



1973

Three possible diffused words in Amerindian languages

Barbara E. Hollenbach
SIL-UND

Follow this and additional works at: <https://commons.und.edu/sil-work-papers>

Recommended Citation

Hollenbach, Barbara E. (1973) "Three possible diffused words in Amerindian languages," *Work Papers of the Summer Institute of Linguistics, University of North Dakota Session*: Vol. 17, Article 9.

DOI: 10.31356/silwp.vol17.09

Available at: <https://commons.und.edu/sil-work-papers/vol17/iss1/9>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by UND Scholarly Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Work Papers of the Summer Institute of Linguistics, University of North Dakota Session by an authorized editor of UND Scholarly Commons. For more information, please contact zeineb.yousif@library.und.edu.

used in Apapantilla Totonac (Totonacan) and local dialects of Spanish as a one-word utterance to children (Ruth Bishop); 'meme, used in Tojolabal (Mayan) as a one-word utterance to children. (Margaret Wendell), ma³ma⁴, used in San Juan Lealao Chinantec (Macro-Otomanguean) as a modifier of the verb to carry (James Rupp). A likely source for these words is the Classical Aztec root mama or mame to carry on the back. Other possible, but in my opinion far less likely, sources are: Spanish mamar to nurse (intransitive); Spanish mamá mother; or Quechua (Quechumaran) 'mama mother (Peter Landerman).

The forms for it's hot are: tUtU, used in Rocoroibo Tarahumara (Uto-Aztecan) as a warning to children that food is hot (Donald Burgess); iditɪ, used in Northern Paiute (Uto-Aztecan) both as an exclamation and as a warning (John and Joy Anderson) AČŮČŮ, used in San Felipe Otlaltepec Popoloca (Macro-Otomanguean) as an exclamation (Ann Williams), ačičī, used in San Esteban Atlatlahuca Mixtec (Macro-Otomanguean) as an exclamation (Ruth Mary Alexander); ača'čau or ača'lau, used in Quechua as an exclamation (Peter Landerman). Candoshi (Jivaroan) has an onomatopoeic word for burning skin; čiričəčəčəčə (Lorrie Anderson). Perhaps these warnings and exclamations developed from onomatopoeic forms for sizzle.

The forms for breast are: chiche or chichi, used in Mexican Spanish, originally a loan from the Classical Aztec word chichihualli breast or chichi to nurse (intransitive); cikilit, used in Totonac (Ruth Bishop); ču?, used in Tojolabal (Frances Jackson); cʰam, used in Cakchiquel (Mayan) (Mary Mast); ču used in Tzeltal (Mayan) (Homer Gifford); čʰu?, used in Ixil (Mayan) (Ray Elliott); č^hu?, used in Tabasco Chontal (Mayan) (James Walker); šiji, used in Isthmus Zapotec (Macro-Otomanguean) (Virginia Embrey); ce'ck, used in Tlahuitoltepec Mixe (Zoquean) (Donald Lyon). All of the above contain either an alveolar or alveopalatal affricate. The five Mayan forms are probably true cognates.