

Chol Collection of Juan Jesús Vázquez Álvarez and Jessica Coon Finding Aid

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Collection Dates: 2002—2018, bulk 2018

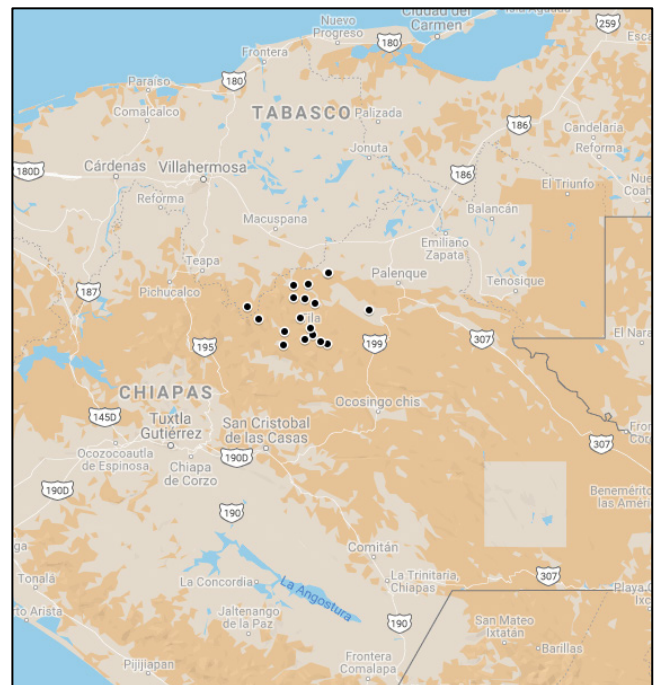
Collection Published: 2019-05-10, updated 2019-09-16, 2020-02-11

Language(s) with ISO-639-3 code(s):

- Ch'ol [ctu]; spoken and written throughout the collection
- Spanish [spa]; written in translations throughout the collection

Location(s):

- Hidalgo Joshil, Tumbalá, Chiapas, Mexico
- Río Grande, Tila, Chiapas, Mexico
- Tila, Chiapas, Mexico
- Tocab Leglemal, Tila, Chiapas, Mexico
- Teoquipa el Bascan, Salto de Agua, Chiapas, Mexico
- Los Luceros 2da Sección, Salto de Agua, Chiapas, Mexico
- Paso Chinal, Tila, Chiapas, Mexico
- El Limar, Tila, Chiapas, Mexico
- El Calvario, Sabanilla, Chiapas, Mexico
- Cuviac, Tacotalpa, Tabasco, Mexico
- Sabanilla, Chiapas, Mexico
- Salto de Agua, Chiapas, Mexico
- San Juan el Mirador, Sabanilla, Chiapas, Mexico
- Panwits, Tila, Chiapas
- Usipa, Tila, Chiapas, Mexico
- Nueva Esperanza, Tila, Chiapas, Mexico
- Masoja Grande, Tila, Chiapas, Mexico



Depositors:

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- Damián López Gutiérrez
- Uriel Martínez Pérez
- Matilde Vázquez Vázquez (transcriber and translator)

Extent and scope:

The collection consists of audio and video recordings in Ch’ol, a Mayan language spoken in Mexico known to its speakers as *Lakty’añ* and sometimes written as Chol. Many of these audio and video recordings have been transcribed and/or translated into Spanish. Most recordings were made in 2018, though some materials in the collection were recorded in two earlier periods: the 2002 recordings of Carmelino Jiménez by Elmar Martínez and Pedro Gutiérrez and recordings made by Juan Jesús Vázquez in 2007 and 2008.

The collection as of the writing of this finding aid has

- 191 WAV audio recordings (totaling 39 hours 48 minutes)
- 48 MPG video recordings (totaling 2 hours 31 minutes)
- 7 MP4 video recordings (totaling 1 hour 45 minutes)
- 1 AVI video recording (totaling 22 minutes 30 seconds)
- 72 XML files in the EAF format for use with the ELAN application
- 2 JPG photographs
- 6 PDF documents

The creation of this collection was funded in part by a National Geographic Explorers grant.

Access and use conditions:

All collection materials are public access and subject to AILLA’s general [conditions of use](#).

Processing note:

AILLA staff renamed files to replace spaces in file names with underscores, as spaces are not permitted by the repository’s software. Question marks in a few file names were deleted. Folders were renamed to create more descriptive titles. Each folder was accompanied by a Microsoft Word document containing metadata for the recording and its participants. These documents were not archived as all of this information is reflected in AILLA catalog information.

