



BRIDGING DIASPORA

Technology in the service of the revitalization of Sà'án Sàví ñà
Yukúnanĩ (Mixtec)

Jeremías Salazar, Guillem Belmar, Catherine Scanlon, Giorgia Troiani & Eric W. Campbell
(University of California, Santa Barbara)



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2021 Foundation for Endangered Languages – FELXXV 2021

Acknowledgements

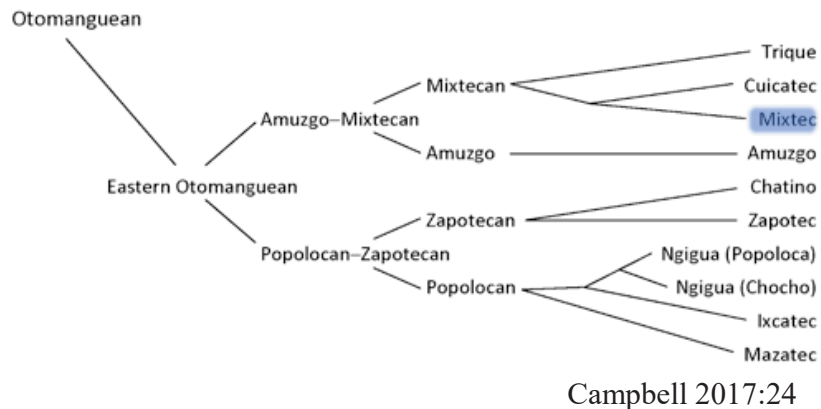
We want to start by thanking:

- The Chumash people, whose land we live and work on
- All community members who have engaged with these projects
- Everyone at the UCSB Field Methods Class 2019/20
- John W. Du Bois, Terry Du Bois, and Brady Moore for their feedback on the Catch Game
- The Mixteco/Indígena Community Organizing Project (MICOP)
- Funders that have supported aspects of this work: NSF (award 1660355 to UCSB), and UCSB Academic Senate Faculty Research Grants

¡Tá tsà'vĩ-kue-ní!

Sà'án Sàvĩ ñà Yukúnani

- Yucunani, San Juan Mixtepec (Oaxaca, Mexico)
- Approx. 81 speakers (INEGI 2020)
- Access to Internet is increasing in Yucunani



- Otomanguean > Mixtecan > Mixtec > Mixtepec Mixtec (mix) > Sà'án Sàvĩ ñà Yukúnani (Longacre 1957; Josserand 1983; Campbell 2017)

Diaspora

- 500 years of colonialism and neoliberalism (Edinger 1985)
- English and Spanish widespread in US diaspora (Reyes Basurto et al. 2021)
 - Receptive knowledge of Sà'án Sàvĭ in 2nd and 3rd generations
 - Low intergenerational transmission
- Emigration from Yucunani continues → maintaining the language in the diaspora is fundamental
- Unknown number of speakers in diaspora, mainly in Northern Mexico and the US (especially in California and other areas with big agricultural industries)
- Most Mixtec speakers in California work in the agricultural industry (see Kresge, 2007; Mines et al., 2010)

Challenge: Accessibility

- Importance of digital presence (Soria 2016)
 - Virtual communities as breathing spaces (Belmar & Glass 2019; Cunliffe 2019)
 - How to create such spaces to make them accessible?
 - How is “accessibility” defined in this context?
 - Our goals:
 - share outcomes of two years of documentation efforts
 - involve both the community in Yucunani and those living in the US
- ➔ How do we balance community ownership of data vs. limited tech literacy?

