

# K'iche'

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# Introduction

- K'iche' > Eastern Mayan > Mayan
- ~900000 speakers
- Guatemala
- Often divided into 4 dialects, the biggest is Central K'iche'



# Phonology: consonants

**TABLE 18.1 K'ICHE' CONSONANTS**

	<i>Bilabial</i>	<i>Alveolar</i>	<i>Alveopalatal</i>	<i>Palatal</i>	<i>Velar</i>	<i>Uvular</i>	<i>Glottal</i>
Plosive	p b' [ḃ]	t t'			k k'	q q' [q', ɢ]	' [ʔ]
Nasal	m	n					
Flap		r					
Fricative		s	x [ʃ]			j [χ]	
Affricate		tz [ts] tz' [ts']	ch [tʃ] ch' [tʃ']				
Lateral		l					
Approximant	w			y [j]			

# Phonology: vowels

Long VS short vowels (tense VS lax in some dialects)

**TABLE 18.2 K'ICHE' VOWELS**

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High	i, ii, ɪ	u, uu, ʊ
Mid	e, ee, ɛ	o, oo, ɔ
Low	a, aa, ə	

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# Morphology: word classes

Major classes: nouns, adjectives, verbs, and positionals.

Minor classes: prepositions, relational nouns, classifiers, demonstratives, numbers, directionals.

# Morphology: person marking

- Two sets of verb markers: **set A** for transitive subjects (1b) and **set B** for transitive objects and intransitive subjects (1a, 1b) (i.e. ergative marking)
- **Set A** can also be used to mark noun possession.
- The distinction is made between singular and plural and 1, 2, 3 person
- Honorific second person is also present, but its markers don't change

## 1a. **x-oj-b'iin-ik**

CP-**b1PL**-walk-SS

*'We walked.'*

## 1b. **x-oj-k-il-o**

CP-**b1PL**-**a3PL**-see-SS

*'They saw us.'*

# Morphology: nouns and adjectives

Possession: Set A markers (2), some nouns also change the root, inalienable nouns take a special suffix when unpossessed

2    **qa-wuuj**  
      **a1PL-book**  
      *'our book'*

Number: plural suffixes *-aab'/-iib'*

3    **koyo't-aab'**  
      **coyot-PL**  
      *'coyotes'*

# Morphology: nouns and adjectives

Some adjectives can also take plural suffix, -a'q/aq:

4     nim-a'q

big-**PL**

*'big ones'*

...or the nominal suffix:

5     ch'u'j-aab'

crazy-**PL**

*'crazy ones'*



# Morphology: verbs

## Intransitive verb:

TAM prefix, set B (subject) prefix, (element of movement), stem, status suffix (6)

6     **x-oj-e'-b'iin-oq**

CP-b1PL-MOV-walk-DEP

*'We went to walk.'*

## Transitive verb:

TAM prefix, set B (object) prefix, set A prefix (subject), stem, status suffix

7     **x-oj-k-il-o**

CP-b1PL-a3PL-see-SS

*'They saw us.'*

+ sometimes voice suffixes

# Morphology: verbs

## TAM: Tense, Aspect, Mood

Completive, incomplete, imperative, negative imperative.

## Status markers:

Convey mood and transitivity, complicated form system. Sometimes can be omitted.

Two kinds: dependent (imperatives and forms that contain movement) and plain/independent (all the other forms).

## Movement suffixes:

Derived from intransitive verbs of motion.

8      x-in-**e'**-wa'-oq

CP-b1SG-**MOV**-eat-DEP

*'I went to eat.'*

# Morphology: derivation

## Nominalization of verbs:

9     wa'-iim

eat-VN

eating

## Positionals:

Root class that can indicate position, state, form or physical properties. They can attach verbal morphology and also special suffixes to form non-verbal predicates, adjectives or verbs:

10    x-∅-u-tzay-ab'aa'

CP-b3SG-a3SG-hang-TV

*'s/he hung it'*