

International Linguistic Olympiad Problem Set:

Lalana Chinantec

● Oaxaca Region of Mexico ●

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Where is the language spoken?

Lalana Chinantec, spoken by around 10,000 in Oaxaca, Mexico.



Used as a first language in communities where spoken

Salina Chinantec As a Language

- Dialect of Chinantec
 - Only partially mutually intelligible w/ others

Tonal language



kalakwa: kwi: li:ʔ

miladʒö mo:h kya

Writing uses Latin script
Not necessarily standardized
Different phoneme symbols

Problem set

Lalana Chinantec

Lalana Chinantec is a language spoken by approximately 10,000 people who live in the Oaxaca region of Mexico. In the following orthography a colon (:) marks a long vowel, and the ʔ symbol marks a glottal stop (like the sound in the middle of uh-oh).

kalakwa: kwi: li:ʔ

The beautiful corn grew.

miladʒö mo:h kya

My pineapples have turned out well.

li:ʔ kalane kwi: kwa: kya

My tall corn yellowed beautifully.

ɟö kalaro:h mo:h ne kya

My yellow pineapples ripened well.

kaladʒö kwi:

The corn turned out well.

milakwa: kwi:

The corn has grown.

1. What does the word li:ʔ mean?

2. What does the word ro:h mean?

3. Translate the following sentences into Lalana Chinantec:

a) The good pineapples became beautiful.

b) My ripe corn has yellowed well.

4. Translate the following sentences into English:

c) milaro:h kwi: ne

d) li:ʔ kalakwa: kwi:

Lalana Chinantec

English

- Word order
 - VSO
 - Adjectives and determiners after modified noun
- No articles “the” or “a/an”
- Adverb and adjective have same form
- Different phonemes, such as glottal stop

- Word order
 - SVO
 - Adjectives and determiners before modified noun
- Adverbs and adjectives *often* have different forms
- Need auxiliary verb to create perfect tense

Sources cited & RESOURCES

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Lalana Chinantec

HINTS:

Lalana Chinantec and English have very different word orders!

Lalana Chinantec omits articles (in English, these are words like “a/an” or “the”, but this does **not** include other determiners, like “my”)

Adverbs and adjectives have the same form in Lalana Chinantec

Here, adjectives can become verbs if attached to particular *morphemes* (any meaningful unit of language, e.g. “-able” in “believable”)

Lalana Chinantec is a language spoken by approximately 10,000 people who live in the Oaxaca region of Mexico. In the following text, a colon (:) marks a long vowel, and the ʔ symbol marks a glottal stop (like the sound in the middle of uh-oh). **Below, there are sentences in Lalana Chinantec followed by each of their English translations.**

1. kalakwa: kwi: li:ʔ

1. The beautiful corn grew.
[became tall]

2. miłakwa: kwi:

2. The corn has grown.
[has become tall]

3. li:ʔ kalane kwi: kwa: kya

3. My tall corn yellowed beautifully.
[became yellow]

4. kalaɖʒö kwi:

4. The corn turned out well.
[became well/good]

5. miładʒö mo:h kya

5. My pineapples have turned out well.
[have become good]

6. ɖö kalaro:h mo:h ne kya:

6. My yellow pineapples ripened well.
[became ripe]

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a) The good pineapples became beautiful.

b) My ripe corn has yellowed well.

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c) miłaro:h kwi: ne

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