

## INTRODUCTION

This book contains a selection of articles based on papers presented at two different symposia on the indigenous languages of South America. The first of these two symposia took place July 10–14, 2000, at Warsaw University, during the 50<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Americanists in Warsaw, Poland. This symposium was entitled *Lenguas Amazónicas y de las áreas adyacentes: aspectos descriptivos y comparativos / Languages in the Amazon and its neighbouring areas: descriptive and comparative aspects* and was organised by Marília Facó Soares, José Alvarez and Hein van der Voort. The second symposium took place two and a half months later, on September 28–30, 2000, at Leiden University, Leiden, The Netherlands. This symposium was entitled *Workshop on Bolivian and Rondonian indigenous languages* and was organised by Mily Crevels and Simon van de Kerke. It represented the 3<sup>rd</sup> Workshop on Amerindian Languages organised at Leiden University. Because of the high degree of similarity and overlap between the topics of these symposia, the editors of the planned proceedings decided to collaborate on a single volume of articles on the indigenous languages of South America.

The indigenous languages of South America form a highly diverse group. This part of the world boasts of an amazing wealth of genetic linguistic phyla and isolated languages and stocks. A large part of this wealth has not yet been documented and studied to any degree of satisfaction. Therefore, many proposals for genetic linguistic relationships are still completely unproven and, since a thorough attempt at linguistic classification is also a prerequisite for the label ‘isolated’, most of the so-called isolated languages are better considered as unclassified so far. Furthermore, many of the special grammatical and phonological characteristics of these languages will continue to go unnoticed by general and typological linguistics until serious fieldwork is conducted and subsequent publications become available. Unfortunately, the majority of the approximately 375 indigenous languages spoken in South America are in danger of disappearance under the pressure of national and colonial languages. This situation is, among other things, directly related to the fact that the indigenous peoples have been suffering physical, social, cultural and economic discrimination and genocide at the hands of Western invaders since the sixteenth century, and that the ecological destruction of their traditional habitat continues relentlessly until this very day. Therefore, the study of indigenous languages should not only bring scientific data and insights within the confines of its own discipline, but it should also provide a scientific basis for language preservation efforts and be co-instrumental in the emancipation of the indigenous peoples. Furthermore, the sharing of field experiences in wider circles may result in a higher level of general awareness of the value of cultural and linguistic diversity. With this collection of articles, the editors intended to provide an outlet for publication of the results of ongoing research on South American Indian languages. Hopefully it will inspire

discussion and exchange between colleagues and stimulate others to participate in carrying out the tasks that lie ahead.

The majority of the contributions to the present volume relate to research that is the direct result of linguistic fieldwork by the authors. Most of the languages discussed are spoken in the Amazon basin, some are spoken in the region of the eastern foothills of the Andes, and a few are from the Andes region itself. One linguistic family is from the Southern Cone. A fair number of the languages under discussion are genetic isolates from Bolivia. The major part of the articles are about morphosyntactic aspects of a specific language, a few deal with phonology and phonetics, and a few others have a more typological or historical-comparative orientation. This volume also includes several sociolinguistic articles. According to these categories, the contributions to this volume are grouped in the following order: Sociolinguistics and History of the field (Crevels, Dietrich, Falkinger, von Gleich, and Snethlage); (Morpho-)phonology/Phonetics (Alexander-Bakkerus, Herrera, Mosonyi, and Viegas Barros); Morphosyntax (Camargo, Fabre, Filimonova, Grinevald, van de Kerke, Meira, Renault-Lescure, Sakel, van der Voort, and Wise).

MILY CREVELS' contribution deals with possible causes for language death in Amazonian Bolivia. The author sketches the historical background against which the colonization of the region took place, and discusses the events that have led to the extremely alarming current state of some of the languages in the region.

In his paper, WOLF DIETRICH reports on the development of the *Atlas Lingüístico Guaraní-Románico* (ALGR), a linguistic atlas of the areas in which Guaraní Criollo is in contact with Spanish and Portuguese. After a brief historical introduction, in which the several varieties of Guaraní are mentioned, and a brief description of the current sociolinguistic situation in Paraguay, Argentina, and Brazil, the author presents several differences between the Guaraní varieties, based on data obtained in the atlas project.

