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Title: Nominal Predication in Caltimacán Otomí: Preliminary Observations from the Fieldwork Questionnaire on Copular Clauses and Nonverbal Predication.

This poster presents preliminary observations on these constructions based on data collected through the Fieldwork Questionnaire on Copular Clauses/Nonverbal Predication (Hartmann *et al.* 2025). The data reveal strategies involving simple juxtaposition, person-marking predicative clitics, and specialized predicative demonstratives and personal pronouns.

Caltimacán **Otomí** belongs to the Oto-Pamean branch of the Oto-Manguean linguistic family and is spoken in the community of Caltimacán in the state of Hidalgo, México. Verbal predication is expressed through person and TAM proclitics attached to the verbal complex, while overt nominal subjects are optional. Nominal expressions, in contrast, do not normally occur bare: lexical nouns are minimally accompanied by a number clitic and may additionally co-occur with demonstratives, determiners, quantifiers, numerals, possessive markers, and adjectives (Acosta 2018, 2020). Example (1) illustrates both the verbal complex and the structure of an argumental nominal expression.

- (1) *ra Mátias bi méni núya ya pǎhni*
ra=Mátias bi=méni núja ja=pǎhni
SG=Mátias 3PST=wash PROX.SG PL=shirt
'Matías washed these shirts.'

Preliminary data reveal constructions formed through simple juxtaposition (2), constructions involving person-marking predicative clitics (3), and constructions based on predicative demonstratives and personal pronouns (4–5).

- (2) *ra Isa ra 'ñothete*
ra=Isa ra=?ɲaθete
ra=Isa SG=doctor
'Isa is a doctor.'

- (3) *núga drá ñ'oi nú'i grá tsaxmāgu*
núya **drá=ɲoi** núʔi **yrá=tsajmāgu**
1SG 1PRED=mouse 2SG 2PRED=bat
'I am a mouse, and you are a bat.'

- (4) *go géke Yolanda*
yo **yéke** Jolanda
ʔ? 1SG.PRED Yolanda
'I am Yolanda.'

- (5) *géna 'na fáni*
yéna ʔna fáni
 1PROX.SG.PRED IND.SG horse
 ‘This is a horse.’

The examples above illustrate several formal differences among the strategies. In the juxtapositional construction (2), no overt predicative marker is present; nevertheless, the nominal predicate retains the number clitic *ra=* that characterizes nominal expressions in argumental contexts. In (3), the nominal predicate hosts the forms *drá=* and *grá=*, which function as person-sensitive predicative markers. Finally, the constructions in (4–5) employ specialized predicative forms that contrast with the demonstrative (*núna – géna*) and personal pronoun (*núga – géke*) forms attested in non-predicative contexts.

The coexistence of these strategies raises several questions regarding the expression of nominal predication in Caltimacán Otomí. In particular, the study explores the morphosyntactic factors that condition the distribution of the different constructions, the range of nominal expressions that may function as predicates, and the extent to which predicative expressions preserve, modify, or replace properties otherwise associated with argumental noun phrases. Particular attention is paid to the role of predicate type and to the semantic relation established between the two terms of the copular clause (*equative*, *specificational*, etc.) (Mikkelsen 2005; Pustet 2003).

List of Abbreviations: 1 first person; 2 second person; 3 third person; IND indefinite; SG singular; PL plural; PST past; PRED predicate; PROX proximal.

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