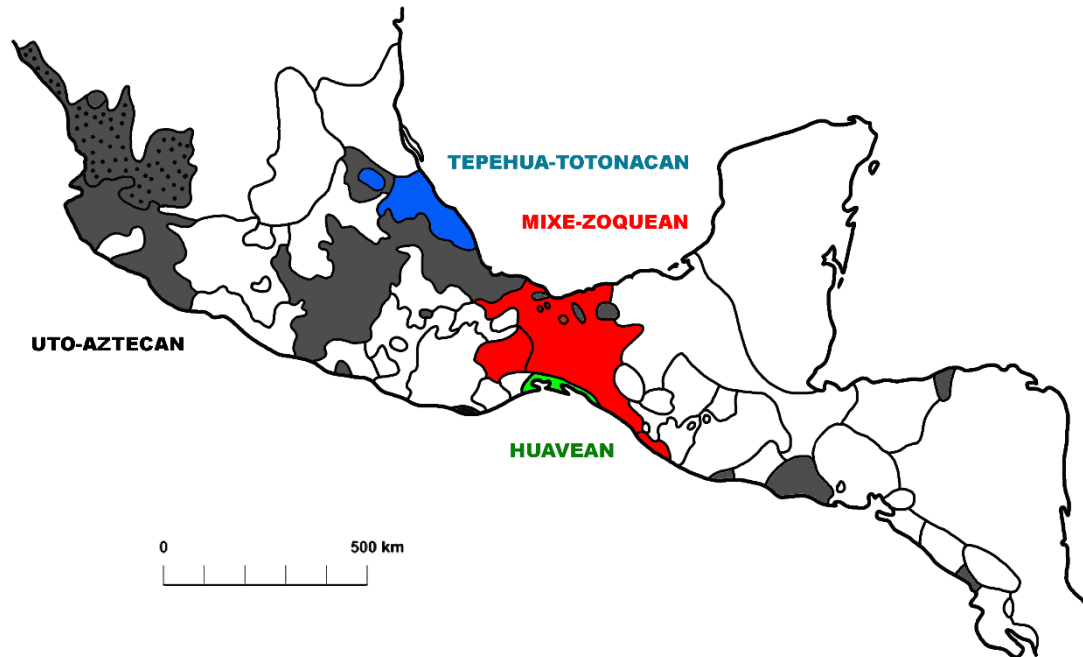


External relationship of Huavean languages

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Four Huave dialects are spoken on the Pacific coast of the Mexican state of Oaxaca: San Francisco del Mar, San Dionisio del Mar, San Mateo del Mar and Santa Catarina del Mar. Huavean is generally considered an isolate, though hypotheses have attempted to link it with Algonquian-Gulf, Mayan, Mixe-Zoquean and Otomanguean languages (Raudin 1916, 1924; Swadesh 1960; Suárez 1975; Rensch 1976). A recent etymological dictionary of Huavean languages (Noyer 2012) treats all the lexical matches between Huavean and other Mesoamerican languages as loans.

The main objective of my talk is to present matches in the basic lexicon between Proto-Huavean, Proto-Mixe-Zoquean, Proto-Tepehua-Totonacan and Proto-Uto-Aztecan.

1.1. Jorge Suárez (1975) proposed a detailed reconstruction of Proto-Huavean. He postulated that i) Proto-Huavean syllables were lacking codas, ii) non-derived roots were typically disyllabic, of form CV₁CV₂, and conformed to well-defined cooccurrence restrictions on V₁ and V₂, and iii) the development of the daughter languages can be explained by four major processes – apocope of posttonic vowels, diphthongization of V₁ through assimilation to V₂, allophonically conditioned palatalization of consonants and a vocalic chain shift of *a, *i and *e applied differentially in the four languages.

Consonants:						Vowels:			
*p	*t	*c		*k	*k ^w	*ʔ	*i	*i	
*mb	*nd	*nc		*ng	*ng ^w		*e		*o
(*b)								*a	
	(*ð)								
	*s					*h	Vocalic nuclei:		
*m	*n						*V		
			*l				*Vh		
			*r						
			(*r)				Tones:		
*w		*y					high, low		

Notes. 1. The syllable nucleus may be either short /V/ or long /Vh/, and surface long vowels are derived in closed syllables from sequences of vowel followed by /h/ when stressed. 2. Huave tone (high, low) has a low functional load. 3. *b, *ð and *r are very rare and may have to be eliminated from the reconstruction.

