

Covert Transitive-Intransitive Verb Pairs in Copala Trique¹

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1. Description of verb pairs

Languages often have morphological devices that add a causative meaning to an intransitive verb, and sometimes also devices that detransitivize a transitive verb. Copala Trique has prefixes with both functions, though neither is synchronically productive. An example of an intransitive root that can take the causative prefix is *awi*^{3?} ‘to die’ (cf. *tikawi*^{3?} ‘to kill’), and an example of a transitive root that can take the detransitive prefix is *a?ne*^{3?} ‘to cut’ (cf. *ši?ne*^{3?} ‘to get cut’).² Sometimes derived verbs have conventionalized meanings; for example, the derived transitive verb *tikamã*^{3?} ‘to sprinkle, spray’ is based on the weather verb *amã*^{3?} ‘to rain’ plus a causative prefix.

In this paper I treat Copala Trique verb pairs that have a clear semantic intransitive-transitive pairing, but show no formal resemblance to each other. The intransitive verbs in these pairs express position, i.e., they link an object and the place where it is located, for example, *na*^{3h} ‘to be lying’. The transitive verbs in these pairs express placement, i.e., an agent causes an object to be in such a place. Each placement verb pairs with one or two corresponding position verbs. For example, *kuču*^{32h} ‘to place in a lying position’ pairs with *na*^{3h} ‘to be lying’. The following sentences show this relationship; in each case the place is expressed by a phrase that contains the body-part noun *riã*³² ‘face’, which is translated into English by the preposition *on*.

- (1) *na*^{13h} *ne?e*^{3h} *riã*³² *yuwe*⁵ *a*³²
lies baby face palm:mat DEC(larative)
‘The baby is lying on the palm mat.’
- (2) *kuču*^{32h} *ša*^{3na}^{1!} *mã*^{3!} *ne?e*^{3h} *riã*³² *yuwe*⁵ *a*³²
placed:lying woman to baby face palm:mat DEC
‘The woman laid the baby on the palm mat.’

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² Copala Trique has the following consonants: fortis stops *p t k*, lenis stops *b d g*, affricates *ɸ ʧ ʤ*, fortis sibilants *s ʃ ʂ*, lenis sibilants *z ʒ r*, nasals *m n*, lateral *l*, and glides *y w*. It has five vowels: *i e a o u*. It also has nasalization, written as a tilde (˜) over the final vowel of the word. There are three laryngeals: glottal stop (?), *h*, and an abstract laryngeal (!) that shortens the preceding vowel. There are also five levels of tone, written as raised numbers, with ⁵ as the highest level. Tone and word-final laryngeals are considered to be on a laryngeal tier distinct from the segmental tier, which includes consonants, vowels, nasalization, and word-medial ?. Sounds on the laryngeal tier are written as superscripts. For more information about the phonology of Copala Trique, see Hollenbach 1984, 1985.

- (3) *na*^{13h} *yā*^{3h} *riā*³² *yoʔo*⁵ *a*³²
 lies paper face earth DEC
 ‘The book is lying on the ground.’
- (4) *kučū*^{32h} *šni*³ *yā*^{3h} *riā*³² *yoʔo*⁵ *a*³²
 placed:lying boy paper face earth DEC
 ‘The boy laid the book on the ground.’

A list of these verb pairs follows. Sometimes one position verb corresponds to two placement verbs and vice versa.

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|-----------------------------|----------------|-------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| (5) <i>na</i> ^{3h} | ‘be lying’ | _____ | <i>učū</i> ^{32h} | ‘place lying’ |
| <i>yā</i> ⁵ | ‘be sitting’ | _____ | <i>une</i> ^{3?} | ‘place sitting’ |
| <i>ne</i> ^{3!} | ‘be sitting’ | _____ | | |
| <i>nikū</i> ^{3?} | ‘be standing’ | _____ | <i>ačō</i> ^{4!} | ‘place vertically’ |
| <i>no</i> ^{4!} | ‘be against’ | _____ | | |
| <i>ta</i> ⁵ | ‘be on top’ | _____ | <i>uta</i> ^{3?} | ‘place on top’ |
| <i>nu</i> ³² | ‘be in’ | _____ | <i>aʔni</i> ⁵ | ‘put in’ |
| | | _____ | <i>ara</i> ³ | ‘put in (many things)’ |
| <i>ʔni</i> ^{32h} | ‘be wedged in’ | _____ | <i>anu</i> ^{3?} | ‘wedge in’ |
| <i>ži</i> ^{5h} | ‘be tucked in’ | _____ | <i>ači</i> ^{5h} | ‘tuck in’ |