Accruals:

Transcriptions and translations of audio visual recordings are being created and may be added to the collection in the future.

Related materials elsewhere:

The collectors have created a website (<http://chol.lingspace.org>) containing additional materials in and about Ch’ol.

Other AILLA collections feature publically available materials in and about Ch’ol:

- Mayan Languages Collection of Nicholas Hopkins ([ailla:124472](#))
- Mayan Languages Collection of John Fought ([ailla:124489](#))
- Mayan Languages Collection of Victoria Bricker ([ailla:124468](#))

Works referenced:

Prepared on May 10, 2019 by Ryan Sullivant with information provided by Jessica Coon and Juan Jesús Vázquez Álvarez.

Collection Materials

Materials with annotations

58 folders in this collection have EAF files that contain transcriptions or transcriptions and Spanish translations of the audiovisual files in the folder.

Collected in 2002

PID	Video	Audio	Photo	Title	Description
ailla:262055		✓		The king of the mountain	The hunters' dogs were attacked by a jaguar, caretaker of the forest animals. The jaguar went into a cave and very cunning hunters managed to kill and eat it, but not before doing a ritual.
ailla:262048		✓		The horned snake	The creation of rising water in times of heavy rain. It is believed to be a snake with horns that comes out of a cave.
ailla:262870		✓		The big eagle	In the past there was a giant eagle that carried away children.

Collected in 2007

PID	Video	Audio	Photo	Title	Description
ailla:262174		✓		Working in Tabasco	Talk about work experiences in the state of Tabasco.
ailla:262039	✓			The farms	Characteristics of farms in Sabanilla, Chiapas.

Collected in 2008

PID	Video	Audio	Photo	Title	Description
ailla:261516		✓		Looking for work	Talk about the trip to work in agricultural fields in the north of the country.
ailla:262188		✓		Working in Villahermosa	Talk about work experiences in Villahermosa, Tabasco.
ailla:262119	✓	✓		The search for food	Talk about how commodities were obtained in the community in the past.
ailla:261398		✓		Bad dreams	More stories about some dreams and their consequences.
ailla:261453		✓		Dreams	Narration about some dreams and their consequences.
ailla:261540		✓		More life stories	Continuation of life story.
ailla:262884		✓		The boundaries of the ejido	Narration on procedures to establish the boundaries of the ejido Jolpokitok.

Collected in 2018

PID	Video	Audio	Photo	Title	Description
ailla:262142		✓		The volcano	Narrative about the eruption of a volcano.
ailla:262171		✓		Working	Story of a man who recounts his life in his native ejido.
ailla:262920		✓		The demon	The antics that elves do to people in the community El Calvario

ailla:261485		✓	✓	How the community used to be	Previously the community's river was clean and used for domestic purposes but can no longer be used because it is polluted.
ailla:262137		✓		The tiger	The woman whose spouse was eaten by a jaguar
ailla:261394		✓		Asking for a hand in marriage	Betrothals were different in the past.
ailla:261527		✓		Making chicha and sugar	How our ancestors made chicha and sugar.
ailla:262899	✓	✓		The chicken that was bitten by the snake	The chicken was bitten by the snake
ailla:262926	✓	✓		The devil	The demon in mule form that prowled behind my house.
ailla:262928		✓		The devil that threw stones	The devil came to throw stones on the roof of a house.
ailla:262163		✓		Varieties of maize	They used to plant several types of corn such as yellow corn, white, purple, etc.
ailla:262849	✓	✓		Sombrerón the duende	How people trick people on the road
ailla:261434		✓		Coffee festival	Thanking God for coffee beans
ailla:262861		✓		Talk among elders	Anecdotes that happened to elders
ailla:261504		✓		Life story	A young man's life story
ailla:262882	✓	✓		The Chichonal volcano	There was a tremendous explosion of the Chichonal volcano
ailla:261417	✓			Captain festival	They used to celebrate the captain who dressed in a red shirt and black pants.
ailla:262239		✓		Poverty	Economic problems faced in the course of their life
ailla:261428		✓		Catching fish	Story about a group of fishermen who encountered dogs in the darkness.
ailla:261470		✓		Feast of the Virgin	Narration on the feast of the Virgin Mary, preparations ahead of the big party and what happens each day.
ailla:262161		✓		Tortillas	How to prepare everything that's consumed
ailla:262065		✓		The medicine man	In this world there are several healers to cure people.
ailla:261514	✓			Locusts	The time when people went hungry
ailla:262851		✓		Spiders	How the healer cures the spider disease
ailla:262821		✓		Pumpkin tortillas	How to make tortillas
ailla:262859	✓			Corn tamales	Tamales that are made with young corn
ailla:262029		✓		The evil eye	The midwife talks about curing the evil eye in babies.
ailla:261502	✓	✓		Life story	How we would look for money for food in the past
ailla:262228	✓			Petejul	Food made of maize and beans wrapped in a special leaf.
ailla:262842		✓		Sombrerón	What happens to us when we have an encounter with the "twisted foot"
ailla:262863	✓	✓		Tamale	How the tamal-making jobs are split up
ailla:261419		✓		Care	Caring for a newborn baby
ailla:261436		✓		Cultivation	How to grow corn and other crops in a cornfield
ailla:261479		✓		Healing ritual	The healing ritual performed by the Rio Grande healers when a person suffers from fright