1.2. Mixe-Zoquean languages are a compact family of some 11 spoken languages with two main branches – Mixean and Zoquean (Wichmann 1995). Proto-Mixe-Zoquean disintegrated ca. 3700 years ago.

Consonants:						Vowels:			
*p	*t			*k		*ʔ	*i	*i	*u
	*c						*e	*a	*o
	*s								
						*h	Vocalic nuclei:		
*m							*V		
			(*l)				*V: ~ *V:ʔ		
							*Vʔ		
*w		*y							

Notes: 1. The following consonantal clusters are permitted root-internally: *ks, *ps, *pʔ, *tʔ, *ʈʔ, *kʔ, *sʔ, *hʔ, *mʔ, *nʔ, *wʔ, *yʔ. 2. A *k-mobile of nominals is postulated. 3. *l is reconstructed in only one onomatopoeic word.

1.3. Uto-Aztecan languages are a large family of 10 main branches and 60 documented languages (Sapir 1913, 1915; Kaufman 1981; Manaster Ramer 1992; Wimmer 2003). Proto-Uto-Aztecan disintegrated ca. 5000 years ago.

Consonants:					Vowels:			
*p	*t		*k	*k ^w	*ʔ	*i	*i	*u
	*c						*a	*o
	*s							
					*h	Vocalic nuclei:		
*m	*n		*l			*V		
*w		*y				*V:		

Notes: 1. *l is banned word-initially. 2. *l and *n have been reconstructed *n and *ŋ by T. Kaufman, respectively.

1.4. Tepehua-Totonacan languages are a family of some 12 languages with two main branches – Tepehua and Totonacan. Proto-Tepehua-Totonacan disintegrated ca. 3100 years ago.

Consonants:					Vowels:			
*p	*t		*k	*q	*ʔ	*i		*u
*p'	*t'		*k'	*q'			*a	
	*c	*č	*tł					
	*c'	*č'	*tł'					
	*s	*š	*ł		*h			
*m	*n							
*m'	*n'							
			*l				*V	
			*l'				*V:	
			(*r)					
*w	*y							
*w'	*y'							

Notes: 1. Sibilants and affricates of the same place articulation only can co-occur root-internally (*c/*s ~ *č/*š ~ *tʃ/*tʃ). The same is true about back stops (*k ~ *q). 2. Proto-Teprehua-Totonacan *c, *tʃ, *s, *ʃ and *q seem to be of secondary origin. 3. Many words are reconstructed with fossilized prefixes of seize and intensity *s-, *š-, *tʃ-.

2. Promising matches in the basic lexicon between Proto-Huavean, Proto-Mixe-Zoquean, Proto-Teprehua-Totonacan and Proto-Uto-Aztecan:

*katı ‘fish’: Proto-Teprehua-Totonacan *s=k’it’i, Proto-Uto-Aztecan *kicu (?)

*koso ‘knee’: Proto-Teprehua-Totonacan *cu=qus- (< *cu= ‘leg’), Proto-Mixe-Zoquean *koso=k, see also Proto-Uto-Aztecan *kapsi ‘leg, thigh’ (?)

*lahka ‘ear’: Proto-Teprehua-Totonacan *taqa- (?), Proto-Uto-Aztecan *nanka

*meye ‘sleep’: Proto-Teprehua-Totonacan *m’a:- ‘lie down’, Proto-Mixe-Zoquean *ma:hʔ

*mini ‘come’: Proto-Teprehua-Totonacan *min-, Proto-Mixe-Zoquean *min

*piki ‘feather’, see also *mbaka ‘fin (of a fish)’: Proto-Teprehua-Totonacan *paqa- ‘shoulder, wing, feather’ (?), Proto-Mixe-Zoquean *pik ‘feather, animal fur’, Proto-Uto-Aztecan *pihi ‘skin, feather, hair’ (?)

*tahka ‘skin, hide’: Proto-Teprehua-Totonacan *š=t’aq’a ‘bark, skin’

*tih=ti ‘road’ (see *i=ti ‘soil, earth’, *wih=ti ‘sand’): Proto-Teprehua-Totonacan *tihu=ʔ, Proto-Mixe-Zoquean *tu:ʔ=ʔaw

*wahka ‘dry’: Proto-Uto-Aztecan *wa:ki

Addenda:

*cihyi ‘mouse’: Proto-Totonacan *c’i:ya=ʔ, Proto-Zoquean *cihiʔ ‘opposum’

*kin-iki ‘salt’: Proto-Mixe-Zoquean *ka:na, see also Proto-Teprehua-Totonacan *kani=ʔ ‘tasty’ (?)

