



# How Languages Work

*An Introduction to Languages and Linguistics*

Edited by Carol Genetti

Language Profile 09

**Lowland Chontal**



View from a hill top of San Pedro Huamelula, Oaxaca, Mexico



Looking for artifacts near San Pedro Huamelula, Oaxaca, Mexico



Almond tree, sugar cane parade, San Sebastian church

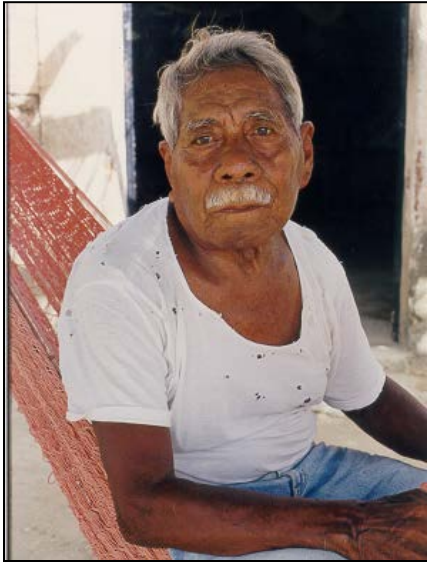
# Festivals



Boys in black masks with the “kidnapped princess”; boys dressed as Turkish pirates and Catholic kings; women on their way to a town dance



# Chontales



Language consultants, clockwise from top left: Alberto Espinoza López; Andrés Domínguez Barenca, Hermenegilda Trinidad García and Anacleto Castro Molina; Eulalia Espinoza Raymundo; Romanita García Aguilar; Adelaida Espinoza Raymundo with grandchildren and Loretta; Inéz Zavaleta Robles.



# Three stages of linguistic fieldwork

1. Observation and  
documentation



2. Participation and  
frequent failure



3. Success, with a little help  
from your new friends

