Masculine Crab & Mosquitoes
TWO CHONTAL TEXTS
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INTRODUCTION

The following texts were collected among the Chontal of Tabasco, under the auspices of the Summer Institute of Linguistics. The Chontal are a branch of the Maya. Our informants were Zenon Luciano, about twenty-four years of age, and Catalina de la Cruz, a middle-aged man, both of Tapotzingo, near Nacajuca.

Some problems of Chontal word division and orthography remain to be worked out. As nearly as possible, the symbols used are phonemic. The mark (') following a voiceless stop indicates glottalization. The symbol /A/ is used for an unrounded vocoid, nearly approaching the high back open unrounded vocoid /i/.

1. ahyaʃ


1. Masculine Crab

There was a masculine crab. 2. Near mouth river his house. 3. Masculine crab one early morning 4. he said, “I am going for walk.” 5. And he went for walk on sand 6. and he meets a feminine frog. 7. He calls to conversation. 8. Feminine frog she says in her mind, 9. “I am going I make fool of masculine crab.” 10. He said, “Where are you going 11. Masculine crab with big many stick?” 12. (Masculine crab many his arms. 13. It is why she said like this.) 14. Masculine crab just yes

THE CRAB AND THE FROG

There was a crab. Near the bank of the river was his house. One morning early the crab said, “I'm going for a walk,” and went for a walk on the sand and met a frog. He spoke to the frog.

The crab thought, “I'm going to make a fool of the crab.” She said, “Where are you going, friend crab, with that big bundle of wood?” (The crab has a lot of appendages. That's why she said this to him.)
THE FROG AND THE MOSQUITOES

An old woman said, "Will you go on an errand? Throw this far away." The mosquitoes were worrying and eating her. The frog left and took the gourd. Near the edge of town he thought, I'll look and see what is inside. He opened the lid to
"No far I went, arrived mosquitoes where she was, she old woman to."  
18. She is told she frog, "No far you went you throw recently returned, to second time mosquitoes. 20. Near you went you throw out, it is because recently returned, to second time. 21. No you opened for its lid gourd. 22. Now mosquitoes you, you will soon all eat." 23. Mad old woman against her she frog. 24. It is because she frog she passed night, she eats mosquitoes.

look at the contents. The mosquitoes flew out. He tried to catch and replace them in the gourd. The frog came to the old lady again.

Said the frog, "I did not go far." The arrival of the mosquitoes to where the old woman was told her the frog had not gone far.

The mosquitoes came the second time. The old lady was mad. She said, "You did not go far to discard the gourd. Why did you open the lid?" Now you will eat all the mosquitoes."

It is because of this the frog goes out at night eating mosquitoes.