This talk describes the intersection of descriptive and theoretical work on Copala Triqui, an indigenous language of Mexico. Copala Triqui has a cross-linguistically rare type of control, known as copy control. In copy control, the subject of a control verb is typically present in the matrix clause and repeated in the subordinate clause, e.g.

Me rá Juán que-ne’en Juán libró.
Want Juan pot-read Juan book
‘Juan wants to read the book.’

The combination of corpus and elicited data gives a deeper understanding of the syntax of control in this language, and the changes in this system over the last fifty years.