Mayan Phylogeny

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Issues to investigate:

- How to locate specific languages within Mayan phylogeny?

- Methods for dealing with high homoplasy

- Differential evolutionary tendencies by data type (lexical, grammatical, phonological, semantic, etc.)

TIMELINE

Post-Conquest (1500 A.D.-Present)

Mayan Post-Classic (900 A.D.-1500 A.D.)

Mayan Classic (250-900 A.D.)
- Early Classic (250-550 A.D.)
- Late Classic (600-800 A.D.)
- Terminal Classic (800-900 A.D.)

Mayan Preclassic (2,000 B.C.-250 A.D.)
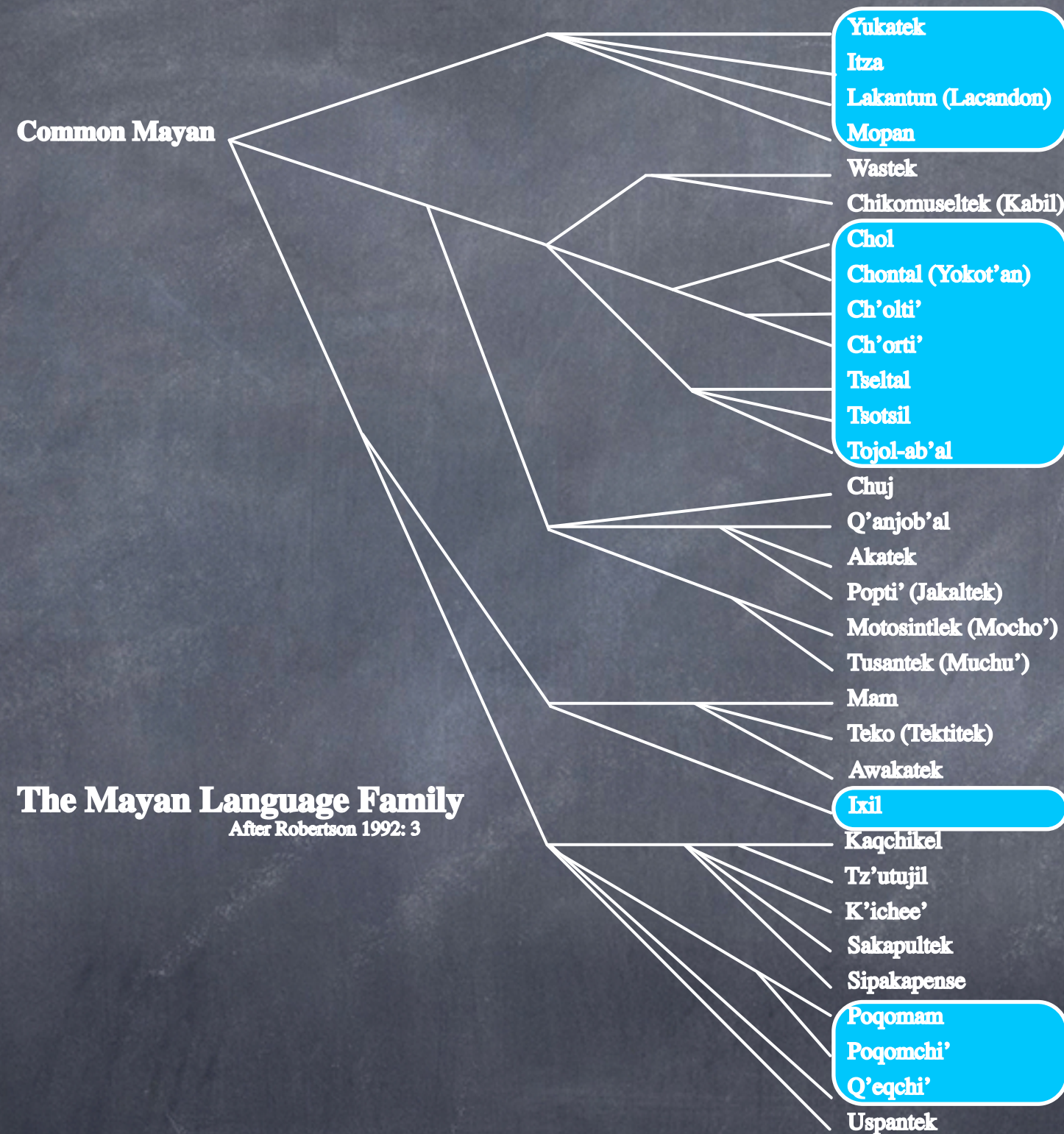- Early Preclassic (2,000-1,000B.C.)
- Middle Preclassic (1,000-400 B.C.)
- Late Preclassic (400 B.C.-250 A.D.)