Position verbs are very common in Copala Trique, partly because prepositional phrases do not modify nouns. Instead of saying ‘a person in jail’ or ‘a book on the table’, Copala Trique speakers say ‘a person [who] is tucked in the jail’ or ‘a book [that] is on top of the table’. Another reason that these verbs are common is that there is no generic verb that means ‘to be located’, and so a specific position verb must be used. Likewise, there is no generic verb that means ‘to place’, and so a specific placement verb must be used.

2. Extended uses of paired verbs

For items that are on the ground, the verbs that mean ‘to be sitting’, ‘to be standing’, and ‘to be lying’ are used. These verbs apply prototypically to humans and animals, but they are extended to inanimate objects, as, for example, the palm mat lying on the ground in the examples above. These extensions sometimes seem arbitrary from an English speaker’s point of view because they may not match English usage. For example, in Trique a house is said to be sitting, rather than standing.

Even though there is no phonological or morphological similarity between the position verbs and the corresponding placement verbs, they are clearly related in the mind of the speaker. This is shown by the fact that conventional associations between inanimate objects and position verbs are usually matched by parallel associations between the objects and placement verbs. The idiosyncratic information speakers must control in order to use a position verb correctly also helps them use the

corresponding placement verb correctly. For example, once we know that houses and jugs are said to be sitting (using either *ne*^{3!} or *yā*⁵), it is easy to predict that the verb used for building a house or placing a jug is *une*^{3?} ‘to place sitting’, as seen in the following sentences.

- (6) *ne*^{13!} *we*^{3?} *tako*⁵ *ki*^{32h} *a*³²
sits house foot mountain DEC
‘The house is located at the foot of the mountain.’
- (7) *kune*^{3?} *gwa*⁴ *tukwa*^{4!} *zo*^{3?} *tako*⁵ *ki*^{32h} *a*³²
placed:sitting John home his foot mountain DEC
‘John built his home at the foot of the mountain.’
- (8) *ne*^{13!} *šū*^{3h} *ši*^{nu}⁵ *ruwa*^{3h} *a*³²
sits pot side hearth DEC
‘The clay pot is sitting next to the hearth.’
- (9) *kune*^{3?} *ša*^{3na}^{1!} *šū*^{3h} *ši*^{nu}⁵ *ruwa*^{3h} *a*³²
placed:sitting woman pot side hearth DEC
‘The woman sat the clay pot down next to the hearth.’

Some other conventional associations between nouns and position-placement verb pairs are the following. Trees, crosses, mountains, and chairs are said to be standing (*nikū*^{3?}), and the word used for placing these things is *ačō*^{4!} ‘to place vertically (either on or above the ground)’. Pictures are said to hang on the wall in English, but in Trique they are said to be against it (*no*^{4!}), and the word used for hanging a picture is also *ačō*^{4!} ‘to place vertically’. Shirrtails are said to be tucked in (*ži*^{5h}), and seeds are said to be tucked into the ground; and the word used for tucking them both in is *ači*^{5h} ‘to tuck in’. A mouse is said to be wedged into (*?ni*^{32h}) the mouth of a cat, and the word used for placing it there is *anu*^{3?} ‘to wedge in’. Feet, however, are said to be wedged into (*?ni*^{32h}) sandals, and the word used for putting sandals on is *ači*^{5h} ‘to tuck in’.

Some uses of these verb pairs are highly conventionalized. For example, towns are said to be lying (*na*^{3h}), and the verb that is used for founding a town is *učū*^{32h} ‘to place lying’. Heavenly bodies and God are said to be standing (*nikū*^{3?}) in the sky (or heaven), and the verb used for placing them there is *ačō*^{4!} ‘to place vertically’.

Some conventionalized uses fall outside the spatial domain. The verb *ne*^{3!} ‘to be sitting’ is used to mean ‘to reside, to be at home’, and it is also used for holding a political or religious office for a period of time. Not surprisingly, the term used for electing a person to office is *une*^{3?} ‘to place sitting’ (when the focus is on filling the office, rather than on the process of choosing). Consider the following sentences.

- (10) *ne*^{13!} *zo*^{3?} *si*^{3nde}^{4!} *a*³²
sits he president DEC
‘He holds the office of town president.’

