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The Bolivian Tupi-Guarani languages: New data allowing new insights into their classification

During the last twenty years linguists have provided many new data of Bolivian Tupi-Guarani languages, some of them rather undocumented before. In Eastern Bolivia several Tupi-Guarani languages are historically known from Colonial times until today, some of them extinct, others highly endangered.. The so-called Chiriguano group (now Western Guarani and its dialects, as well as Tapiete), which is found in Bolivia, Argentina, and North-Western Paraguay, belongs to the Guarani cluster and will not be considered here. Other languages, Siriono, Yuki (documented since 2004), and Jorá (poorly documented, see Danielsen and Gasparini 2015) form the so-called Sirionoid group. Two other languages, Guarayu and Guarasu (traditionally Pauserna) are rather singular languages instead of forming a group. The first one is being studied now by Swintha Danielsen and her team, but has been described in 1932 by Höller, in 1903 by Priewasser and a recently discovered manuscript, written by the Franciscan missionary Francisco Lacueva, probably in the 1830's, but conserved only in a copy made by another Franciscan, Manuel Viudes, in 1841. Reliable linguistic data of Guarasu (or Warázu) have got available only this year (Ramirez & V. de França 2017). The language which had been thought extinct since two generations has two last fluent speakers recently discovered by Ramirez and de França.

In Rodrigues & Cabral's classification (2002) Guarasu and Yuki are not mentioned because there were no data; in their last classification (Rodrigues & Cabral 2012) Guarasu and Jorá are not considered, but even Michael (Michael et al. 2015) does not consider Jorá, and Guarasu either. The aim of this talk is to take advantage of all the now existing data in order to try a new and better classification, especially of the places that occupy Guarayu and Guarasu.

References:

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