

TITLE

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1 Santiago Laxopa Zapotec

Santiago Laxopa Zapotec (SLZ; *Dille'xhunh Laxup* [dizɛʔzɯn l:aʃ:up^h]) is a variety of Zapotec spoken by about 1000 people in the town of Santiago Laxopa, Oaxaca, Mexico. It is a member of the Zapotecan language family, which is part of the larger Oto-Manguean language family.

Table 1: Consonant inventory for Santiago Laxopa Zapotec

	bilabial	alveolar	post- alveolar	retroflex	palatal	velar	labio- velar	uvular
stop	p: b	t: d				k: g	k ^w : g ^w	
fricative		s: z	ʃ: ʒ	ʂ: ʐ	ç:			ʁ
affricate		ts: dz		tʃ:				
nasal	m:	n: ñ						
lateral		l: ɭ						
trill		r:						
approximate							w:	

SLZ has a four phonemic vowels, which are shown in 2. The vowel system is characterized by a three-way height distinction and a two-way backness distinction. The high back vowel /u/ is realized as [o] in some contexts, but this is not phonemic and is restricted to certain lexical items. Additionally, older speakers tend to realize /u/ as [o] in all contexts, while younger speakers have a more stable realization of /u/ as [u] save for a few lexical items like *me'edo* [mɛdoʔ] ‘baby’.

Table 2: Vowel qualities in Santiago Laxopa Zapotec.

	front	central	back
high	i		u
mid	e		
low		a	

In addition to these vowel qualities, Santiago Laxopa Zapotec has four phonations that are phonemic. These are: breathy voice (e.g., /a̤/), creaky voice (e.g., /a̰/), modal voice (e.g., /a/), and checked voice, which is a complex segment consisting of a vowel and glottal stop (e.g., /aʔ/).