- (11) *une*^{3?} *ni*³ *si*³*nde*^{4!} *mã*^{3!} *zo*^{3?} *a*³²
 place:sitting they president to him DEC
 ‘They (indefinite) name him town president.’

Position and placement verbs often take the same adverbial modifier with approximately the same meaning modification. Two of these modifiers are: *nuwa*¹ ‘supine, face up’ and *yuwe*^{1!} ‘hidden’. A person lying supine is said to *na*^{3h} *nuwa*¹ ‘to be lying supine’, and the term used for placing a baby in a supine position is *uču*^{32h} *nuwa*¹ ‘to place lying supine’. Something hidden away in a crevice is said to *ži*^{5h} *yuwe*^{1!} ‘to be tucked in hidden’, and the verb used for placing it there is *ači*^{5h} *yuwe*^{1!} ‘to tuck in hidden’.

Sometimes the verb plus the modifier has an idiomatic meaning. The adjective *za*^{1?} ‘good, well’, when combined with various verbs expressing position or placement, means ‘to put away, to store’, as seen in examples like the following.

- (12) *ta*^{1h} *za*^{1?} *ro*³*to*^{2!} *riã*³² *yana*^{32!} *a*³²
 is:on:top well blanket face platform DEC
 ‘The blanket is put away up on the platform.’
- (13) *uta*^{3?} *za*^{1?} *ša*³*na*^{1!} *ro*³*to*^{2!} *riã*³² *yana*^{32!} *a*³²
 places:on:top well woman blanket face platform DEC
 ‘The woman puts the blanket away up on the platform.’
- (14) *?ni*^{2h} *za*^{1?} *nã*^{3h} *sa?**ã*^{32h} *rke*^{3!} *yu?**u*^{32h} *a*³²
 is:tucked:in well bag money stomach hole DEC
 ‘The bag of money is stored in the hole.’
- (15) *kanu*^{3?} *za*^{1?} *šni*³ *nã*^{3h} *sa?**ã*^{32h} *rke*^{3!} *yu?**u*^{32h} *a*³²
 tucked:in well boy bag money stomach hole DEC
 ‘The boy stored the bag of money in the hole.’

Sometimes position verbs enter into idioms that contain a verb and its subject; these idioms are often paralleled by idioms that contain a placement verb and its object. Because Copala Trique is a VSO language, verb-object idioms are discontinuous.

For example, the noun *tukwã*⁵ ‘furrow’ is extended metaphorically to mean ‘custom’. In this extended sense, a *tukwã*⁵ is said to lie (*na*^{3h}); and when someone establishes a custom, the word used is *uču*^{32h} ‘to place lying’.

- (16) *na*^{13h} *tukwã*⁵ *yo*^{3?} *azi*^{2h} *na*⁴ *a*³²
 lies furrow that since long:ago DEC
 ‘That custom has been around for a long time.’
- (17) *kuču*^{32h} *ži*^{4?} *na*¹ *tukwã*⁵ *yo*^{3?} *a*³²
 placed:lying our:grandfather of:long:ago furrow that DEC
 ‘Our ancestors of long ago established that custom.’

In its literal sense of ‘furrow’, however, a *tukwã⁵* is said to be in (*nu³²*); and when oxen are plowing, the word used for making a furrow is *aʔni⁵* ‘to put in’.

Even though I have illustrated many conventionalized uses that apply to both a position verb and its corresponding placement verb, it is not the case that all conventionalized uses do so. (This fact does not, of course, invalidate the relationship because many morphologically related verb pairs also show usage differences.) For example, the verb *uču^{32h}* ‘to place lying’ also means to ‘give birth to’, but the intransitive counterpart of this meaning is the process verb *aʔnga³* ‘to be born’, not *na^{3h}* ‘to be lying’ (even though newborns lie, rather than sit or stand). The verb *une^{3ʔ}* ‘to place sitting’ is also used for giving a name to a person, but the intransitive counterpart of this meaning is *kuʔna^{1h}* ‘to be named’, not *ne^{3!}* or *yã⁵* ‘to be sitting’.

3. Lexical representation of verb pairs

The facts I have presented raise two important questions about Copala Trique structure. One of these questions is how the pairing relationship between position and placement verbs that show no morphological relation or phonological similarity should be shown in a description of Copala Trique. The other question is how the conventionalized collocations between these verbs and nouns should be shown. Both of these relationships seem to belong more to the lexical structure of the language than to the syntax.

