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Philosophisch-historische Fakultät
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Quichua Postpositions and Relational Nouns

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Abstract

Many languages use body and component part locative morphemes in expressing adpositional notions. Thus, for instance, in Chickasaw (cic; Muskogean, Oklahoma), *ashaka* 'back' occurs with *aboocha* 'house' in phrases like *aboocha ashaka*, used to express 'behind the house', while in Tlacolula Valley Zapotec (zab, henceforth TVZ; Otomanguan, Oaxaca), *dehts* 'back' occurs with *yu'uh* 'house' in phrases like *dehts yu'uh*, also 'behind the house'. But these Chickasaw and TVZ phrases work differently: Chickasaw *ashaka* is a "relational noun" with nominal syntax, while TVZ *dehts* (despite its etymological connection with a body part noun) is syntactically a preposition. Here I focus on three types of morphemes used to express relational ideas in Imbabura Quichua (qvi, henceforth Quichua; Quechuan, Ecuador; cf. Cole 1982). In addition to oblique case markers, both relational nouns and (previously undescribed) postpositions are used after Quichua noun phrases to express specific locative and relational notions; their syntax and its connection with nominal morphology is complex.