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SOME EASTERN JAMILTEPEC MIXTEC PHRASE CONSTRUCTIONS

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0. Introduction

1. Single-centered phrases
2. Multicentered phrases
3. Noncentered phrases
4. Summary

0. This paper describes some Eastern Jamiltepec Mixtec¹ (hereafter EJM) phrase constructions in a Tagmemic framework. The phrases presented are single-centered, multicentered, or noncentered. A single-centered phrase has one Head around which subordinate elements orbit. A multicentered phrase has two or more Heads in coordinate relationship, each Head having the privilege of occurring

¹ Perhaps as many as fifteen Mixtec languages are spoken by about 250,000 people in Western Oaxaca and the neighboring areas of the Guerrero and Puebla, Mexico. The data for this paper were gathered in Chayuco, Jamiltepec, Oaxaca by Brenda Pensinger during field trips in 1966-67, under the auspices of the Summer Institute of Linguistics. Larry Lyman then collaborated in the analysis and prepared the material for publication at the Centro de Estudios Manuel Gamio, Itzmiquilpan, Hidalgo, Mexico. It is estimated that 30,000 people speak the form of Mixtec of Chayuco and surrounding towns. The principal informant in the final stages of analysis of this paper was Crescencio Serrano of Chayuco. A concordance of native texts prepared by Pensinger and Miss Patricia Cowan and processed at the University of Oklahoma Research Center under a National Science Foundation grant was of inestimable assistance in the analysis. The phonemes of EJM are: voiceless stops /p t ty k q [ky] ʔ/, prenasalized stops /b d dy g/, fricatives /v θ s š/, nasals /m n ñ/, liquids /l ʃ/, semivowel /y/, vowels /i e ī a u o/, nasalization /ɰ/, and tone /' (high), /' (low), and unmarked (mid).

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with its own subordinate elements. A noncentered phrase is bipartite with only one member having possible subordinate elements.

1. Four single-centered phrases will be described here: Attributive Noun Phrase, General Numeral Phrase, Specific Numeral Phrase, and Adjective Phrase.

The attributive noun phrase (NP) has a nominal (N) (a noun or pronoun) as Head which may have any of the following subordinate elements: a quantitative premargin of either a general quantity phrase (GQP) or a specific quantity phrase (SQP), or both, and a qualitative postmargin of up to two modifiers (M), a possessor (Po) and a deictic (D). Thus, NP = ±GQP ±SQP + N ±M² ±Po ±D.

The GQP and SQP are described below. A modifier may be an adjective phrase, an inventorial phrase, a locative phrase, or a derived nominal phrase. The Possessor may itself be an embedded NP or an object phrase. The Deictic may be any of three pronouns: *ya* ~ *iʔya* *this*, *ña* *that*, or *qá* ~ *yúqá* *that over there*.

The following are typical NPs: *qàʔà ità tutù* *many flower paper, many paper flowers*; *tadíʔí sà dyíʔí* *all thing little, all the children*; *θuʔ ra vàʔa* *same he good, the same good man*; *mínò kostúbréè vàʔa sà iyo ñuè ya* *one custom good that is town this, one good custom that there is in this town*; *tadíʔí uñì tàʔá θèʔe θiʔí ña* *all three number child female her, all three of her daughters*; *ñi ña sáʔnu θukú šáá* *one she old tall very, one very tall old lady*.

The general quantity phrase (GQP) occupies the first premargin position of an NP and consists of a quantifier (Q)

as Head with up to two intensifying modifiers following. The first modifier is realized as reduplication (R) of the head Q, the second is the adverb *qíí* *very*. Thus, GQP = +Q ± R ± *qíí*. Examples of the GQP are: *tadiʔí qíí* *all very, every bit*; *kadî kadî qíí* *all all very, every last bit*; *θuq qíí* *same very, very same*.

The specific quantity phrase (SQP) occupies the second premarginal position of an NP and consists of a numeral (Num) as Head optionally modified by the numeral marker *tàʔá*. Thus, SQP = +Num ± *tàʔá*. Examples of the SQP are: *kùmi* *four*; *ùñi tàʔá* *three*.

The adjective phrase (AjP) occupies the Modifier position of an NP and has an adjective (Aj) as Head which may be modified by a small subset of adjectives such as *šàà* *sharp* and *vàʔa* *good*, here called intensifier adjectives (iaj). Thus, AjP = +Aj ± iaj. In the following examples of the AjP, note that since an iaj is a kind of Aj, it too may occupy the Head and be modified: *kàʔnu vàʔa* *big good, really big*; *kàʔnu šàà* *big sharp, very big*; *vàʔa šàà* *good sharp, really good*; *šàà vàʔa* *sharp good, very sharp*.

