneme /j/ is found as follows:

As c in cv:

ja  negation
ja7  petate
je  rash
je  herb (epazote Span.)
ji  ashes
ji  not enough
jun  thread

As c1 in ccv: Not found

As c2 in ccv:

jyja  tortilla
jyjo  squash
kjin  skin

As c in ncv: Not found

As c1 in nccv: Not found

As c2 in nccv: Not found

5. Vowels

The five basic vowels in Chatino occur in four rimes which are: five non-nasal and non-glottal, five nasal, five glottal, and five nasal glottal. This makes a total of twenty vowels.
Vowel Chart

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Non-glottal</th>
<th>Glottal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>i7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>u</td>
<td>u7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>e</td>
<td>e7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>o</td>
<td>o7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>a</td>
<td>a7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>in</td>
<td>in7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>un</td>
<td>un7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>en</td>
<td>en7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>on</td>
<td>on7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>a</td>
<td>an7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>n</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5.1.1 C-#

Chatino    English

cha       sharp
che       friend
ja        available
ji        spend
jl’a      Ixpantepec
jl’o      cover up
jla       mean
jle       cargo
jli       slippery
jlo       first
jna       will ask
jne       blood
jni       money
jno       big
jwa       long (skirt)
jwi       it got
jya       cane sugar
jyu       horse

51
ka it can be
ke flower
ki grass
ko clouds
ku you will eat
kwa broom
l’é healthy
la fast
lo surface
lu liver
ma mom
ne now
pi turkey
ra now
re here
sa fast
si butterfly
su tirado
t’a squirrel
t’e soul
t’i will be gone
t’u brick
ta you will give
ti rope
tsa you will go
tsi Zacatepec
wa ready
xa light
xi sweet
ya cactus
yo food (sangrita)
yu earth

c-#-n

Chatino English
tan grease
tsan day
sun in the ground
lon instead of me
jlan 1 sg. take away fut.
jlon 1 sg. take out fut.
t’an I am smart
t’in feelings
t’on I stand fut.
xin wide
kwi7-ran those
l’en I am healthy
jl’ion I am cover up
n’an is here
7n’an hunger
j’n’an will ask
yan poison
yon moli
7yan I took
jyan corn field
jyun sarong
kan 3 come fut.
kin my head
kon sweet potato
kun 1 sg. eat fut.
kwan 1 sg. sweep
jan I am available
jin I spend

c-#{-7

cha7 language
che7 thorn
ja7 palm layer (petate)
jl’a7 bitter
jla7 fresh
jna7 meat
jne7 young
jya7 soap
jyu7 3 sg. excavated
ka7 wood
We plan futures studies on the phonetics of the vowel length, which seems to vary according to falling (shorter) us non falling (longer) glottalized-final (shorter) as non-glottalized final, non nasal (shorter) us nasal (longer) and simply facultative expressive differences.
Conclusion

At this point Dr. Woodbury and I will continue working on tones and decide on the extent to which they should be represented in the orthography. My immediate linguistic goal is: To create materials to be utilized on a local level for Chatino literacy and Chatino language study in primary, secondary and high schools.
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VITA

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