

Diachronic Morphosyntax in South American Languages

Bruno Estigarribia <estigarremail.unc.edu>

This workshop adopts a comparative approach to the diachrony of morphosyntactic patterns in South American (SA) languages. Since morphosyntax involves the internal structure of utterances, both above (syntax) and below (morphology) the word level, and since grammatical constructions involve both levels, paired with specific semantics/functions, the study of morphosyntactic constructions lends itself well to cross-linguistic comparisons and typological generalizations (Croft 2022).

The workshop's focus is on SA languages because these show the greatest linguistic diversity found in the world (Seifart and Hammarström 2017). Since Payne (1990) there has been a considerable increase in the amount of data on SA languages (see. e.g., Aikhenvald 2012). Even though we know a fair amount about language classification in the continent from phonological and lexical reconstructions and comparison, there is still much to be learned about morphosyntactic change, interference, and convergence. Gildea (1998) pioneered comparative work on the Cariban family, but many other families still lack proposals for morphosyntactic reconstruction. Recently, a number of case studies have revealed diffusion of either morphological matter and/or patterns across languages from distinct language families spoken in neighboring areas (Guillaume & Rose 2010; Ciucci 2020; Crevels & van der Voort 2020). This workshop thus aims to advance our understanding of family-internal changes as well as of contact-induced changes. A comparative approach promises to shed light on the classification, contact, and description of languages in this linguistically diverse macro-area.

This workshop is aimed at a general audience but will be of special interest to researchers on South American languages, typologists, and historical linguists, as well as researchers interested in language contact and change.

Aikhenvald, A. Y. 2012. *Languages of the Amazon*. Oxford University Press.

Ciucci, L. 2020. Matter borrowing, pattern borrowing and typological rarities in the Gran Chaco of South America. *Morphology* 30, 283–310.

Crevels, M. & H. van der Voort. 2020. Areal Diffusion of Applicatives in the Amazon. In Norval Smith, Tonjes Veenstra & Enoch Oladé Aboh (eds.), *Advances in Contact Linguistics: In Honour of Pieter Muysken*, 180–216. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.

Croft, W. 2022. *Morphosyntax. Constructions of the World's Languages*. Cambridge Textbooks in Linguistics. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Gildea, S. 1998. *On Reconstructing Grammar: Comparative Cariban Morphosyntax*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Guillaume, A. & F. Rose. 2010. Sociative causative markers in South American languages: a possible areal feature. In *Essais de typologie et de linguistique générale. Mélanges offerts à Denis Creissels, F. Floricic* (ed.), 383–402. Lyons: ENS Editions.

Payne, D. L. (Ed.). 1990. *Amazonian linguistics: Studies in lowland South American languages*. University of Texas Press.

Seifart, F. & H. Hammarström. 2017. Language Isolates of South America. In Lyle Campbell (ed.), *Isolates of South America*. In Lyle Campbell (ed.), *Language Isolates*, 260–287. (Routledge Language Family Series). Oxon, New York: Routledge.

Call for Papers:

We invite submissions that take a comparative or historical perspective, focusing on genealogically related languages and/or near-neighboring languages, and that address (but need

not be limited to) the following questions:

What patterns can be found among genetically related and/or near-neighboring languages?

How are grammatical relations expressed? How have they developed?

What kind of noun phrase operations are there, can they be explained diachronically?

What constructions are related to non-verbal predication? What are their origins?

What are the voice and valency operations and what are their origins?

What kinds of pragmatically marked structures are there?

How are clauses combined? How have innovative patterns of clause combining emerged?

Please send provisional abstracts of no more than 300 words (excluding references) in PDF format by 13 November 2022 to:

estigarremail.unc.edu & fabricio.gerardiuni-tuebingen.de

If the workshop is approved, authors will be asked to submit revised 500-word abstracts according to the SLE guidelines before 15 January 2023.

Convenors: Fabrício Ferraz Gerardi & Bruno Estigarribia