Archaic (6,000-2,000 B.C.)
Settlements, Farming

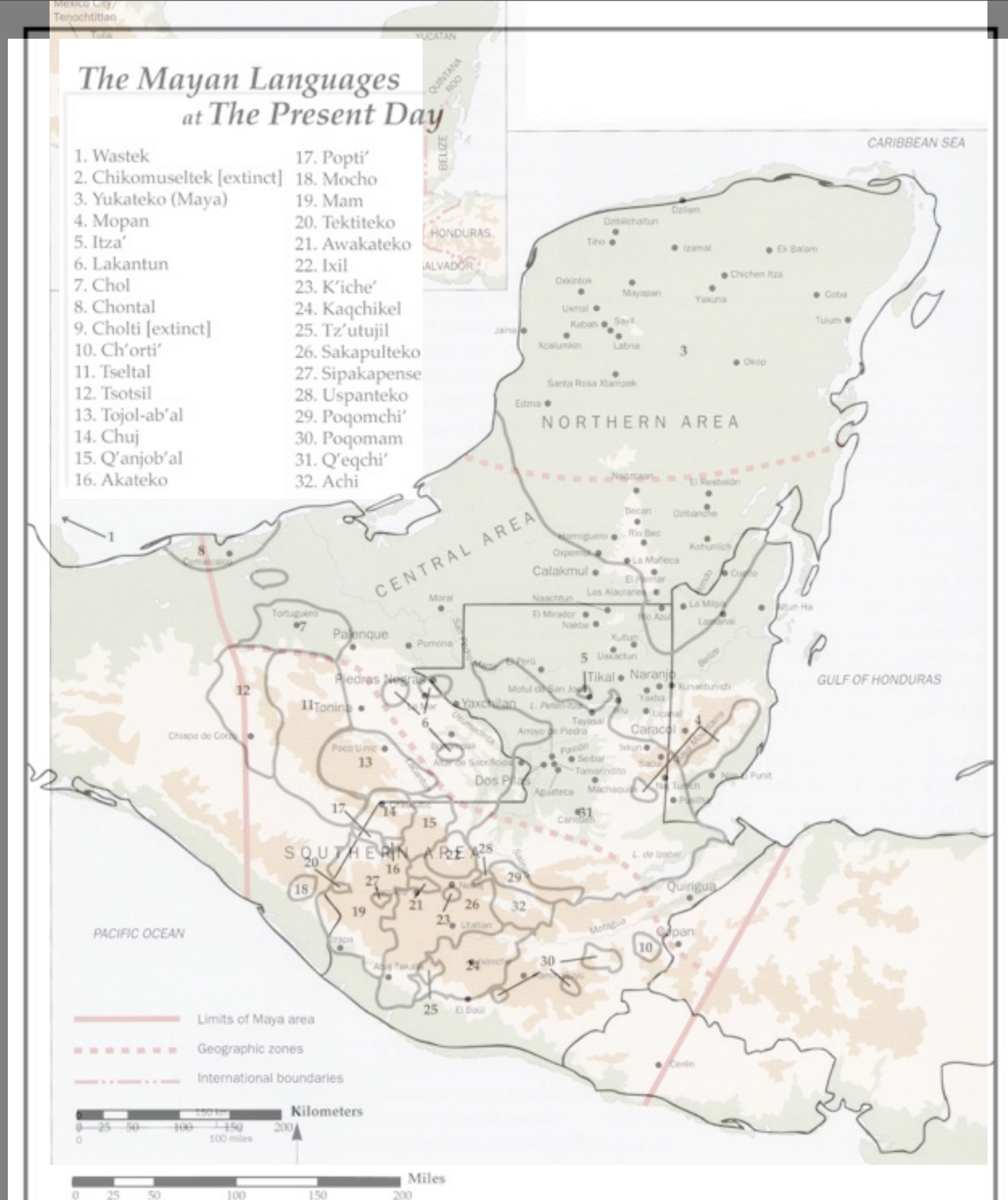Lithic (12,000-6,000 B.C.)
Hunter-Gatherers

