Introduction

The Arawak family is the largest in South America, with about forty extant languages. Arawak languages are spoken in lowland Amazonia and beyond, covering French Guiana, Suriname, Guiana, Venezuela, Colombia, Peru, Brazil, and Bolivia, and formerly in Paraguay and Argentina. Wayuunaiki (or Guajiro), spoken in the region of the Guajiro peninsula in Venezuela and Colombia, is the largest language of the family. Garifuna is the only Arawak language spoken in Belize, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Guatemala in Central America. Groups of Arawak speakers must have migrated from the Caribbean coast to the Antilles a few hundred years before the European conquest. At least several dozen Arawak languages have become extinct since the European conquest. The highest number of recorded Arawak languages is centered in the region between the Rio Negro and the Orinoco. This is potentially a strong linguistic argument in favor of the Arawak protohome having been located there. The diversity of Arawak languages south of the Amazon in central Peru around the Rivers Purú and Madeira must have been greater in the past than it is now. The settlements of Arawak-speaking peoples south of the Amazon are believed to be of considerable antiquity. The Arawak family is also known as
Maipure or Maipuran (based on Maipure, formerly spoken in Venezuela). The family got its name “Arawak” from the language known as Lokono Arawak, Arawak, or Lokono Dian (spoken in French Guiana, Guiana, Suriname, and Venezuela by about 2,500 people). The genetic unity of Arawak languages was first recognized by Father Gilij as early as 1783. The recognition of the family was based on a comparison of pronominal cross-referencing prefixes in Maipure, a now-extinct language from the Orinoco Valley, and in Mojo (or Ignaciano) from Bolivia. Problems still exist concerning internal genetic relationships within the family and possible genetic relationships with other groups. North Arawak languages appear to constitute a separate subgroup; so do Campa languages and Arawak languages of the Xingu region. The legacy of Arawak languages survives in many common English words, including *hammock*, *hurricane*, *barbecue*, *iguana*, *maize*, *papaya*, *savanna*, *guava*, and possibly *tobacco*. This article focuses only on the major and most significant works. There are at least an equal number of more minor studies on the languages of the Arawak family.

**General Overviews**

The Arawak family was first recognized by Gilij 1780–1784. The understanding of the family was refined by Brinton 1891 and von den Steinen 1886, which proposed to divide the family into Nu-Arawak and Ta-Arawak, based on the form of the first person subject and possessor prefix. Brinton 1891 renamed the family Arawak and offered further criteria for its genetic unity. Further studies and classifications include Adam 1890.


An early approach to the classification of Arawak language family based on geographical distribution (that is, setting North Arawak languages off from the rest of the family).


This is an ethnographic description and an early attempt at linguistic classification of languages of North and South America based on available materials. It contains a concise description of the “Arawak stock” with a list of languages and a preliminary comparison and classification. Arawak languages in the Orinoco area are discussed separately.


Volume 1, *Della storia geografica, e naturale della provincia dell’Orinoco*. Volume 2, *De’ costumi degli Orinochesi*. The first classificatory, and descriptive,
approach to the languages of South America. In this groundbreaking book, the author establishes the unity of Arawak languages (via a comparison between the now-extinct Maipure, formerly spoken in Venezuela, and Mojo, or Ignaciano, an Arawak language of Bolivia; and also of Carib languages). This book has immense historical value.


An up-to-date comprehensive study of languages and the reconstructed linguistic situation in the pre-Columbian Antilles, involving a few key Arawak languages such as Taino (now extinct) and its grammatical structures and lexical features.


Karl von den Steinen was the first European to have visited the Xingu area and documented the four Arawak languages spoken there (Waurá, Mehinaku, Yawalapiti, and the now-extinct Kustenaú). This is a fascinating description of von den Steinen’s expedition accompanied by a comparative analysis of Arawak languages (based on state-of-the-art knowledge). Reissued in paperback, Cambridge Univ. Press, 2010.