2. There are two main types of multi-centered phrases: the inventorial phrase and the appositive phrase. The inventorial phrase (IP) consists of two or more Head constituents which may be connected by one of the conjunctions (C) *ta* *and* or *à* *or*. Up to six Heads in a series have been observed in a text, but the usual number is two or three. A variety of inventorial expressions (Ix) may occupy the Head of an IP. Thus, IP = +Ix(±C + Ix)ⁿ (where $n \geq 1$).

Of single-centered phrases, only an NP or an AjP may occupy the Head of an IP; but any noncentered phrase may so occur. Examples of the IP are: *ityi ñiyòkó à ityi θadóʔo* *trail Pinotepa or trail Jamiltepec,*

on the Pinotepa trail or on the Jamiltepec trail; *kàʔnu šàà ta kání šàà* *big very and tall very, very big and very tall*; *ñiyaka diyáká* *night and day*; *síʔí θiʔi ra síʔí θùtù ra síʔí ñiyivi sii ra* *with mother his with father his with people (marker) he, with his mother, father, and relatives*.

The appositive phrase (ApP) consists of two or three constituents in apposition. The ApP differs from the IP in permitting no conjunction. All items in apposition so far observed have been contiguous. In most cases, phrases in apposition are NPs, locative phrases, or temporal phrases. When occupying the Head positions of the ApP, these elements are considered as members of a class of appositive expressions (Apx). Thus, ApP = +Apx + Apx ± Apx. Examples of the ApP are: *ra daʔví ra šùù itù parúú qá* *he poor he owner field melon that, the poor fellow who owns that melon patch*; *ña lúʔlu ña tyaa šità* *she little she pats tortillas, the little girl who pats out tortillas*; *dyà kuʔvà dyà vityi unto then unto now, from then until now*; *dyà ígà sqéla kàʔnu dyà reyes mateko dyà nù yukú θádú dyiʔi nù kúú glorià* *unto other school big unto Reyes Matecón unto where are saints little where is heaven, to another bit school to Reyes Matecón to heaven where the little saints are*.

3. A noncentered phrase is of relator-axis construction and is either a directive phrase, a locative phrase, a temporal phrase, an objective phrase, or an associative phrase. There are two other phrases which are of very similar construction and are included in this section as consisting of a relator and an axis. They are the specified nominal phrase and the derived nominal phrase.

The directive phrase (DP) occupies the Locative position of a clause. The Relator is a positional noun (p.n) and the Axis

an NP. Thus, DP = +p.n + NP. Examples of the DP are: *nù mèθá on table, on the table*; *sisi ve²e nù kúu gloriá inside house where is heaven, inside the house of heaven*; *šùu siyò ña under comal her, under her comal*; *sàtà ve²e back house, outside the house*; *sà²à tuña²mì foot yam-me, at the foot of my yams*; *šìñi yuku head mountain, top of the mountain*; *yu²u tìdyakà mouth plant, edge of the plant*.

The locative phrase (LP) may also occupy the Locative position of a clause. Three subtypes are distinguished from one another and from the DP by the list of elements that occupy the relator and axis positions of each.

Type one (LP1) consists of *nù where* as Relator and a clause as Axis. Thus, LP1 = +*nù* + Clause. Examples of the LP1 are: *nù so²o where went-you, where you went*; *nù yukú ñiyivi where are people, where people are*; *nù qa-tita²a yo where will-meet we, where will we meet*.

Type two (LP2) consists of either *ma²ñú middle* or *θava half* as Relator and either a DP or an LP as Axis. Thus, LP2 = +*ma²ñú/θava* + DP/LP. Examples of the LP2 are: *ma²ñú nù yukú ñiyivi center where are people, in the midst of the people*; *θava sisi kò²ò qá half inside plate that, in the center of that plate*.

Type three (LP3) consists of *dyà unto* as Relator and a locative expression (Lx) as Axis. An Lx is an NP, a DP, a place name, or an LP1. Thus, LP3 = +*dyà* + Lx. Examples of the LP3 are: *dyà mínò na²a qá to one woman that, to that one woman*; *dyà šuu ñu²u qá to under earth that, to under the earth*; *dyà ñiyòkó to Pinotepa*; *dyà nù qà-dòì to where will-stay-I, to where I will stay*.

The temporal phrase (TP) occupies the Time position of a clause. Its Relator is *dyà unto* and its Axis a temporal expression (Tx) which may be a time word, an LP1, an NP, or a Clause. Thus, TP =

+*dyà* + Tx. Examples of the TP are: *dyà ityàà until tomorrow*; *dyà nú ñi²i qíí kivi qá until where ends truly day that, until the day really ends*; *dyà mínò qiyà until one year*; *dyà kisi oó until come you, until you come*.