ailla:261481		✓		Healing ritual	The healing ritual performed when care for a sick person stops
ailla:262846		✓		Sombrerón	How the wäläk ok appears
ailla:262075	✓	✓		The power of white corn	These two walkers, who saw devils carrying a dead person.
ailla:262084	✓			The sad man	A man who always comes home from work sad because he wanted to have a wife.
ailla:261384		✓		A humble family	A humble family had no money, so the man went to look for work.
ailla:261475	✓			Foolish Juan	A family had two children. One of them is known by the nickname Foolish Juan.
ailla:262147		✓		The widower	A widower spent several days at home, until one day he saw that someone came to help him.
ailla:261536		✓	✓	Men who eat human flesh	Story of a man who met men and women eating people on the road.
ailla:262046		✓		The hard-working dog	The story of a man who had a dog who knew how to do housework.
ailla:262168		✓		The lazy man	The story of a man who knew how to work and ultimately learned to work in milpa.
ailla:262061		✓		The lazy woman	The story of a woman who didn't know how to work in the kitchen who learned after being tied to a tree with an anthill.
ailla:262140	✓	✓		The twisted foot	The story of a man who got lost on the road because he found an elf.

Materials without annotations

71 folders in this collection contain only audio recordings, sometimes with accompanying video recordings. As of the writing of this guide, there are no transcriptions or translations of these recordings.

Collected in 2002

PID	Video	Audio	Title	Description
ailla:262217		✓	Our origins	This is a myth about our origin and relationship to the difference between Indigenous people and mestizos.
ailla:262853		✓	Spirit of water	The origin of the rivers in the region is that water spirits used to be like people and lived together. After an argument they split up, creating other rivers.
ailla:262891		✓	The boy	A hardworking small child, cleaned hectares of land to make a cornfield, but after each workday trees grow in the field, and it is as if he had not worked. This child, it is said, was Jesus Christ.
ailla:262930		✓	The dog's tongue	The dog's tongue belonged to the alligator, and he did not return it when he borrowed water to drink.

Collected in 2007

PID	Video	Audio	Title	Description
ailla:261415		✓	Campanario	Description about why a community near Panwits is called Campanario.
ailla:262914		✓	The culture	Description of the community's cultural practices.

ailla:262195		✓	Working on the farm	Description of farm work in the municipality of Sabanilla, Chiapas.
ailla:262181		✓	Working in Tabasco and Campeche	Talk about work experiences in the states of Tabasco and Campeche.
ailla:262901		✓	The childhood of Don José	Talk about work experiences in childhood of Don José.

Collected in 2008

PID	Video	Audio	Title	Description
ailla:262937		✓	Our community in the past	Talk about the community context during the infancy of the interviewee.
ailla:261405		✓	Beliefs	Talk about beliefs of the Ch'ol people.
ailla:262830		✓	Returning home	Talk about the quest to return to his hometown from the north.
ailla:262124	✓	✓	The search for food in the past	More stories about how commodities were obtained in the community in the past.
ailla:262090	✓	✓	The school and the plane	School stories, some trips and how a small plane crashed in the region.
ailla:261492		✓	Life story	Life story.
ailla:261460		✓	Earthquake and grasshoppers	Story about an earthquake and plague of grasshoppers in Tila.

