

Yacoche—*Wi:dyvyimpy* (wi:ty 'cama' plus wimp 'rincón, esquina, punta')

Zacatepec—*Miigyixp* ('cerro de zacate'; mii 'zacate' plus kyixp 'su colima o cerro')—[Walter S. Miller, Summer Institute of Linguistics]

[N34 II:2] TONAC CATEGORIES OF SMELL

In Totonac there is no general word to indicate that a thing smells. The exact shade of smell must be taken into account and a word chosen giving it. Eight distinct groups of stems have been observed pertaining to these many distinctions of smells. Although these stems each have a central "smell" meaning, some also include the idea of taste, desirability, etc. E.g., the stem used for a sour smell is also used for a sour taste. Sometimes the range of meaning of a stem overlaps with another, as in the case of words used in English to distinguish colors.

The phonetic symbolism involved in the play on the velar stops **k** and **q** and the fricatives **s**, **š** and **ʃ** cannot be correlated in terms of semantic correspondences. That is, it is not possible to reduce these phonetic similarities to one single sememe. There is no common denominator. It may be noted that a study of these groups will give us a small example of the phonetic symbolism that runs throughout the verb and adjectival stems of Totonac. E.g., *šuy* 'he skins an animal' and *su-y* 'he peels a potato or something similar'.

Each of the following groups has a basic underlying form whose semantic meaning is rather vague, and the definitions given here are not entirely adequate. The examples used are given in their most common form—as static verbal nouns and also as static adjectives. E.g., *mu-kʃuʔn šaʔnat* 'the flower is fragrant', *mu-ʔkʃuʔn-šaʔnat* 'the fragrant flower'.

I. Vegetation and good smells: Basic root *mu-ʔ—uʔn*.

mu-ʔkʃuʔn 'a pleasant smell as of flowers, food, etc.'

mu-ʔksuʔn 'smell of mint, parsley, tobacco and other herbs, as well as some medicines as Sloane's Liniment, incense'

mu-ʔqšuʔn 'smell of ground hominy (*masa*) that still smells strongly of the lime with which it is made'

mu-ʔquʔn/mu-ʔkuʔn 'smell of fresh vegetables, unripe fruit'

II. Bad smells: Basic root *puʔ-*. The final *-a* in this group and groups III-VI is a stem formative suffix.

puʔkʃa 'smell of human excrement, rotten things, a drunkard's breath, pulque'

pu[?]ksa 'smell of a skunk or fox, bad meat, manure and certain plants as *papaquelite*'

pu[?]qša 'smell of mold, mushrooms, etc.'

III. Medicinal and aromatic smells: Basic root **ha-**.

haksa 'smell of alcohol, camphor, hot peppers when toasting, dust sprinkled with rain or water'

haqta 'smell of urine, wet ashes, certain medicines, Fuller's Earth'

haqša/hakša 'smell of citrus fruit skins, the pods and green beans of the *guaxi* tree'

IV. Body and animal smells: Basic root **-un-**.

skunka 'metallic smells, mice, fish, snakes, coins, damp earth'

squnqa 'dirty feet, strong fish smell'

tkunka/tqunqa 'smell of grease or fat, butcher shop'

šqunqa 'unsavory food, utensils and dishes that have been used for food'

V. Sour smells: Basic root **-u[?]t-**.

škut[?]a 'smell of vinegar and other sour smells'

šqu[?]ta 'smell of leather, sweat, an open sore, damp walls'

VI. Smells that leave a taste in the mouth: Basic root **-i[?]h-**.

The alternate **-a[?]h-** is the result of a mechanical phonologic change.

ski[?]ha/sqa[?]ha 'a tasty or savory smell, smell of food cooking'

šqa[?]ha 'smell of burnt gunpowder, firecrackers, acrid smell'

VII. Artificial smell: Basic root **gi[?]-i[?]n-**.

gi[?]ki[?]n 'smell of perfume or hand soap which although pleasant does not smell right or fit the person who may have that smell. Used of men who use perfume, or of young ladies who use it profusely'

VIII. Air-permeating smell: This one stem does not fall into the same class as the preceding stems and is found only in a verbal usage. It is an active stem always while the previous stems may be either active or static in usage.

kinkalay 'the smell permeates or is traveling in the air, easily perceptible'

It is often used in combination with the verb stem **min** 'to come'

kinkalamin 'the smell is coming (to us) from somewhere, is brought with the wind'

These smell stems (except the stem **kinkala**) are used as verb stems in the following different ways:

1. Causitive: With the addition of the prefix **ma-** and the suffix **-i-** a verb stem is formed which indicates that the subject of the verb in which it appears causes or makes the object indicated in the verb to take on the smell of the original stem. E.g., **wa[?] a[?]šuš,** **ma-ski[?]hi-y li-wa[?]t** 'garlic gives food a savory smell'; **ma-mu[?]-k[?]tu[?]ni-kan ni-n** 'they are embalming the dead person'

2. Ingressive: With the addition of the suffix **-n** or **-#** in the case of the stems ending in **-n** a verb stem is formed which indicates that the subject of the verb in which it appears gets or is getting into the state of the smell of the original stem. E.g., **nala[?]kha[?]-kšana[?]** 'you will get to smell like citrus skins (by eating an orange for instance)'; **mu[?]k[?]tu[?]ni[?]t ša[?]nat** 'the flower has become fragrant, taken on a fragrant smell'.

3. Abstractive: With the loss of the stem formative **-a** and the addition of the suffix **-nan** we have a resultant verb stem which indicates that the smell of the original stem is in evidence without any object or subject indicated. E.g., **pu[?]ksnan** 'there is the smell of skunk all around'. To make this more abstract, an additional suffix **-na-** is also included. E.g., **pu[?]ksna-nan** '(we are in a) time of pestilence'.

Interesting usages of these smell stems:

minta[?]lakpu[?]k[?]ta 'you smell of drink' (lit. 'your sameness to something that has that bad smell')

ka[?]mu[?]k[?]tu[?]n 'flower market' (lit. 'extended surface' plus the smell stem)

šalakmu[?]k[?]tu[?]n 'perfume or anything that has been fixed up to smell good'

li-ma-šku[?]ti-n 'leaven' (lit. 'instrument which makes sour')

pu[?]k[?]inanki[?]wi[?] 'tree called in Spanish *sangre de grado*'

pu[?]ksnanki[?]wi[?] 'tree called in Spanish *cedro*'

To form a noun indicating the thing itself with such a smell the suffix **-nu[?], -na[?], -ni[?]** is added to the stem. E.g., **pu[?]ksnu[?]** 'an object that has a skunk smell'.

To exaggerate the intensity of the smell but with a resultant static adjective or noun the suffix **-ni[?]nka[?]wa[?]** is added to the stem. E.g., **pu[?]ksni[?]nka[?]wa[?]** 'an intense skunk smell'.—[Herman Aschmann, Summer Institute of Linguistics]