Unfortunately, most models of syntactic or lexical structure say little about questions such as these. I therefore address the following remarks to a very practical representation of lexical structure, namely, a bilingual Trique-Spanish dictionary.

First of all, in spite of the relation between position and placement verbs, it seems clear that they are separate lexical items, and that they must be treated as separate dictionary entries. It is, of course, the case that even morphologically derived causatives and detransitives are considered to be separate lexical items from their corresponding simple roots because of the fact that neither their existence, nor their meanings, are predictable.

How can the relationship between paired position and placement verbs be shown within the structure of a dictionary entry? In the Bartholomew and Schoenhals framework, which has been widely used for indigenous languages of Mexico, there are three parts of an entry where such a relationship could be indicated: cross-references, subentries, and essential linguistic information (1983:178-91).

In the case of verbs that are morphologically related, a combination of cross-references and subentries is often used. The more complex form is listed as a subentry under the simpler form, but it is also listed as a main entry in its own right, with a cross-reference (by means of *Véase*) to the simpler form. This procedure was followed in the Huave dictionary for many derived forms. For example, the entries for ‘to sweep’ (*lo barre*) and ‘broom’ (*la escoba*) are shown in (18) below (see Stairs and Scharfe de Stairs 1981:13, 146).

- (18) a. **ajimb** *vt* 1. lo barre **Sanasaj xantaj majimb nden cos xeyay nendejndeaj**. Voy a decir a mi mujer que barra el patio porque tiene mucha basura. 2. lo desmonta **Cawül sanajimb quiriw xil para napiür quiaj**. Voy a desmontar un poco donde voy a sembrar.
nejimb *s* el que barre
nijimb *s* la escoba
- b. **nijimb** *s* la escoba **Sanangal nots nijimb najimb ninguy tinden**. Voy a comprar una escoba para barrer la casa. *Véase* **ajimb**

When neither form of a word is considered to be more basic than the other, both forms can be listed as main entries and cross-referenced to the other form. This method was followed for augmentative and diminutive forms of roots in Huave, which differ by having back versus front vowels, and dental versus palatal consonants. The abbreviations *Aum* and *Dim* were used. For example, the entries for *tsorrots* and *cherech* are (see Stairs and Scharfe de Stairs 1981:92, 174):

- (19) a. **cherech** *adj* delgado en medio, acinturado **Aaga nüx quiaj cherech timitoet nej**. Aquella joven tiene la cintura delgada. *Aum* **tsorrots**
- b. **tsorrots** *adj* bicóncavo, delgado en medio *Dim* **cherech**

This is also the method employed to list synonyms and antonyms, which are introduced by *Sinón* and *Antón*, though many dictionary compilers have chosen not to include this sort of information.

In the case of Trique verb pairs that differ by the presence or absence of a derivational morpheme, I have chosen to list the simpler form as a main entry, with the derived form as a subentry under it. The derived form will also be given as a main entry that is cross-referenced to the simpler form (using *Véase*). Dictionary entries for the verbs *awi*^{3?} ‘to die’ and *tikawi*^{3?} ‘to kill’ will look something like the following. (A practical alphabet is used, and the glosses are in Spanish.)

- (20) a. **avi!** *vi* morir **Vij yo! quiran! so!, gää nē cavi! so! a**. Él estaba enfermo por dos años, y entonces murió. [*pres.*: **avi!**³; *fut.*: **cavi!**¹]
ticavi! *vt* matar
avi! i'nä! ser inconsciente
- b. **ticavi!** *vt* matar **!Nij síi yuvää taga! che!é se ticavi! so! yuvi! a**. El hombre violento está en la cárcel porque mató a una persona. [*pres.*: **ticavi!**³; *fut.*: **ticavi!**¹³] *Véase* **avi!**

In the case of the Trique verb pairs discussed in this paper, however, there is no morphological basis for considering either form to be basic. Even though a case could be made for considering the position verbs to be basic because they occur more frequently than the placement verbs and because they are semantically simpler, I prefer to treat both forms as equally simple.

Because no one has included information of this sort in a bilingual dictionary so far, there is no clear precedent to follow. There is also no obvious solution. I considered two places in the structure of a dictionary entry where such information might fit: essential linguistic information and

cross-references.

