



FIG. 2—PRESENT-DAY MAYA LANGUAGE BOUNDARIES OF GUATEMALA.  
 (From Whetten, 1961, fig. 9.)

ties which have affected the flow of population and the formation of social and cultural patterns.

The midwest highlands have a cool climate, volcanic ash of great depth, grasslands and trees, sedge, and meadows for sheep. They offer good ecological possibilities for small-plot, subsistence Indian agri-

culture but not for European agriculture, and therefore stand as the stronghold of Indian settlement. The density of population is higher, the local administrative units (*municipios*) are smaller, than in lower, warmer country. Lake Atitlan dominates the physical geography. Around its shores are 14 Indian communities, exhibiting such