**Monographs and Dissertations**

The recognition of the Arawak family was based on a comparison of pronominal cross-referencing prefixes in Maipure, a now-extinct language from the Orinoco Valley, and in Mojo (or Ignaciano) from Bolivia. De Goeje 1928 is a grammar and a dictionary of Lokono Arawak language, with a list of common Arawak lexemes. Comprehensive albeit somewhat outdated classifications of Arawak languages are in Loukotka 1968, Tovar and Tovar 1984, and Tovar 1986. Von Martius 1867 is an outstanding resource for earlier language and culture documentation. Noble 1965 is a failed attempt at establishing wider genetic relations. More up-to-date overviews of Arawak languages and their neighbors are in Aikhenvald 2010 and Aikhenvald 2012.


A comprehensive overview of language contact situations involving Arawak languages with a special focus on northwest Amazonia and the Vaupés River Basin linguistic area. Appendix 1 features a summary of the grammatical and phonological features of Proto-Arawak, and an up-to-date classification of Arawak languages. Appendix 3 outlines the features of North Arawak languages.

A general monograph on South American languages; contains a snapshot of the Arawak family, its history, and typological features. Special characteristics of Arawak languages including segmental phonology, tones, split-ergativity, possession, changing valency, evidentials, noun categorization, and discourse techniques are addressed throughout this volume.


A masterly grammar of the Arawak (or Lokono Dian) language with substantial notes on other languages of the Arawak family, cognates of Lokono forms in other Arawak languages, and a separate chapter detailing de Goeje’s ideas about Proto-Arawak and the spread of the family. Reissued in paperback, Cambridge Univ. Press, 2009.

Loukotka, Chestmir. 1968. *Classification of South American Indian languages*. Los Angeles: Latin American Center, Univ. of California.

A general classification of South American languages, unsurpassed in the level of detail and attention to sources. This book offers a detailed list of Arawak languages with major bibliographic references.


A methodologically flawed attempt to offer a reconstruction of Proto-Arawak and a number of families such as Arawá which are not demonstrably related, based on mass comparison and dubious correspondences. A special publication of the *International Journal of American Linguistics* 31.3, Part 2.


A concise approach to common characteristics of Arawak languages and the limits of the family.

A general classification of South American languages, with a separate chapter on each area and family. Contains a concise description of the Arawak family, with a list of languages and their distribution, some grammatical characteristics, and a substantial list of bibliographic sources.


Vol. 1, Zur Ethnologie. Vol. 2, Zur Sprachenkunde. During his travels across Brazil in 1817–1820, von Martius (a famous botanist) collected word lists in over a hundred indigenous languages of Brazil, including more than twenty Arawak languages (at least half of them now extinct). This is a remarkable collection which also contains von Martius’s view of classification of Arawak languages, and the history of their speakers. Reissued in paperback, Cambridge Univ. Press, 2009.

**Articles and Book Chapters**

The most up-to-date classification and lexical and grammatical features of Arawak languages are addressed in Aikhenvald 1999, Aikhenvald 2006, and in general terms in Dixon and Aikhenvald 1999. Some lexical reconstructions and a disputable classification based on innovations (rather than retentions) are in Payne 1991. Derbyshire 1986 offers a list of selected features of some Arawak languages. Mason 1950 is a competent outline of features of Arawak languages and cultures. Matteson 1972 is a flawed attempt at establishing wider genetic relations.


A comprehensive survey of the Arawak language family and its reconstruction with the most up-to-date classification, list of languages, and state-of-the-art of investigation and reconstruction. Paperback reissue 2006.


A competent survey of grammatical features of a selection of Arawak languages of Brazil spoken south of the Amazon, with a special focus on their highly synthetic features. This pioneering piece of work uncritically assumes genetic relationship between Arawak and Arawá languages; this diminishes the quality of this contribution.


An outline of cultural background, history of studies, and genetic classification of Amazonian languages, with a special focus on well-established families. This chapter refutes putative long-distance relationships, and demonstrates, inter alia, the lack of feasibility of the putative “Arawakan” grouping. Paperback reissue 2006.


A state-of-the-art list of Arawak languages with an attempt at a geographically based classification. This classic article outlines some ethnographic characteristics of Arawak languages and lists some of their features such as pronominal marking.


Matteson assumes genetic relationship between what is now known as Arawak (or Maipuran) languages and a number of other families, including Harakmbet and Arawá, which are not demonstrably related to Arawak. This paper is based on a selected set of ad hoc similarities in form, and the proposed reconstruction is flawed.