Collected in 2018

PID	Video	Audio	Title	Description
ailla:261442		✓	Cuviac	Account of a resident of the ejido Cuviac, early settlement in the ejido.
ailla:262911		✓	The comadre	Narrative of a jaguar posing as a woman, to eat her comadre.
ailla:261448		✓	Day of the Dead	How the Day of the Dead is celebrated in the community
ailla:261531		✓	Marriage request	How marriage requests were performed
ailla:261547	✓	✓	Nahuals	The different beliefs about elves in the community
ailla:262818	✓	✓	Produce	What the community produces and consumes
ailla:262839		✓	Sombrerón	Story about a supernatural being that took children when their parents were out.
ailla:262220		✓	Our parents words	At night it is said that it is not good to bathe, comb hair, etc.
ailla:262067		✓	The mule and the hog	The mule who wanted to be like the hog who passes its days just laying around sleeping
ailla:261510		✓	Locusts	The plague of locusts
ailla:262896		✓	The carinero	The child was taken to wilderness by the carinero
ailla:262129		✓	The shine of money	The shine of gold that was watched over by a snake,
ailla:262894		✓	The captain	Those who used to be in charge of the Catholic church were known as captains.
ailla:262935		✓	The earthquake	When the very strong earthquake happened, it sounded like a thunderclap.
ailla:262020		✓	The earthquake	What happened with the earthquake

ailla:262145		✓	The volcano	When the volcano exploded there was no sunrise because of the falling ash.
ailla:261473		✓	Food preparation	How to prepare foods such as memelas, squash tortillas, among others.
ailla:261512		✓	Locusts	There was famine when the locusts finished off all the corn
ailla:262210		✓	Other beliefs	How the different churches came about.
ailla:262880		✓	The Chichonal volcano	Many years ago Chichonal volcano exploded and a lot of ash rained down.
ailla:262022		✓	The earthquake	The earthquake that happened many years ago.
ailla:262865		✓	That community	How people grew and populated.
ailla:262159		✓	Tiger Man	There was a man who was a jaguar and had a wife.
ailla:261432		✓	Charm	How a child found a charm on the road
ailla:262018		✓	The Feast of the Holy Cross in Hidalgo	A prayer where petitions are made to waterholes and worship and offerings are given
ailla:262823		✓	Raising chickens	How Gladis raises her chickens
ailla:262828		✓	Raising children before	How they used to raise their children
ailla:262149		✓	The word of God	How we ought to follow God.
ailla:261487	✓	✓	How the elderly used to be	They talk about what the elders did in the past
ailla:261386		✓	About their life	How it used to happen
ailla:262947		✓	Passtimes	How they passed time with their parents and siblings.
ailla:262151		✓	Things to drink	All the drinks that were prepared.
ailla:261508		✓	Life story	Daily living experiences of a child and their learning process
ailla:261440		✓	Cultural practices that the elderly do	Anecdotes from previous years
ailla:261477		✓	Giving thanks for water	How to give thanks to water.
ailla:261483		✓	How Hidalgo used to be	How Hidalgo Joshil was in the beginning
ailla:262816	✓	✓	Process for a milpa	Sowing and cleaning the cornfield and all the knowledge needed to do this.
ailla:261506		✓	Life story	A young man's life story
ailla:262837		✓	Shirt made of sackcloth	The story of a woman who wore a shirt made of sackcloth and how this bothered people
ailla:261538		✓	Milpa festival	There is a festival at planting time and during the growing season.
ailla:262086		✓	The school	Students talk about school and other issues.
ailla:261388		✓	Aguardiente	Comment on the presence of alcoholism and its consequences
ailla:261489		✓	Ladinos	A commentary on the presence of kaxlanes (Ladinos) in rural areas
ailla:262867		✓	The authorities	The role of the authorities of the community and the municipality described in infrastructure
ailla:262923		✓	The demon woman	A woman becomes a demon
ailla:262165		✓	Water	Comment on the situation of water pollution
ailla:261412		✓	Birth	Commentary on how births have been banned in the community of Los Luceros
ailla:262024		✓	The elders	The role of elders in the community of Los Luceros