The Mayan Language Family
After Robertson 1992: 3

Common Mayan

Yukatek
Itza
Lakantun (Lacandon)
Mopan

Wastek
Chikomuseltek (Kabil)

Chol
Chontal (Yokot'an)
Ch'olti'
Ch'orti'
Tseltal
Tsotsil
Tojol-ab'al

Chuj
Q'anjob'al
Akatek
Popti' (Jakaltek)
Motosintlek (Mocho')
Tusantek (Muchu')

Mam
Teko (Tektitek)
Awakatek
Ixil
Kaqchikel
Tz'utujil
K'ichee'
Sakapultek
Sipakapense
Poqomam
Poqomchi'
Q'eqchi'
Uspantek

Lowland Mayan Language Contact

Limits of Maya area
Geographic zones
International boundaries

The Maya Lowlands

The Mayan Languages at The Present Day

1. Wastek
2. Chikomuseltek [extinct]
3. Yukateko (Maya)
4. Mopan
5. Itza'
6. Lakantun
7. Chol
8. Chontal
9. Cholti [extinct]
10. Ch'orti'
11. Tseltal
12. Tsotsil
13. Tojol-ab'al
14. Chuj
15. Q'anjob'al
16. Akateko
17. Popti'
18. Mocho
19. Mam
20. Tektiteko
21. Awakateko
22. Ixil
23. K'iche'
24. Kaqchikel
25. Tz'utujil
26. Sakapulteko
27. Sipakapense
28. Uspanteko
29. Poqomchi'
30. Poqomam
31. Q'eqchi'
32. Achi

Limits of Maya area

Geographic zones

International boundaries

Kilometers

Miles

Internal Change	External Change
*language divergence	*language convergence
*vertical transmission	*horizontal transmission
*language evolution	*language contact
*language families	*unrelated languages

*Constraints on Outcomes of Language Contact

As far as the strictly linguistic possibilities go, any linguistic feature can be transferred from any language to any other language. (Thomason & Kaufman 1988:14)
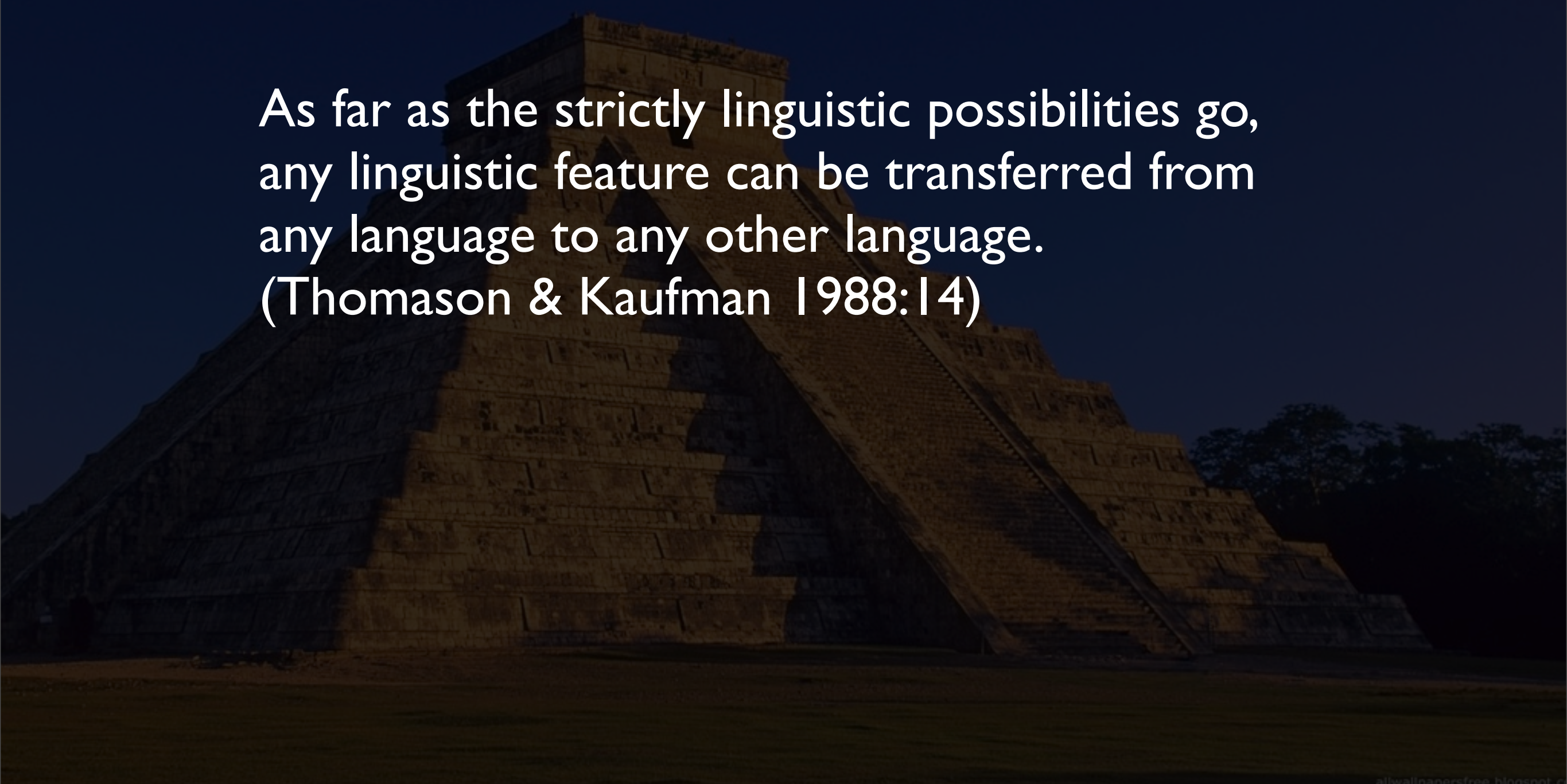
*Constraints on Outcomes of Language Contact