SIEGLINDE FALKINGER gives an insightful account of the differences between male and female language use in Chiquitano. Extensively quoting historical manuscript sources that are little known and even less accessible, the author sketches the panorama of the specific differences in the speech of males and females.

UTTA VON GLEICH's article reports on an ongoing research project on the everyday use of literacy among bilinguals in Bolivia. The aim of the project is to find out whether literacy in more than one language may become important in the near future, in everyday life situations beyond the education system and beyond specialised professional groups. The described research approach is innovative as far as the indigenous languages of Bolivia are concerned.

The last contribution in the sociolinguistic section is by ROTGER MICHAEL SNETHLAGE, son of the German ethnographer Emil Heinrich Snethlage, who travelled in eastern Brazil from 1923 to 1926 and in the Guaporé region from 1933 to 1934. The author gives an overview of the scientific career of his father, whose life unfortunately came to an end at an early age. Snethlage's death was a setback for the

scientific study of a region that was still untouched by Western culture at that time. The incomplete bibliography at the end of the article serves as proof of Snethlage's dedication to his field of interest, which was wider than ethnography alone. Because of the symbolic and historical importance of this article, the original German version is also included in this volume.

ASTRID ALEXANDER-BAKKERUS discusses morphophonological processes in Cholón, a probably extinct Cholonan language of the eastern slopes of the Peruvian Andes. Her work is mainly based on an eighteenth-century manuscript by Pedro de la Mata. This important manuscript contains a description of Cholón which is thorough enough to provide the specialist with useful evidence even on a component of language as volatile as morphophonology.

In her contribution, ESTHER HERRERA Z. examines the phonetic correlates of some of the most important phonological features in the Chamí dialect of the Emberá language: those related to the quality of the middle vowels, and to the stop and approximant series. She then compares the various (and often contradictory) descriptions in the literature, and, based on her acoustic data, proposes a new analysis to settle the question.

ESTEBAN EMILIO MOSONYI's article contains a brief description of the suprasegmental features of the Baniwa language from the Negro (Xié) river, which the author analyses as a case of 'tonal accent'. He proposes three contrasting accents, which correspond to different tonal melodies. He also describes the current situation of the few remaining speakers of this language, taking a strong position against the inevitability of 'language death'.

PEDRO VIEGAS BARROS presents new data on the reconstruction of Proto-Mataguayo dorsal consonants. This part of the consonant system is very problematic from a diachronic point of view. The author compares two previous reconstructions and shows that they do not account regularly for the dorsal fricatives. He proposes the reconstruction of two fricatives — \*x (velar) and \*χ (uvular) — to account for the correspondences that, in the previous analyses, had remained irregular. Although a few problems remain (dutifully reported by the author), the author's proposal clearly represents progress in the understanding of Proto-Mataguayan phonology.

In her article, ELIANE CAMARGO discusses the personal pronouns and grammatical relations in Cashinahua (Kashinawa, a Panoan language). Case marking follows a person-based split ergative pattern. After describing the system, the author proposes a correction to previous analyses by Bob Dixon and Doris Payne.

ALAIN FABRE discusses some typological features of the Kamsá language from an areal perspective. Basing himself on published data and studies, the author looks at noun incorporation and noun classification, which he places in a wider context by considering a set of eleven neighbouring languages, from the Andean, Amazonian, and Pacific regions of Colombia. The author shows that Kamsá shares features with languages of the Andean as well as the Amazonian area, as a consequence of the role of its speakers as intermediaries between these two worlds.

ELENA FILIMONOVA launches an innovative approach to person hierarchy in Aymara by claiming that irregularities of person marking in this language are influenced by a special configuration of the person hierarchy, according to which the person spoken to overranks the Speaker: A>S>N. The author suggests that this layout of person hierarchy is determined by a special conception of ego in the Aymara culture.

