**A typological approach to the alignments of argument indexes in the Amazon**

The purpose of this talk is to present the research I am currently conducting on the alignment of argument indexes in five unrelated Amazonian languages: yagua, wampis, urarina, yanesha and shipibo-konibo. The work will organize the languages typologically according to the alignment functions of the bound person forms. A corpus will be assembled collecting data from the following sources for each language: yagua (Payne & Payne 1990; Payne 1993; Payne & Peña 2019), wampis (Peña 2015), urarina (Olawski 2006), yanesha (Duff-Tripp 1997) and shipibo-konibo (Valenzuela 2003; 2010).

As stated by Comrie (1980), the study of variation within human language is directly relevant to typology. In this sense, in a typology of languages, the parameter under which, secondly, logically possible types will be postulated is chosen first. The research seeks to show the variety in which the languages of this linguistic area encode the participants through argument indexes, this being the parameter analyzed.

The work, then, is inserted in the area of research on grammatical relationships in the languages of the Peruvian Amazon. The languages of the world describe the relationships between arguments and predicates in various ways. It is through the alignment of these forms that the roles of the participants in the different clauses are disambiguous during social interaction. Among the devices by which grammatical relationships are marked are the argument indexes. This can be observed in the following examples in yagua (collected from Payne & Peña 2019):

**A P**

1. sasihetyɑ̠ɑ̠nú hí̠í̠ta sidayawú̠ wáriyiy

**sa**=sihetya-hanú wáriy=**riy**

**3SG.AN.I**=attack-PST3 MEL naked then=**3PL.II**

“Then the naked one(s) attacked them (i.e. the hero’s people).’

**Sa**

1. siití̠ hí̠í̠ta núpoorá rumuntíy

**sa**=hití̠ núpoo-rá rumu=ntíy

**3SG.AN.I**=return MEL dark-CLF.GENERAL there=REPET

“He returned at night there again.’

**Sp**

1. múy rɑ̠́ɑ̠tyéeníí munuñú

rɑ̠́ɑ̠y=tée=**níí**

there fall.down=EMPH=3**SG.AN.II** enemy

‘There fell (dead) the enemy’

Sentence (1) is a transitive clause where the verb is in agreement with the argument A, by means of the proclitic third person singular /sa=/. The same happens with sentence (2), an intransitive clause, where the same clitic is attached to the verb. This corresponds to a nominative/accusative alignment. However, in (3) the verb of the intransitive clause appears affixed to the third person singular enclitic /=níí/. This is the mark used to reference the P argument of the clause, as it also appears in (1) for the object of the transitive. This, instead, would correspond to an ergative/absolutive alignment. Thus, the marking of arguments in the verb in yagua is not uniform. This language would use different strategies with different motivations behind to disambiguate the participants of the clause; which, in the literature, has been described as a split S system. Therefore, the thesis observes the alignment of these bound person forms in each language and classify them typologically.

This topic has not been seen individually as the focus of an investigation, nor from a comparative perspective. This research will contribute to the knowledge of the world’s languages in this regard. This means that the analysis on this work will be located within the theoretical discussion of the phenomenon, in order to clarify the panorama within the discipline, and moreover, to contribute to our commitment to reduce the distance between the different human groups in this continent. Likewise, from typological studies, there are still a minority of works of this nature that include Amerindian languages in their analysis. Hence, this thesis continues this tradition in spaces where there is still much to talk about.

References

COMRIE, Bernard

1980 Tipología de las lenguas. En: Universales del lenguaje y tipología lingüística. Cap 2, pp. 57-86.

DUFF-TRIPP, Martha

1997 Gramática del idioma yanesha (amuesha).

OLAWSKI, Knut J.

2008 A grammar Urarina.

PAYNE, Doris L. y Thomas E. PAYNE

1990 Yagua. En: Handbook of Amazonian Languages. Vol 2.

PAYNE, Doris L. y Jaime PEÑA

2019 Peba-Yaguan. En Handbook of Amazonian Languages.

PAYNE, Thomas E.

1993 The Twins Stories: Participant Coding in Yagua Narrative. University of California Press: USA.

PEÑA, Jaime

2015 A grammar of Wampis. Tesis de doctorado en Filosofía. Universidad de Oregon, Departamento de Lingüística.

VALENZUELA, Pilar

2003 Transitividad en Shipibo-konibo grammar. Tesis de doctorado en Filosofía. Eugene: Universidad de Oregon, Departamento de Lingüística.

2010 Ergativity in Shipibo-konibo grammar. Tesis de doctorado en Filosofía. Universidad de Oregon, Departamento de Lingüística.