A compressive phonological reconstruction of Proto-Arawak, with around two hundred reconstructed lexical items and some grammatical reconstruction based
on approximately thirty languages. Not all the data are reliable. The subgrouping proposed in this paper is based on shared retentions from the putative protolanguage (rather than shared innovations), contrary to the standard practice in comparative linguistics.

**North Arawak Languages**

North Arawak languages are spoken in a dozen locations north of the Amazon. Their shared features are discussed in Aikhenvald 1999 (cited under Articles and Book Chapters) and Aikhenvald 2002 (Appendix 3, cited under Dictionaries of North Arawak Languages). The main features of North Arawak and problems of classification are addressed in Aikhenvald 2001 and approached in Payne 1985 (both cited under Articles and Book Chapters); Ramirez 2001 (cited under Monographs and Dissertations) is a book-length study with numerous errors in language data. Koch-Grünberg 1911 (cited under Articles and Book Chapters) is an excellent source of reference for North Arawak languages of the Rio Negro area, their sociolinguistic features and distribution.

**Monographs and Dissertations**

The only monograph on North Arawak languages is Ramirez 2001, which contains a number of dubious assertions and mistakes.


A survey of Arawak languages with a special focus on selected Arawak language of northern Amazonia, containing descriptions of selected languages (some based on limited fieldwork by the author), and reconstructions. Data on the languages of the Upper Rio Negro contain numerous mistakes, and the word lists are often reproduced incorrectly. This source should be used with caution.

**Articles and Book Chapters**


A reassessment of the status of North Arawak subgroup within the Arawak language family with a number of reconstructions and analysis of the impact of language contact and the ensuing difficulties in establishing subgroups of Arawak languages. Paperback edition with revisions 2006.


During his extensive travels in northern Brazil and adjacent areas, Theodor Koch-Grünberg documented a dozen North Arawak languages, including the now-extinct Baré and dialects of Tariana, providing word lists and phrases, and brief sketches of the sociolinguistic situation and history of the speakers. This is one of the most valuable sources on the North Arawak languages of the Amazonian northwest.


Resígaro is a North Arawak language which bears substantial influence from the neighboring but genetically unrelated Bora. This paper offers a definitive proof of the Arawak affiliation of Resígaro and outlines some features of North Arawak languages. Available online for purchase or by subscription.

**Reference Works**

The Languages and Cultures of the Tropics and Surrounding Areas web page offers an archive of materials on languages and cultures of South America with special focus on Arawak languages (including Tariana, Bare, Warekena, and Asheninca Campa) and materials on the Arawak language family.

Languages and Cultures of the Tropics and Surrounding Areas: South America. Cairns Institute.

This page offers online materials on numerous North Arawak languages, with a focus on those from the Upper Rio Negro area; there are also resources on Campa languages.

**Grammatical and Lexical Studies**

Comprehensive grammars are available for only a handful of North Arawak languages. Allin 1975 (cited under Monographs and Dissertations) is a comprehensive grammar of Resígaro, Pet 1987 and van Baarle and Sabajo 1997 cover Lokono (also known as Arawak), Olza Zubiri and Jusayú 1978 and Alvarez 1994 provide in-depth studies of
Guajiro, Mosonyi 1987 (cited under Monographs and Dissertations) provides in-depth studies of Yavitero, Reinoso Galindo 2002 (cited under Monographs and Dissertations) of Piapoco, Wilson 1992 of Achagua, Gomes dos Santos 2006 (cited under Monographs and Dissertations) of Wapishana, and Aikhenvald 2003 (cited under Monographs and Dissertations) of Tariana. Shorter grammars include Patte 1989, on Añun (or Parauhano); Ramirez 1992, on Bahuana; de Goeje 1948 (cited under Articles and Book Chapters), on Manao; González Ñáñez 1997 (cited under Monographs and Dissertations), on Guarequena; Aikhenvald 1995 (cited under Monographs and Dissertations), on Baré; Mosonyi 2000 (cited under Articles and Book Chapters), on Baniwa of Guiania; Aikhenvald 1998 (cited under Articles and Book Chapters), on Warekena of Xié; and Launey 2003 (cited under Monographs and Dissertations), on Palikur. Little information is available on Taino, the now-extinct Arawak language of the people who welcomed Columbus in 1492; the few studies include Miner Solá 2002 and von Martius 1867 (cited under general Monographs and Dissertations).