nouns, conjunctions > verbs > discourse markers > adjectives > interjections > adverbs > other particles, adpositions > numerals > pronouns > derivational affixes > inflectional affixes

Matras (2007: 34)

Sound Changes
   *ŋ > n
   *h > x
   *r > y
   *k(') > ʧ(')
   *q(') > q(')
   loss of long/short vowel distinction,
   New phoneme /p'/

Lowland Mayan Contact Features

Morphological and Syntactic Innovations
   - inclusive/exclusive distinction in first person plural
   - expansion of numeral classifier system
   - loss of agent focus antipassive construction
   - postverbal placement for absolutive person markers
   - aspect based split-ergativity (with *-Vl nominalizing suffixes)
   - plural postclitic -o:b'
   - perfective marker ti-
   - future perfect suffix -o:m
   - positional intransitive suffix -tahl (Justeson et al. 1985: 9
   - progressive auxilliary *iwal (Justeson et al. 1985: 9
   - affect verb suffix -na (Justeson et al. 1985: 9)
   - Specific numeral classifiers
   - specific person markers (nearly complete paradigm)
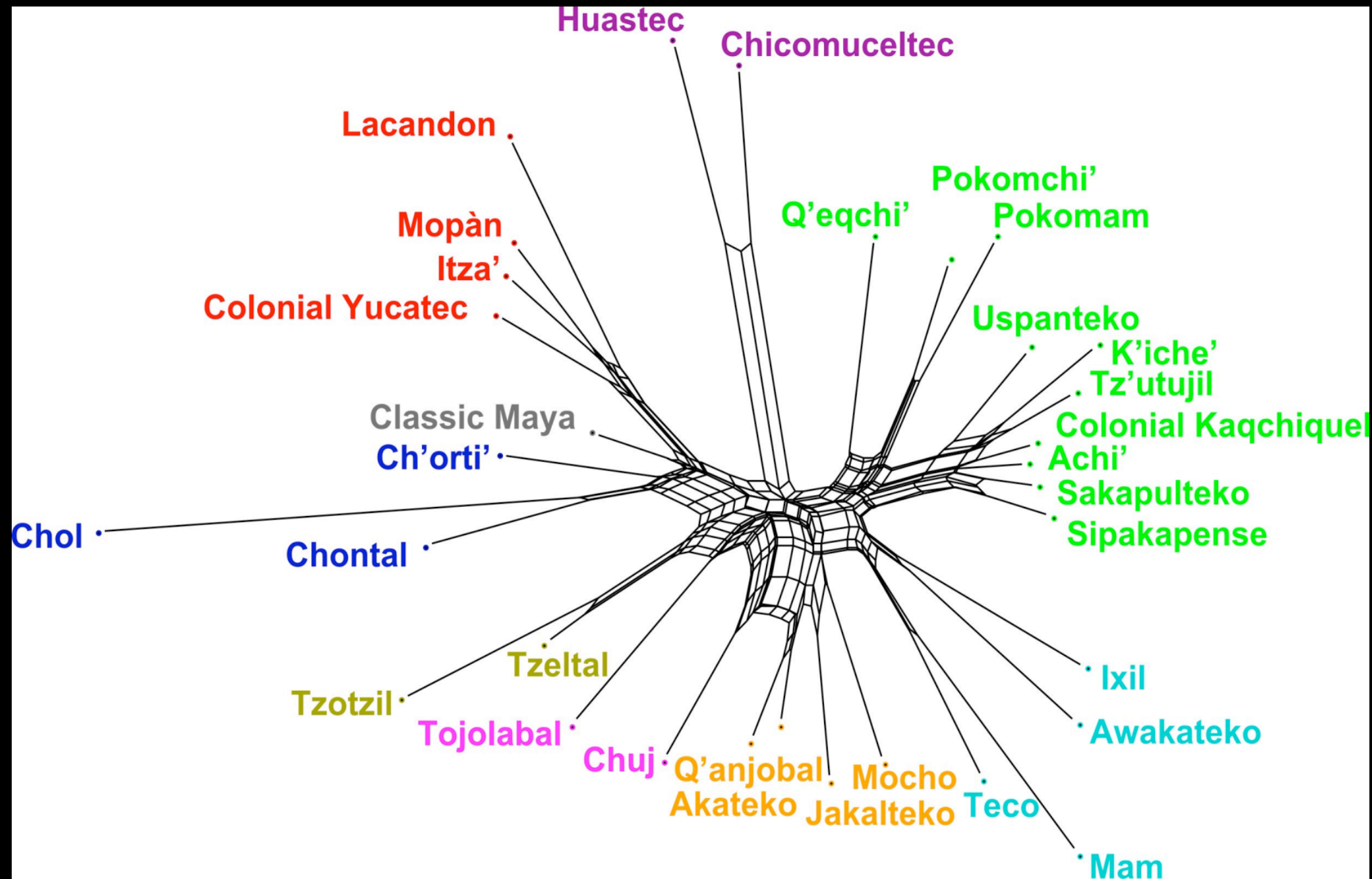   - agentive relational noun -men(el)