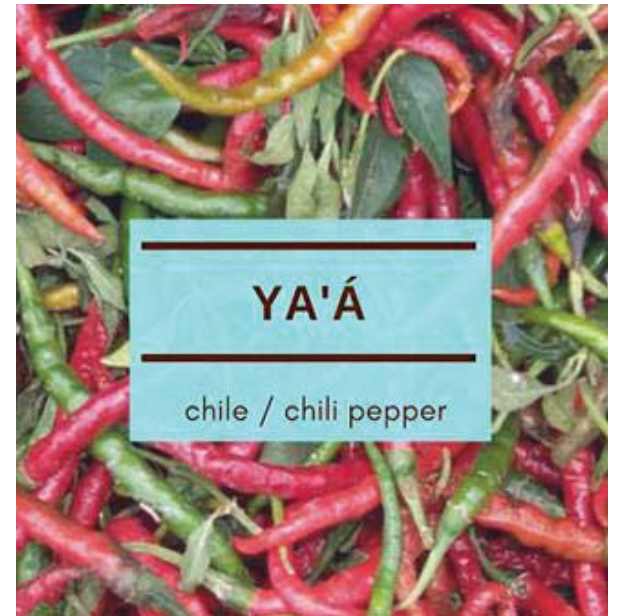
Challenge: Accessibility

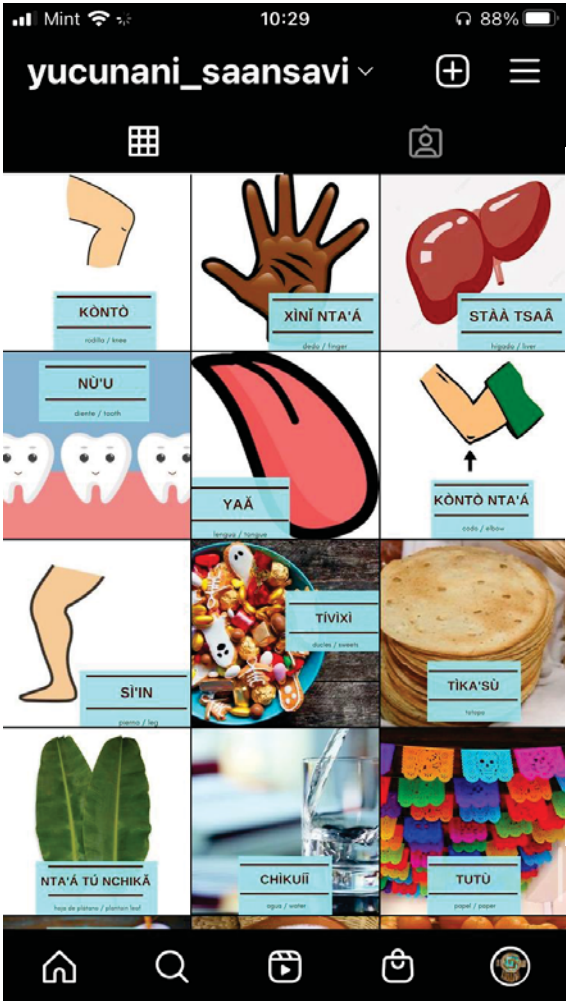
- We developed a variety of resources on a range of different platforms, and linked them together
 - Accessible (reaches a wider audience and allows interactions): social media
 - Accessible (user-friendly management): Google sites as hub of materials
 - Accessible (direct community participation and control of development and maintenance): Sà'an Sàvř Catch Game

The user path

Social Media

- Research on the use of indigenous and other minoritized languages in different platforms (Coronel-Molina 2019; Lillehaugen 2016; among others), so we chose:
 - Facebook (Yucunani Sa'an Savi)
 - Twitter (@yucunani)
 - Instagram (@yucunani_saansavi)
- Emergence of virtual communities around:
 - Facebook groups (Belmar & Heyen 2021)
 - Twitter & Instagram hashtags (Belmar 2020; Cassels 2019)





Yucunani Sà'án Sàví @yucunani · Oct 16

¡Buenos días! Hoy les queremos compartir una librito que hicimos para enseñar a contar en #Mixteco! Skua'a ka'vú Sà'án Sàví ña Yukúnani! Pueden encontrarlo aquí: drive.google.com/file/d/1KM4K8S...