ailla:261445		✓	Day of the Dead	Story of the Day of the Dead festivities.
ailla:262844		✓	Sombrerón	How men and women are tricked in this world.
ailla:262224	✓	✓	Paso Chinal	How Paso Chinal grew.
ailla:262237		✓	Planting times	At planting time everyone has their way to sow corn.
ailla:262037		✓	The evil woman	The evil woman deceives men.
ailla:262063		✓	The man with thorns	There was a man who had a lot of thorns on his body.
ailla:262153		✓	Those who eat people	There used to be many people who ate human flesh
ailla:261396		✓	Asking for a hand in marriage	How betrothals used to happen
ailla:262033		✓	The evil woman	A story about a woman that the men met on the road.
ailla:262035		✓	The evil woman	How the men are hypntized when they meet the woman on the road and the role the healer plays to help them
ailla:261421		✓	Care during childbirth	The midwife receives newborns day and night, is responsible for their care, how many months begins to attend the pregnant woman.
ailla:261523		✓	Maize gruel	Atol, gruel made from corn.
ailla:261451		✓	Death	The noise of the flying skull at night when there are sick people
ailla:262826		✓	Raising chickens	How a hen sits to take care of her eggs and how she cares for her chicks.
ailla:262876		✓	The black man	In the past there was a black man that ate people.
ailla:262073		✓	The owl	The animal that comes to wail on the roof of the house
ailla:262230		✓	Petejul	Tamale dough is prepared and consumed only during the community's religious festivals
ailla:261426	✓	✓	Carnival	How the toro petate [reed-mat bull] is made for the carnaval party
ailla:261525		✓	Making achiote	How achiote is picked, prepared, and sold.
ailla:262222		✓	Party	How the mayordomías got started in the community to organize feasts.
ailla:261391		✓	Asking for a hand in marriage	Earlier betrothals according to the customs of our ancestors.
ailla:261423		✓	Carnival	Details about Carnival, main activities performed in the great feast.
ailla:262234		✓	Planting maize	Describe the process of planting corn in the cornfield
ailla:262856		✓	Sports	How the members of a soccer team are training
ailla:262132		✓	The sun	What pregnant women should do about the sun
ailla:262051		✓	The jaguar	Story of the lady who met a jaguar
ailla:262070		✓	The old woman's past	Experiences of an elderly woman about her past.
ailla:262081		✓	The road	As the road was built in San Juan el Mirador
ailla:262200		✓	Zapatistas	History of struggle of the Zapatistas.
ailla:262135		✓	The three boys	One family had three children, the mother liked two of her children and did not like the other,

				always mistreating him and making him care for sheep every day.
ailla:262031		✓	The evil jaguar	About a family who was deceived by an evil jaguar
ailla:262212		✓	Our ancestors' culture	What plants can be sown according to lunar phase.
ailla:262027		✓	The envied younger child	A woman had two older children, but when their mother gave birth to another baby, so they hated it so much.
ailla:262077		✓	The power of yellow corn	These two walkers who saw the devils who were carrying a dead body.
ailla:262079		✓	The power of yellow corn	These two walkers, who saw devils, who were carrying a dead body.
ailla:262207		✓	New Year	Anecdotes of two people at a New Year's festival.
ailla:262155		✓	Three riddles	Three riddles.
ailla:261534		✓	Men who eat human flesh	The story of a man who came from Petalcingo and on the way met people who were preparing human flesh.
ailla:261438		✓	Cultural change	A short interview of cultural change and the importance of grandparents' knowledge.
ailla:261529		✓	Marriage	How our ancestors got married
ailla:261545		✓	Nahuals	The story of a man who died when they killed his nahual on the road.
ailla:262232		✓	Plague of grasshoppers	The story of the plague of locusts that affected the harvests of our ancestors
ailla:262933		✓	The donkey that carried gold	The man who found a donkey carrying a sack full of gold
ailla:262198	✓	✓	Yellow maize	The story of a man who was saved by yellow corn.
ailla:262168	✓	✓	Work	The two participants in the dialogue mention the types of work they do in their community and school
ailla:262873	✓	✓	The black man	How the ñek appears in Chol communities
ailla:262917		✓	The demon	How the Xiba appears in Chol communities

Secondary materials

PID	Title	Authors	Language
ailla:267513	Description of the soñ wakax poj -the dance of the reed mat bull- of Tila. The strength of symbolic language (1996)	Vázquez Álvarez, Juan Jesús Ochoa Nájera, José Daniel	Spanish
ailla:267507	Verb morphology in the Chol language of Tila, Chiapas (2002)	Vázquez Álvarez, Juan Jesús	Spanish
ailla:267501	Numeral classifiers and nominal classes in Ch'ol (2009)	Arcos López, Nicolás	Spanish
ailla:267505	Complementation in Chol (Mayan): A theory of split ergativity (2010)	Coon, Jessica	English
ailla:267509	A grammar of Chol, a Mayan language (2011)	Vázquez Álvarez, Juan Jesús	English
ailla:267503	Ch'ol (2015)	Coon, Jessica	English