# TONE AND LOANWORD ADAPTATION IN IXPANTEPEC MIXTEC: HORIZONTAL TRANSFER IN THE EVOLUTION OF LINGUISTIC DIVERSITY

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This poster describes phonological adaptation in Ixpantepec Mixtec [mks]—an Oto-Manguean language of southern Mexico. My main claim is that Ixpantepec Mixtec is incorporating Mexican Spanish loanwords into the language, adapting those loanwords into its phonology. This is a complex adaptive strategy for maintaining the vertically transmitted system while quickly and efficiently accepting new 'packages of information' useful for survival (of both the language and its speakers). The process is akin to 'conjugation' in horizontal gene transfer as it is a fitness- increasing strategy, found across the animal kingdom, although this specific configuration, predicated on combinatorial and phonotactic phonology is (human) language-specific. Special attention will be given to the placement of tones on loanwords. A corpus of over 200 loanwords is analyzed as part of this study.

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