The object phrase (OP) functions as either the direct or indirect object of a clause, or as Po of an NP. In a clause containing both direct and indirect objects, the direct object usually precedes the indirect. The Relator of an OP is *sii*, a kind of case marker which identifies the axis as an object. The Axis is an object expression (Ox) which may be an NP, an ApP, or a pronoun. Thus, OP = +*sii* + Ox. Examples of the OP are: *(yu²ú si) sii tídu²ù qá (fears it) marker gnome that, (it fears) the gnome*; *(ñi²i yo) sii kiti sási parúú ya ra kuñéšú và²a qá (get we) marker animal eats melon this he rabbit good that, (we will get) that fine rabbit who is eating the melons*; *(sà²a ra) sii θè²e ra sii rà šátu qá (gave he) marker child his marker he younger that, (he gave) his child to the younger brother*; *isa²nu sii killed-you marker-me,² you killed me*; *dye²i sii si see-I marker it, I see it*.

In the case of an OP as the Po of an NP, the Axis is an MP or a pronoun, and when the latter is a first or second person singular pronoun, it may be either bound or free. Examples of an OP within an NP are: *(kaváyú θòndò) sii ña sà²nu sàtàdyàkà (horse domestic) marker she old hump-backed, the old humpbacked lady's (domestic horse)*; *(ñiyivi) sii ra lú²lu qá (people) marker he little that, the little boy's (relatives)*; *ve²e sii ra cu peθente house marker he is president, the president's house*.

² Morphophonemics is beyond the scope of this article, but it may help the reader to note that first and second singular bound pronouns fuse with the object marker *sii*, as follows: *sii + i (1s) → sii*, *sii + ú (2s) → sùú*.

The associative phrase (AsP) has $s\dot{i}^?i$ with as Relator. The Axis is an associative expression (Asx) which may be an NP, an ApP, a pronoun, or a clause. Thus, $AsP = +s\dot{i}^?i + Asx$. The AsP may occupy the Associative position of a clause and indicates with whom or with what the subject is performing the action. Examples are: (satasa^ʔá ra) $s\dot{i}^?i$ θádú dyi^ʔi qá (*danced he*) with saints little that, (*he danced*) with the little saints; (ko^ʔo) $s\dot{i}^?i$ (go) with-me; $s\dot{i}^?i$ sa ki^ʔvi kálú tyaya^ʔá qá nùù ña with already entered soup chili that eye her, with the chile soup already in her eye.

In clauses having a quotation as Object, the person to whom the quote is directed is expressed in EJM by the use of the AsP. Thus, in EJM, one does not quote “to” people but rather “with” people. In all other cases, an OP is used. An example of a quote with an AsP is: kudyéé míi katyisàdyi^ʔi $s\dot{i}^?i$ θàvi sà^ʔnu bear-it I said children with David old, I can stand it said the children to old David.

The specified nominal phrase (SNP) may occupy the Head of either an NP or another SNP. Its Relator is a specifier (sp) and its Axis a noun, adjective, or clause. Thus, $SNP = +sp + n/Aj/Clause$. There are three specifiers. In the case of a noun as Axis, the specifier indicates the gender of the noun: rá (*male*), ñà (*female*), and sà (*unspecified*). sà is always chosen when the Axis is a clause. Examples of the SNP are: rà dika^ʔa the (*male*) lion, sà léé the baby, ñà kòdò the (*female*) snake, rà yokó the eligible male.

The derived nominal phrase (DNP) occupies a nominal position of a clause or

the M of an NP. It has sà as Relator and a clause as Axis. Thus, $DNP = +sà + Clause$. Examples of the DNP are: sà kási ñiyivi that eat people, that which people eat; sà θavii ñu sii si that clean they marker it, their cleaning of it; sà θakù^ʔù ra sii that cause-go he me, to make me go; sà iyó ñuù ya that is town this, that there is in this town.

4. The phrases discussed in this article are repeated in this section. The single-centered phrases are:

$$NP = \pm GQP \pm SQP + N \pm M^2 \\ \pm Po \pm D$$

$$GQP = +Q \pm R \pm qíi$$

$$SQP = +Num \pm t\dot{a}^?á$$

$$AjP = +Aj \pm iaj$$

The multicentered phrases are:

$$IP = +Ix (\pm C + Ix)^n \text{ (where } n \geq 1)$$

$$ApP = +Apx + Apx \pm Apx$$

The noncentered phrases are:

$$DP = +p.n + NP$$

$$LP1 = +nù + Clause$$

$$LP2 = +ma^ʔñú/θava + DP/LP$$

$$LP3 = +dyà + Lx$$

$$TP = +dyà + Tx$$

$$OP = +sii + Ox$$

$$AsP = +s\dot{i}^?i + Asx$$

$$SNP = +sp + n/Aj/Clause$$

$$DNP = +sà + Clause$$

Several of the classes of elements that occur in the above phrases are made up of subclasses. They are: N: noun, pronoun; M: AjP, IP, LP, DNP; Po: NP, OP; Ix: undefined; Apx: LP, TP, NP; Lx: NP, DP, LP1, Place Name; Tx: Time Word, LP1, NP, Clause; Ox: NP, ApP, pronoun; Asx: NP, ApP, pronoun, clause.