COLETTE GRINEVALD discusses the productive nominal classification system of Movima, an unclassified language of the Amazonian lowlands of Bolivia. Her data reveal that Movima has a mixed system that functions mostly on the basis of morphophonological characteristics and partly on the basis of semantic organization. It appears to be fairly typical of the not very grammaticalized kind of noun class systems found in languages of the Amazon region and, as such, it challenges the morphosyntactic typologies of nominal classification systems conceived so far on the basis of data from other parts of the world.

In his article, SIMON VAN DE KERKE presents a semantic characterization of the different suffixes that are used in Leko, an unclassified language of the Andean foothills region of Bolivia, to form complex verbal expressions. Since many of these suffixes also occur in the language as independent verb roots, it remains an unresolved question whether complex verbs in Leko should be better analyzed as the result of derivation or of compounding.

SÉRGIO MEIRA's article compares the pronominal and demonstrative systems of Caribbean languages, attempting to provide a preliminary reconstruction of the Proto-Caribbean system. With a representative sample of 27 languages, and using previous preliminary reconstructions of Proto-Caribbean phonology as a starting-point, MEIRA proposes tentative protoforms for the various pronouns, as well as some ideas concerning their origin and evolution.

ODILE RENAULT-LESCURE describes the semantic values of a specific past tense in Kali'na (also known as Cariña, Galibi, or Carib), marked by the suffix *-i*. After summarising the person- and TAM-marking system for finite verbs, she presents a number of examples illustrating the (temporal and aspectual) uses of *-i* as a perfect marker, and also some examples of a modal use ('let me...', 'I want to...'). She concludes that the meaning of this verb form centers around the idea of 'experience'.

The contribution by JEANETTE SAKEL deals with gender agreement in Mosestén, which is also an unclassified language of the Andean foothills region of Bolivia. The richly developed gender agreement system in Mosestén is rather unique among the indigenous languages of South America and demonstrates once again the necessity of thorough linguistic investigations in the field on every single language.

In his article, HEIN VAN DER VOORT reports on certain modal derivational suffixes in Kwaza, an unclassified Amazonian language of Rondônia, Brazil. He attributes the emergence of these suffixes to a specific grammatical construction that expresses quoted speech and he hypothesises that processes of degrammaticalisation were involved in their creation.

MARY RUTH WISE's article presents an overview of characteristics and functions of applicative affixes in a number of Amazonian languages spoken in Peru. She deals among others with the question of whether the involved similarities across these languages, which belong to six different families, point to genetic relationships or to the coexistence of these languages in a linguistic area.

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The editors

<i>Language</i>	<i>Affiliation</i>	<i>Researcher</i>
1. Chayahuita	(Cahuapana)	(Wise)
2. Kali'na	(Carib)	(Renault-Lescure)
3. various	(Carib)	(Meira)
4. Emberá	(Chocó)	(Herrera)
5. Cholón	(Cholon)	(Alexander-Bakkerus)
6. Aymara	(Jaqi)	(Filimonova, von Gleich)
7. Baniva	(Maipure-Arawak)	(Mosonyi)
8. Yanesha'	(Maipure-Arawak)	(Wise)
9. various	(Mataguayo)	(Viegas Barros)
10. Mosetén	(Mosetén)	(Sakel)
11. Cashinahua	(Pano)	(Camargo)
12. Yaminahua	(Pano)	(Wise)
13. Yagua	(Peba-Yagua)	(Wise)
14. Nomatsiguenga	(Pre-Andine Maipure)	(Wise)
15. Quechua	(Quechua)	(von Gleich)
16. Guaraní	(Tupí-Guaraní)	(Dietrich)
17. Guaraní criollo	(Tupí-Guaraní)	(Dietrich)
18. Chiquitano	(unclassified)	(Falkinger)
19. Kamsá	(unclassified)	(Fabre)
20. Kwaza	(unclassified)	(van der Voort)
21. Leko	(unclassified)	(van de Kerke)
22. Movima	(unclassified)	(Grinevald)
23. Amazonian Bolivian	(various)	(Crevels)
24. Upper Madeira	(various)	(Snethlage)
25. Arabela	(Zaparo)	(Wise)

*Map of South America indicating the locations of the languages from which data are presented in the current volume*