#Yucunani #Saansavi #Sà'ánSàví #Mixteco #Mixtec

Skua'a ka'vú Sà'án Sàví (Yucunani)
 Aprende a contar en Sà'án Sàví (Mixteco de Yucunani)
 Learn to count in Sà'án Sàví (Yucunani Mixtec)

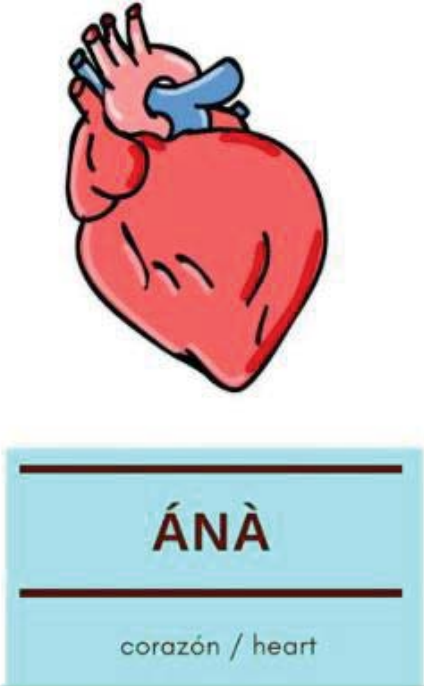
dos orejas / two ears

òvèl sà'á

òvèl sà'á

Yucunani Sà'án Sàví
 1 d

¡Buenos días! La palabra de hoy es ànà 'heart'.
 ¿Cómo lo dicen en su región?
 #Yucunani #Saansavi #Sà'ánSàví #Mixteco #Mixtec



Jeremías Salazar i 4 personas més 1 comentario

M'agrada Comenta Comparteix

Escriu un comentari...

En mi variante se dice animay
 M'agrada Respon 1 d



Sà'an Sàvĩ ñà Yukúnani











Ñà síkí (juegos / games)

Ntanchikó / Atrás / Go back



Lotería Sà'án Sàvī

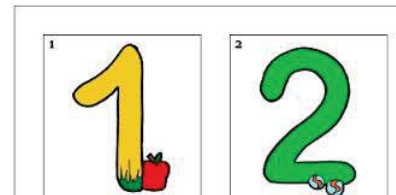
variante de Yucunani Mixtepec, Oaxaca

Tarjeta 1			
43  chàì	9  ììn	44  kinì	3  ùni
5  ù'ùn	13  nche'é	49  kuá'à	14  itù
35	28	26	29

¡Juega a la *lotería* en Yucunani Sà'án Sàvī!

Descárgate las 'tarjetas' y la 'baraja'. Reparte una 'tarjeta' para cada jugador y mezcla la 'baraja'. Agarra una carta del 'deck' cada vez y léela en voz alta. Si esa palabra está en la 'tarjeta' de un jugador, tiene

Kúsíkí lotería Sà'án Sàvī ñà Yukúnani! Snúu kue tutù (tarjètà tsi varájà) nùú Internet. Ku'à iin tarjètà nùú ñà kú nkúsíkí cha sakã varájà. Tavã iin kártà nùú varájà ra ka'vi-à. Cha ratù vàtsi *dibujo* ñà kártà-ka nùú tarjètà-kú cha tsini-ñú'ú sá' markãr-kú-ñà. ¡Ná sá' markãr nt'i'ì kue *dibujo* ñà vàtsi nùú tarjètà-ka kú sã' ganãr!



¡Tá'an-ini *página* instagram, facebook, twitter ra kutu'va iin tù'un Sà'án Sàvĩ ñà
Yukúnanĩ tá kii!

¡Síguenos en las redes sociales y descubre cada día una palabra nueva en en
Yucunani Sà'án Sàvĩ!

Follow us on social media and learn every day a new word in Yucunani Sà'án Sàvĩ!

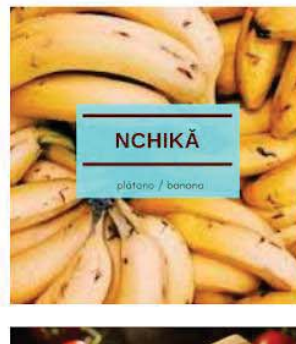
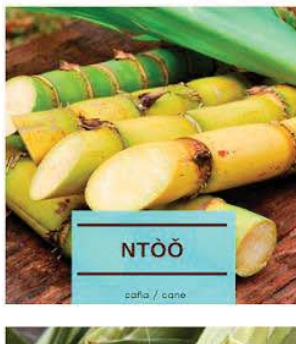
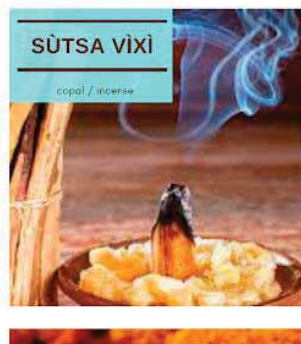
@yucunani (Twitter)