A selection of papers on the grammar of Guajiro (or Wayuunaiki), the largest North Arawak language spoken in the region of the Guajira Peninsula in Venezuela and Colombia. The papers address segmental and suprasegmental phonology, reduplication, verbal conjugations, passives, and relative clauses (with the analysis cast in the framework of relational grammar).


The Taino people were the first to welcome Columbus to South America, and the first to have become extinct. This is a comprehensive source on the Taino lexicon with examples of coccurrence of morphemes and a brief discussion of the elements of Taino grammar, accompanied with a concise history of the Taino people and the extinction of the language.


A comprehensive grammar of Guajiro (or Wayuunaiki), the largest North Arawak language spoken in the region of the Guajira Peninsula in Venezuela and Colombia. The grammar (coauthored with a native speaker of the language) covers all the aspects of the language, with a special focus on verbal conjugations, gender assignment, and syntactic structures. Cast in the framework of a traditional grammar.

A brief sketch of Añun, a North Arawak language from Venezuela, closely related to Guajiro, highlighting its major characteristics, including pronominal cross-referencing, gender, and verbal conjugations.


An incisive description of the Arawak language (also known as Lokono Arawak, or Lokono Dian) as spoken in Suriname, with special attention to constituent order and gender semantics, accompanied with a lengthy word list and a selection of texts.


A sketch grammar of a previously undocumented and now-extinct North Arawak language based on the work with the last partial speaker. This description highlights features of special interest, such as pronominal marking, the unusual person system, numeral classifiers, and complex clauses, and is accompanied with a word list and a text.


A pedagogical grammar of the Arawak language (also known as Lokono, or Lokono Dian) which covers phonology, morphology, and syntax. Clearly written and comprehensive, this is the major source on the grammar of the language since de Goeje 1928 (cited under Monographs and Dissertations).


Achagua used to be a major North Arawak language spanning various locations in modern Venezuela and the adjacent regions of Colombia (it was first described by Jesuit missionaries in the mid-18th century). As of the early 21st century, it is spoken by a couple of hundred people and is endangered. This is a careful and comprehensive study of the language, with special focus on phonology, classifiers, person marking, and discourse characteristics.

**Monographs and Dissertations**
Aikhenvald 1995 is a description of Baré, a once highly important language, based on work with the last speaker. Aikhenvald 2003 is a comprehensive grammar of Tariana, and Allin 1975 is a full grammar of highly endangered Resígaro. González Ñáñez 1997 offers a partial analysis of Guarequena. Gomes dos Santos 2006 describes major features of Wapixana. Launey 2003 presents a somewhat simplified analysis of Palikur. Mosonyi 1987 is a comprehensive grammar of now-extinct Yavitero. Reinoso Galindo 2002 is a good-quality description of Piapoco.


A short grammatical description of Baré, which used to be spoken by a large population in the Rio Negro Basin of northwest Amazonia in Brazil and adjacent areas. This grammar is based on fieldwork with the last fluent speaker, takes account of all the available sources on the language, and includes a selection of texts.


A comprehensive grammar of Tariana (of 735 pp.), an endangered language in contact with East Tucanoan, with dialect survey, a word list, and a sample of texts, with a survey of Tariana culture, kinship system, and sources on the language. Special attention is accorded to contact-induced changes in Tariana, and the reflection of Proto-Arawak forms in the language. Paperback reissue 2006.


A pioneering description of Resígaro, an endangered North Arawak language which underwent contact-induced influence from unrelated Bora and Witotoan languages. Contains a word list, and lengthy textual examples. Special features of Resígaro include classifiers and highly synthetic verbs.


A competent partial grammar of Wapishana, a North Arawak language spoken in Guiana and adjacent areas of Brazil by several thousand people. The grammar follows a typological approach, and is accompanied by a word list.

