

9 Language Profile

Lowland Chontal

How I Became a Midwife (Wañipaya' laypiñik' partera)

This is a narrative by Adelaida Espinoza, recorded in June 2006, speaking Lowland Chontal. It described how she became a midwife by a twist of fate.

Note: The first line of every unit (blue text with a line number) is a hyperlink that will play an audio file.

- 1 [Pues yo este iya', jle' saya' 'ipa veinte años laypityiñe,](#)
Well I, when I was 20 years old
- 2 [pues iya'sa simpa laka'no' paf'ma sa jojnawa laka'no'.](#)
well I saw a woman about to give birth, the woman was crying
- 3 [Jweduy sa nee naasa tyux'ma](#)
She was wanting someone to help with the birth (to grab her)
- 4 [maypa saya'.](#)
and I went there.
- 5 [Kwaygota saya' kwa laka'no', tyuxwayjla'!](#)
When I got there, the woman says, come and grab!
- 6 [Maaya' pangja mipaya' porque iya'maane 'intyay'.](#)
I can't, I said, because I'm pregnant my self.
- 7 [Ja'ñi ligero fa mayuujla'!](#)
No, quickly, get in here!
- 8 [Jaana mipa saya'.](#)
Alright, I told her.
- 9 [Jaape saya', fa'a, fa'a saya' 'eepa laymane' jaape liku'u.](#)
Where I, here, I put my hands here on her abdomen.
- 10 [F'inchijpa saya' liku'u,](#)
I squeezed her abdomen,

Language Profile 09: Lowland Chontal—How I Became a Midwife

- 11 kon jaa'le amasaya' f'inchijpa laka'no' como saya' kasa,
and with that small pressure on the woman, because I was standing (above her)
- 12 poypa la'wa.
out came the child.
- 13 Joypa maane sage la'wa paf'pa.
Just like that she gave birth to her baby.
- 14 Joypa kaj'miposi
It arrived by itself.
- 15 Pangta sa la'wa, la'wamulyi.
The child was born, a little boy.
- 16 Leñipa saya' la'wa,
I received the baby,
- 17 joypa spoypaya' liñe'wich'ale,
I spread out its little blanket,
- 18 tyijpe saya' ñoypa.
and I lay it there.
- 19 Joypa saya' ñoypa la'wa,
Once I had lain the baby down,
- 20 iya chasa pasepa saya' laykwenta.
I really started thinking about it.
- 21 Kopaya' tonjka'masa 'eeday' lakajl'no' paf'kilya'.
I said to myself, so that's how women do it, giving birth.
- 22 Komo sa ja'ñi ayxiñak'.
Because I didn't know.
- 23 Iya' joypa maane sa 'eelya' 'intyay', 'ipa mage muutl'a layku'u.
I myself was pregnant, five months along.
- 24 Joypa sa mayñaypa saya'
So then I was about to leave,
- 25 'wi'kopa kway'ma, kwaytya sal partero.
and I saw the midwife arriving.
- 26 Aaaj, kwa el partero, fa'amasa laka'no'.
Oh, says the midwife, here's the woman now.
- 27 Fa'amasal partera, aytya ima' joy'kixpa.
The midwife is here, yet you sent for me.

Language Profile 09: Lowland Chontal—How I Became a Midwife

- 28 Ja'ñi taata mipaya',
 No sir, I said to him,
- 29 maaya' taata partera.
 I'm not a midwife, sir.
- 30 Kway'ma ñiya' 'wi'kuy laka'no'.
 I just came to visit the woman.
- 31 Tonjsa'le mayñaypaya', mayñaypa saya' layñejutl'.
 And then I just took off, I went home.