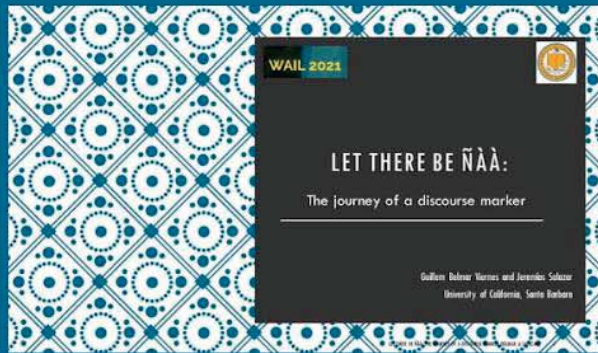
@yucunani_saansavi (Instagram)

Yucunani Sà'án Sàvĩ (Facebook)

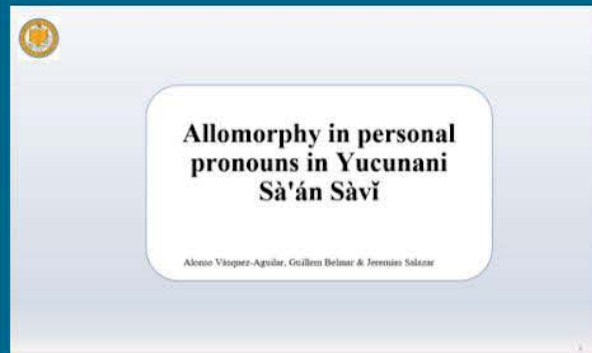
TÙ'UN TSÀ NTÀYÀ'A

(palabras compartidas / shared words)

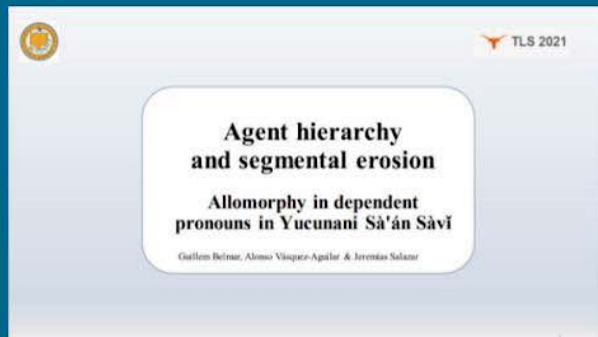




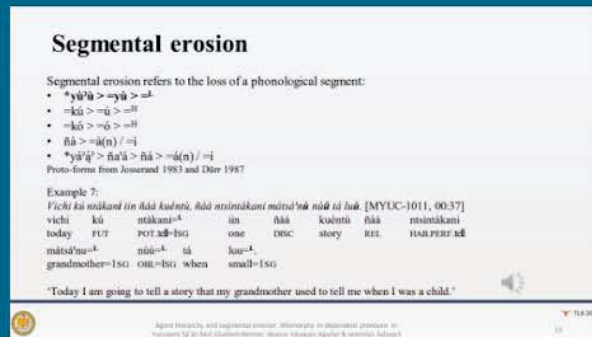
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Sà'án Sàvǐ Catch Game



Conclusion

- Digital revitalization projects in three components
 - Digital tools that can be accessed and used by community in Yucunani and in the diaspora
- Coexistence of different degrees of traditions of accessibility
 - Reflection of diverse range of needs (e.g., data sovereignty vs. web management vs. outreach)
 - Different degrees of involvement of the *external researcher* figure
 - Video game retains maximum control over data but requires technical literacy
 - Google Site facilitates management of webpage but requires relinquishing data
 - Social Media reach a wider audience but has lower level of data protection

Conclusion

- Multi-pronged approach creates different opportunities for community engagement
- Structural changes needed to remove barriers to participation in digital revitalization → e.g., funding for community members acting as community managers of these projects
- Digital technologies as a tool for connection among diaspora communities and between those and the homeland



¡Tá tsà'vĩ-kue-ní ñàà cháa sò'o-ní!

Twitter: @yucunani

Instagram: @yucunani_saansavi

Facebook: Yucunani Sà'an Sàvĩ



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