Directions to Chicomuselo, Chiapas, Mexico
1,270 km – about **14 hours 59 mins**
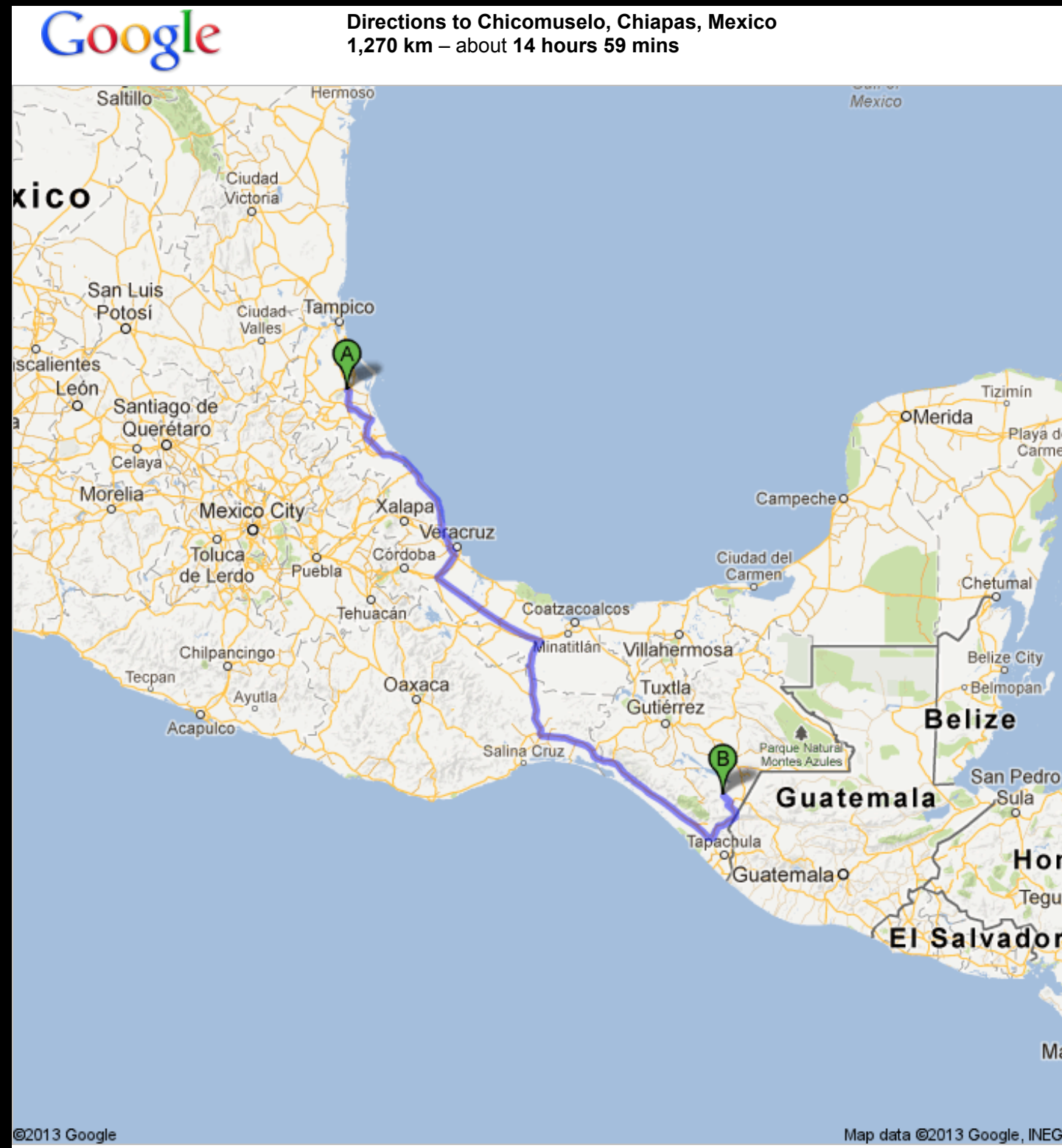
Bayesian Phylogenetic Analysis (MCMC)
(unrooted consensus network - Swadesh 100 List)

Atkinson 2006

Tojol-ab'al Grammatical Features Shared with Tseltal

Agentive RN *-u'un*	Innovation
Comitative Preposition *sok*	Innovation
Negative Existential *mayuk/me'yuk*	Innovation
Phrase final topic clitic *-i/-e*	Retention?
Phrase final distal clitic *-a*	Retention?
1st Pl inclusive suffix *-tik*	Innovation
1st Pl Exclusive suffix *-tik+1.ABS*	Innovation
?*1st pl to unmarked for number	Innovation
Position of Set B marker	Retention
Completive Intransitive (unmarked)	Coincidence
Incompletive Intransitive *x-*	Innovation
Incompletive Transitive *x-*	Innovation
Antipassive *-wan*	Innovation
Loss of agent focus	Innovation
Plural *-ik* (pos. and adj)	Innovation
Plural for nouns *-tik*	Innovation
Plural for humans -tak	Retention?
Plural imperative *-ik* (from *-eq)	Innovation
Irrealis *-uk*	Innovation
Definite Article (not form)	Innovation
Inclusive/Exclusive distinction	Innovation
No noun classifiers	Retention

Tojol-ab'al Grammatical Features Shared with Chuj or Q'anjob'alan

General Preposition *b'a(y)*	Innovation
Perfect Transitive *-unej, -nak*	Retention
Future/Potential *oj-, ok-*	Innovation
Negative Existential *me'ey, ma'ay*	Retention
Progressive Auxiliary *wan*	Innovation
Intransitive Status Suffix *-i*	Retention
Transitive Status Suffix *-a(')*	Retention
Passive *-j*	Retention
Mediopassive *-x*	Retention
Interrogative particle *(a)ma*	Innovation
Directionals	Innovation
Nominal plural for humans *-e'*	Innovation
Third person plural *-e'*	Innovation

From Law, Forthcoming

Data