*mihki-ehe ‘far’: Proto-Teprehua-Totonacan *maqa-t, Proto-Uto-Aztecan *mihka

*popo ‘foam’: Proto-Tepehua-Totonacan *pupu- ‘boil, produce foam’, *pupu-t ‘foam’
 *tapı ‘wart’: Proto-Zoquean *tapu, see also Proto-Tepehua-Totonacan *s=tapu ‘bean’ (?)
 *tehke ‘spread, unfold (a mat)’, *tiki ‘mat’: Proto-Tepehua-Totonacan *š=t’iq=ʔat ‘mat
 (< spread thing)’, Proto-Mixe-Zoquean *toʔk ‘spread out on the ground (a mat)’,
 Proto-Zoquean *toʔk-i ‘mat (< spread thing)’, Proto-Uto-Aztecan *ti:ka ‘to put,
 lay flat objects down’

3. Promising matches in the basic lexicon between Proto-Mixe-Zoquean, Proto-Tepehua-Totonacan and Proto-Uto-Aztecan:

‘belly’: Proto-Totonacan *p’uq’u=ʔ, Proto-Uto-Aztecan *poka
 ‘bite’: Proto-Tepehua-Totonacan *š=ka- (see also *kił- ‘mouth’), Proto-Mixe-Zoquean
 *ki:ʔ=s, Proto-Uto-Aztecan *kihV
 ‘eat’: Proto-Tepehua-Totonacan *w’a-, Proto-Mixe-Zoquean *kay, Proto-Uto-Aztecan
 *k^waʔa
 ‘hand’: Proto-Tepehua-Totonacan *ma=ka-, Proto-Uto-Aztecan *ma- ~ *mah
 ‘head’: Proto-Tepehua-Totonacan *ku=ka- ~ *q’a=qa-, Proto-Mixe-Zoquean *ko- ~
 *koʔ-, Proto-Uto-Aztecan *kowa
 ‘many’: Proto-Mixe-Zoquean *may, Proto-Uto-Aztecan *miʔa
 ‘to name’: Proto-Zoquean *niy=i ‘name’, Proto-Numic *niha ‘give a name’
 ‘negation’: Proto-Tepehua-Totonacan *ha:, Proto-Mixe-Zoquean *ha(y) ‘completive’,
 Proto-Mixe-Zoquean *ka:h, Proto-Uto-Aztecan *ka
 ‘nose’: Proto-Tepehua-Totonacan *kin=ka-, Proto-Mixe-Zoquean *kini
 ‘one’: Proto-Tepehua-Totonacan *-tum, Proto-Mixe-Zoquean *tum, Proto-Uto-Aztecan
 *sima (?)
 ‘tooth’: Proto-Tepehua-Totonacan *taca-, Proto-Mixe-Zoquean *tic

‘tree’: Proto-Tepehua-Totonacan *k’iwi=2, Proto-Mixe-Zoquean *kuy, Proto-Uto-Aztecan *kut

‘who’: Proto-Tepehua-Totonacan *ti:, Proto-Mixe-Zoquean *ti

Addenda:

‘breath heavily’: Proto-Totonacan *hiksw- ‘pant, choke, drown’, Proto-Mixean *hiʔkš
‘suffocate’, Proto-Uto-Aztecan *hi:kʷisi ‘breath’

4. Number of matches in the basic lexicon between Proto-Huavean, Proto-Mixe-Zoquean, Proto-Tepehua-Totonacan and Proto-Uto-Aztecan

	Mixe-Zoquean	Uto-Aztecan	Huavean
Tepehua-Totonacan	12	9	7
Mixe-Zoquean		8	5
Uto-Aztecan			5

Conclusions:

1. The number of the matches is small but they mostly belong to the basic lexicon. More matches may be found in the future because Proto-Huavean, Proto-Mixe-Zoquean and Proto-Uto-Aztecan Swadesh wordlists have not been systematically reconstructed yet.
2. These matches show a few sound shifts but Tepehua-Totonacan and Mixe-Zoquean languages are extremely conservative.
3. Proto-Huavean *CVhCV correspond to Proto-Mixe-Zoquean *CVʔC, Proto-Uto-Aztecan *CV:CV and *CVCCV, and Proto-Tepehua-Totonacan *C’VCV.