

Call for papers: Word formation in South American languages

Americanist Meeting 2011, June 24–25, University of Leipzig, Germany

This is the call for papers of the upcoming meeting of the Americanist group, June 24 and 25 (possibly, depending on the number of contributions), which is going to be organized in Leipzig this time, by Femmy Admiraal, Swintha Danielsen, and Katja Hannß. The topic of this year's Americanist Meeting is *Word Formation in South American Languages*. Abstracts should not exceed 300 words, excluding references. The presentations are planned to be 20 minutes plus 10 minutes of discussion. We also invite papers from other American languages and encourage joined papers which take a broader perspective and comparative data into account. *Deadline*: May 1, 2011.

There are a number of general descriptive volumes focusing on the typology of South American languages (e.g. Adelaar with Muysken 2004, Derbyshire & Pullum 1986–1998, Dixon & Aikhenvald 1999, Payne 1990). Many, but by no means all languages are characterized as synthetic and agglutinating. In the language descriptions we find elaborate inflectional and derivational morphology, which is partly responsible for the synthetic character of the languages; in addition nominal classification, incorporation, and reduplication are recurring morphological processes. However, one process that does not seem to be very frequent in South American languages is compounding. On the one hand, compounds are argued to be exceptional or infrequent for Quechuan (Adelaar with Muysken 2004), Yurakaré (van Gijn 2006), and Arawakan (Zamponi 2009). On the other hand, compounding is attested in the following language families: Mapudungun (Adelaar with Muysken 2004 on Mapuche), Makú (Martins & Martins 1999), and Arawakan (Duff-Tripp 1997 on Amuesha, Danielsen 2007 on Baure), and also mentioned in passing for Panoan (Loos 1999), Tupi-Guaraní (Jensen 1999), Cuna, Harakmbut, and the Fuegian languages (Adelaar with Muysken 2004), among others. One reason why compounding is addressed so rarely among South American languages is probably the fact that similar processes are not categorized as composition, but rather as derivation (in the case of classifier attachment, cf. Seifart 2005), as syntactic constructions, e.g. for modification (cf. Guillaume 2008), as genitive constructions (Zamponi 2009), or as postpositions, instead of referring to spatial compounds (cf. Rybka 2009).

A number of South American languages make use of verbal compounding by joining two verbal roots, as well as incorporation of nominal roots into verbs. It may be claimed that verbal incorporation and nominal compounding are two parts of a general tendency of creating more complex units of (lexical) morphemes (cf. Adelaar with Muysken 2004, Mithun 1984). Due to the synthetic character of many languages we would also expect that “compound affixes”, i.e. “multi-[a]ffix chunks that are processed as a single unit” (compare Gildea 2000: 234) may be found, forming units of grammatical morphemes.

In this upcoming Americanist meeting we invite presentations on all sorts of word formation processes. Possible topics, among others, are: Are compounds really so rare in South American languages? What kinds of compounds does a particular language have, and for which types of semantic relations are they used? Of particular interest are comparisons between compounding and modifying constructions, classification, verbal incorporation, derivational processes, and serialization, and reflections on phrasal and clausal compounds, as well compounding of grammatical units.

Please send your abstract to Femmy Admiraal (femmyadmiraal@gmail.com) until **May 1st 2011**. We will send the notification of acceptance of your papers by May 15, 2011. If you have any

further questions, please do not hesitate to contact one of the organizers:

Femmy Admiraal:	femmyadmiraal@gmail.com	(University of Leipzig)
Swintha Danielsen:	Swintha@hotmail.com	(University of Leipzig)
Katja Hannß:	Katja.Hannss@gmx.net	(Universities of Bonn and Nijmegen)

References:

- Adelaar, Willem F. H. with Pieter C. Muysken. 2004. *The languages of the Andes*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Danielsen, Swintha. 2007. *Baure: An Arawak Language of Bolivia*. Leiden: CNWS.
- Derbyshire, Desmond C. and Geoffrey K. Pullum (eds). 1986–1998. *Handbook of Amazonian Languages*, Volumes I – IV. Berlin, New York, Amsterdam: Mouton de Gruyter.
- Dixon, R. W. M. and Alexandra Y. Aikhenvald (eds). 1999. *The Amazonian Languages*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Duff-Tripp, Martha. 1997. *Gramática del idioma yanesha' (amuesha)*. SLP 43. Lima: ILV.
- Gildea, Spike (ed). 2000. *Reconstructing Grammar: Comparative Linguistics and Grammaticalization Theory*. Amsterdam/Philadelphia: John Benjamins
- Guillaume, Antoine. 2008. *A grammar of Cavineña*. Berlin & New York, Mouton de Gruyter.
- Jensen, Cheryl. 1999. “Tupí-Guaraní”. In Dixon & Aikhenvald (eds), 125–163.
- Loos, Eugene E. 1999. “Pano”. In Dixon & Aikhenvald (eds), 227–250.
- Martins, Silvana & Valteir Martins. 1999. “Makú”. In: Dixon & Aikhenvald (eds), 251–267.
- Mithun, Marianne. 1984. “The evolution of noun incorporation”. *Language* 60, 847–894.
- Payne, Doris L. (ed). 1990. *Amazonian Linguistics: Studies in Lowland South American Languages*. Texas: University of Texas Press.
- Rybka, Konrad. 2009. Semantics of topological relators in Lokono and a sketch of their morphosyntax. MA thesis, University of Amsterdam. Ms.
- Seifart, Frank. 2005. *The structure and use of shape-based noun classes in Miraña (North West Amazon)*. Nijmegen: Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics,.
- van Gijn, Rik. 2006. A grammar of Yurakaré. PhD thesis, Radboud University Nijmegen. Ms.
- Zamponi, Raoul. 2009. “Arawakan: Maipure-Yavitero”. In Lieber & Štekauer (eds), 584–593.

Suggested reading:

- Rochelle Lieber & Pavol Štekauer (eds). 2009. *The Oxford handbook of compounding*. New York: Oxford University Press.