Abstract

The intention of this article is to identify the similarities between the numerical systems of the Olmeca and Aztec cultures, being considered the theoretical frameworks of the ethnomathematics and the cultural diffusion in Mesoamerica. For its development, the text delineates the geographic limits of Mesoamerica, raises a discussion about the cultural activity in this region before the arrival of the Spaniards, it describes the numerical systems of those two pre-Columbian cultures and locates to Olmecas and Aztecs in the cultural continuous of that zone. Finally, some conclusions are formulated about the cultural diffusion process in Mesoamerica.

Keywords

aztecs, zero, culture, Ethnomathematics, mathematical philosophy, mesoamerica, olmecs, pre-columbian, numeric system.