

Experience Day Linguistics

24 November 2023



Universiteit
Leiden
The Netherlands

Introduction

A student of Linguistics will tell you about your first year at this programme.

Lecture

Title

An introduction to Siona, an endangered language from Ecuador

Short description

This lecture is an introduction to Siona, a severely endangered indigenous language spoken on the Colombian-Ecuadorian border. We will discuss its history, its documentation and its pronunciation.

Lecturer: Dr. Martine Bruil (m.bruil@hum.leidenuniv.nl)

Martine Bruil started her studies at Leiden University at the department of Latin American Studies and shifted in her MA to Indigenous America and Linguistics. Her research topic during her PhD programme in Leiden was evidentiality, which led her to document Ecuadorian Siona, a Western Tukanoan language spoken in the eastern lowlands of Ecuador. While finishing her PhD she worked as lecturer at the University of Regensburg in Germany for a year, after which she moved to the University of California, Berkeley to embark on a postdoctoral documentation project of Ecuadorian Siona funded by ELDP. After this postdoc, she moved to the DDL at the Université de Lyon 2 to start working on the verbal morphology system of Awapit, a Barbacoan language spoken in the north of Ecuador and the South of Colombia. In 2017, she started her current job as an assistant professor at Leiden University in the Centre for Indigenous America Studies and the Leiden University Linguistics Centre and is involved in various research and revitalization projects on South American Indigenous Languages.

Seminar

Title

Understanding Siona verbs

Short description

In this tutorial we will discuss the options that can be expressed on the Siona verb. On the basis of a homework assignment, we will gain an understanding of the additional complexities that are found in the verbal system of this language in comparison to the more studied languages, such as English and Dutch.

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Q&A

Do you have any questions regarding the programme? The student will answer them all at the Q&A.

Preparation

See the assignment below.

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Homework Assignment

Understanding Siona verbs

This assignment is about the Ecuadorian variety of Siona, an endangered language spoken by about 300 people in the Amazonian rainforest on the equator. We focus on the verbs in the language. There are more verb forms in Siona than in English and in Dutch. Below you will first find a number of Siona sentences with their translations. The majority of sentences contain two verbs from distinct conjugation sets. Make sure that you also take into account the function of the sentence; is it a question, a statement, if so what type of statement? The example sentences are followed by two translation exercises: 1. Siona-English; 2. English-Siona. In order to carry out these translation exercises identify the conjugations used per person in a specific sentence type.

Data

(1)	saio choiko.	"She was calling out while going."
(2)	ãina daikoña.	"You (woman) come while he eats, they say."
(3)	saiona daiko?	"Are you (woman) coming while I go?"
(4)	saiji.	"I am leaving."
(5)	wiije?	"Am I flying?"
(6)	choiona daihi.	"While she called, he comes".
(7)	ã saikiña.	"He goes, while eating, they say."
(8)	de'oje ba'ijeña.	"I live well, they say."
(9)	wiiji.	"You are flying."
(10)	daina choiki?	"Is he calling out because you (man) come?"

Exercise 1

Translate the following sentences from Siona into English.

- (11) wiina choiji.
- (12) wiijeña.
- (13) daiona ãiki?
- (14) wii saihi.
- (15) ba'ikiña.

Exercise 2

Translate the following sentences from English into Siona.

- (16) ... "Are you eating while flying?"
- (17) ... "I am calling out, they say."
- (18) ... "Are you alive?"
- (19) ... "While you call out, I am going."
- (20) ... "She is coming while I am flying."