The position for essential linguistic information is used to provide information about the dictionary entry represented by the citation form. It occurs near the end of an entry, and the information given is enclosed in brackets. This position is normally used for things like irregular principal parts or a cross reference to the grammatical sketch (Bartholomew and Schoenhals 1983:178-79).

I decided not to use this position to express verb pairings for three reasons. The first is that the identification of the paired verb is not information about the entry under consideration, but rather a reference to a different entry. The second reason is that this position is already needed to give information about verb tense-aspect, and it seems awkward to combine two such disparate kinds of information in the same bracketed position. A third reason is that verb pairings sometimes change for different sense discriminations, whereas the information about tense-aspect remains the same for all the sense discriminations of an entry.

I decided to show the relationship between the verbs in these pairs by means of cross-references, as was done with the Huave augmentative and diminutive forms, and to introduce them by the abbreviations *Trans* and *Intr*. In the case of verbs with multiple sense discriminations, like *uču*^{32h} ‘to place lying; to found (a town); to give birth’, the cross-reference will sometimes apply only to some of the sense discriminations because the others enter into a different pairing. These cross-references therefore need to be placed before the bracketed position for essential linguistic information, which applies to all of the sense discriminations. The entries for *na*^{3h} ‘to be lying’ and *uču*^{32h} ‘to place lying’ will therefore look something like the following.

- (21) a. **naj** *vi* estar acostado **Näj ne'ej rihaan yuvéé a.** El nene está acostado en el petate. *Trans* **uchruj** [*pres.*: **naj**³; *fut.*: **quinaj**¹³]
- b. **uchruj** *vt* 1. acostar **Cuchruj chanä man ne'ej rihaan yuvéé a.** La mujer acostó al nene en el petate. *Intr* **naj** 2. establecer (*un pueblo*) **Cuchruj xii ní' chuman' Copala gää naá a.** Nuestros antepasados establecieron el pueblo de Copala hace mucho tiempo. *Intr* **naj** 3. dar a luz **Cuchruj nicä Pedro man ne'ej cuate nii cua'ää a.** La esposa de Pedro dio a luz gemelos anoche. *Intr* **a'ngaa** [*pres.*: **uchruj**³²; *fut.*: **cuchruj**²]

For the sake of comparison, (22) shows what these entries would look like if the bracketed position for essential linguistic information were used to show this information. Information about verb tenses is omitted.

- (22) a. **naj** *vi* estar acostado **Näj ne'ej rihaan yuvéé a.** El nene está acostado en el petate. [*trans.*: **uchruj**]
- b. **uchruj** *vt* 1. acostar **Cuchruj chanä man ne'ej rihaan yuvéé a.** La mujer acostó al nene en el petate. [*intr.*: **naj**] 2. establecer (*un pueblo*) **Cuchruj xii ní' chuman' Copala gää naá a.** Nuestros antepasados establecieron el pueblo de Copala hace mucho tiempo. [*intr.*: **naj**] 3. dar a luz **Cuchruj nicä Pedro man ne'ej cuate nii cua'ää a.** La esposa de Pedro dio a luz gemelos anoche. [*intr.*: **a'ngaa**]

I move now to the question of how conventionalized collocations between these verbs and nouns should be represented in the dictionary. Sometimes the important collocational information is the relation between the subject and the verb, for example, the fact that a house is said to be sitting. In other cases it is the relation between the verb and a location or direct object that is more significant, for example, the fact that a person is said to be wedged into jail.

Within the structure of a dictionary entry, there are several parts of an entry where this sort of information could be included. I have chosen to use four of them: separate sense discriminations, qualifying comments, the bracketed position for essential linguistic information, and subentries. The collocational relationship between verbs and nouns is clearly a property of both, but for practical purposes the relationship can be shown in only one place. First I look at various ways of showing this relationship in entries for verbs.

If the collocation has a specialized meaning that can be shown by a different gloss for the verb, a separate sense discrimination may be all that is needed, along with an appropriate illustrative sentence. This solution was used for the third sense discrimination of *uču*^{32h} ‘to place lying’ in (21) above.

Some sense discriminations may need to be accompanied by a qualifying comment in parentheses following the gloss (see Bartholomew and Schoenhals 1983:61, 86, 179). This solution seems especially appropriate for a restriction that refers to the direct object; see, for example, the second sense discrimination of *uču*^{32h} ‘to place lying’ in (21)b above.

