

FAMSI © 2003: Florentino Pedro Ajpacajá Tum

Preparation of a K'ichee' Choltzij Dictionary

FAMSI project numbers: 95094, 97005, 98062



Research Year: 2000

Culture: Maya

Chronology: Contemporary

Location: Santa Catarina Ixtahuacán, Guatemala

Sites: Various

When Sr. Florentino Ajpacajá Tum submitted his Grant Application to FAMSI in 1995, all of our Board Members responded enthusiastically, and provided monies for Florentino to begin the task of computerizing his word lists. Neither Florentino nor FAMSI realized at the time that his list of K'ichee' Choltzij words would eventually grow to 20,000 entries.

Sr. Ajpacajá was able to complete an initial draft of his dictionary by the close of 1996. But, as he entered the editing phase, he kept acquiring additional words! After six long years of tremendous concentration and dedication, the work was finally ready for publication. Much to Florentino's great relief, the first printing of his enormously important dictionary was 2001. He shared with us his belief that, "The challenge now is for speakers of other Maya languages to write similar dictionaries. We must do this to strengthen our languages and to get ready for the process of making the Maya languages official languages in Guatemala."

I speak for all the FAMSI members in expressing our great sorrow upon receiving news of Florentino's accidental death in August, 2002. Florentino Pedro Ajpacajá Tum, we share your concern for the future of Maya languages.

A copy of Florentino's dictionary is available for study in the FAMSI library.

Dr. Sandra Noble, Executive Director
FAMSI

The K'ichee' Choltz'ij Dictionary (ISBN 99922-56-25-7) is available for sale from the publisher:

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