It is also possible to include information about nouns that occur as subjects in the entries for position verbs that have very general glosses. This can be done by including a few of the most salient nouns in a parenthetical qualifying comment, as seen in the following two possible dictionary entries.

- (23) **ne** *vi* 1. estar sentado **Në chanā tacóó chruun a.** La mujer está sentada al pie del árbol. *Trans* **une'** 2. estar (*p. ej., casa, olla*) **Në ve' rej xräj a.** La casa está cuesta arriba. *Trans* **une'**
- (24) **naj** *vi* 1. estar acostado **Näj ne'ej rihaan yuvéé a.** El nene está acostado en el petate. *Trans* **uchruj** 2. estar (*p. ej., pueblo, milpa*) **Näj chuman' tu'va chráá a.** El pueblo está a la orilla del río. *Trans* **uchruj**

I have chosen to make use of this method because it alerts the dictionary user to the important fact that collocational restrictions exist. It provides only partial information, however, about these restrictions.

More specific information about the collocation between noun subjects and specific position verbs can be provided in the entry for the noun. (It does not seem necessary to link the noun to the placement verb, because the entry for each position verb will refer to the paired placement verb.)

One way to supply the position verb that expresses the location of a subject noun is in the bracketed position for essential linguistic information. The brackets could contain the Spanish verb *estar* ‘to be located’, followed by a colon and the correct equivalent. This convention would, of course, need to be explained in the front matter of the dictionary. Consider the following entry for *šumã*^{32l} ‘town, city’.

- (25) **chuman'** s el pueblo, la ciudad **Chiháán ní' me chuman' Copala a.** El pueblo de Copala es la mera tierra de nosotros. [estar: naj]

I am considering this solution for arbitrary collocations that I am aware of. It would be almost impossible, however, to provide it for all nouns. Another solution I am considering is to treat the collocation between noun subjects and position verbs in an appendix. This solution would simplify the structure of individual entries.

A third possible way to supply a position verb within the dictionary entry for a noun is by creating a subentry. The following example shows how the dictionary entry for *šumã^{3ʔ}* 'town, city' might look using this method.

- (26) **chuman'** s el pueblo, la ciudad **Chiháán ní' me chuman' Copala a.** El pueblo de Copala es la mera tierra de nosotros.
naj chumán' el pueblo está

I seriously considered this solution, but finally rejected it because the combination of verb and subject does not form a natural lexical unit. Also, the Spanish translation is somewhat misleading.

The use of subentries does, however, seem to be a practical solution for showing a collocation between a verb and a location or a direct object. Because the subject usually comes directly after the verb and before the location or object, suspension points are used to show that such combinations are normally discontinuous. Consider the following entry for *ta³ga^{3ʔ}* 'jail', which collocates with *?ni^{32h}* 'to be wedged in' and with *ač'i^{5h}* 'to tuck in'.

- (27) **taga'** s la cárcel **Gãa naá ne 'ö ve' chiháán ní', nē tucúá suun me rej xtä', nē taga' me rej yo'óó a.** Hace tiempo había una sola casa municipal en nuestro pueblo: la parte de arriba era el juzgado y la parte de abajo era la cárcel. *Véase tucúá, aga'*
'nij ... taga' estar en la cárcel
achríj ... taga' meter en la cárcel

Collocational information can also be supplied in a less overt way by simply choosing an illustrative sentence for a noun that includes a correct verb. The following example shows how the dictionary entry for *ta³ga^{3ʔ}* might look using this method.

- (28) **taga'** s la cárcel **Cachríj tanuu taga' man síi yuvää, nē quisíj 'ün' yo' 'nij so' tagá a.** Los soldados metieron al hombre violento en la cárcel y ya son cinco años que ha estado allí. *Véase tucúá, aga'*

I chose not to rely on this method, however, because a dictionary user who does not know Trique is likely to overlook the collocational information such sentences provide, especially if the Spanish translation contains a more generic verb, as it does in both instances here (*metieron* and *ha estado*). Furthermore, providing an example that contains one correct collocation does not tell the user

whether or not other collocations are possible.

It is essential that the dictionary user be able to follow the structure of a complex entry, and it is therefore necessary to explain in the front matter of the dictionary any conventions used to state the relation between position and placement verbs and the conventional collocations between nouns and these verbs. Further explanation can also be provided in the grammatical sketch that accompanies the dictionary.

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