A partial analysis of the grammar of Warekena (also known as Guarequena), a North Arawak language spoken in Venezuela (and one elderly speaker on the Xié River in Brazil) and closely related to Tariana and the Baniwa of Içana/Kurripako continuum. This source contains a number of basic paradigms, focusing on the discussion of typological theory rather than on language analysis.


A brief and somewhat simplified sketch of Palikur, a highly synthetic and typologically unusual North Arawak language spoken by at least two thousand people in French Guiana and the adjacent areas of Brazil (state of Amapá). The grammar offers a snapshot of phonology, and verb structure, without going into an in-depth analysis of multiple classifier systems (see the section on South American Indian languages in the Oxford Bibliographies article on Classifiers).


A comprehensive grammar of Yavitero, a now-extinct North Arawak language closely related to Warekena of Xié (Aikhenvald 1998), and Baniwa of Guiania (Mosonyi 2000 [both cited under Articles and Book Chapters]). This valuable resource contains a discussion of major features of the language, including split-ergative patterns and relative clause structure, and is supplied with a selection of texts and a lengthy vocabulary. Cast in a typological framework.


Piapoco (or Dzase) is an endangered North Arawak language spoken in Colombia and Venezuela, and is closely related to the North Arawak languages of the Içana-Vaupés (Tariana, Baniwa of Içana/Kurripako, and Guarequena). A fine analysis of the grammar of the language with its brief history and a discussion of its social structure.

**Articles and Book Chapters**

Aikhenvald 1998 is a comprehensive grammar of Warekena of Xié, a dialect of Baniwa of Guainia. De Goeje 1948 summarizes the features of now-extinct Manao. Hanke 1960 is a snapshot of the now-extinct Kaishana. Mosonyi 2000 is a brief outline of Baniwa of Guiania.
A comprehensive grammar of Warekena of Xié, an endangered North Arawak closely related to Baniwa of Guainia (Mosonyi 2000) and Yavitero (Mosonyi 1987 [both cited under Monographs and Dissertations]). The Warekena of Xié have an interesting history, having migrated from Venezuela to Brazil in relatively recent times. This grammar, somewhat constrained by the presentational framework of the *Handbook*, addresses the major issues in syntax, morphology, and phonology of the language.


A comprehensive outline of grammar and lexicon of a once most important language of the area of the Rio Negro (which gave its name to the city of Manaus, the capital of the state of Amazonas in Brazil). This fine article contains references to common Arawak features preserved in the Manao language.


The only study of Kaishana, a North Arawak language once spoken in the Tefe region of the state of Amazonas in Brazil. This contains a grammar sketch, some lexicon, and an outline of the linguistic situation, in addition to a number of phrases in Kaishana, which is said to have been influenced by a language from the Makú family.


A brief sketch of Baniwa of Guainia (a North Arawak language closely related to Yavitero: Mosonyi 1987) and Warekena of Xié (Aikhenvald 1998), with few examples and selective treatment of individual topics such as accentual patterns, relative clauses, and pronominal cross-referencing.

**Specific Issues in the Grammar of North Arawak Languages**

Issues of interest in North Arawak languages include split-ergativity and cross-referencing, as described by Danielsen and Granadillo 2007, which addresses some shared issues to do with the active-stative split. Aikhenvald 2007 discusses classifiers in multiple environments in a selection of North Arawak languages and their etymologies. Aikhenvald and Green 1998 analyzes a highly complicated classifier system in Palikur
with three genders and five classifier types. Meléndez 1989 outlines properties of nouns and numeral classification in Achuagua. Munro 1997 discusses partial semantic motivation of genders in Garifuna.


A detailed analysis of systems of classifiers in multiple environments (with numerals, demonstratives, adjectives and verbs, and in possessive constructions) and gender systems in Baniwa of Ícana/Kurripako and Tariana, two closely related North Arawak languages, with a historical scenario of development and contact-induced change. See also the section on South American Indian languages in the *Oxford Bibliographies* article on Classifiers.


A detailed analysis of a most complicated system of classifiers (with three genders, numeral classifiers, verbal classifiers, locative classifiers, and possessive classifiers, different in form and meaning) in Palikur, a North Arawak language spoken in Brazil and in adjacent areas of French Guiana. See also the section on South American Indian languages in the *Oxford Bibliographies* article on Classifiers. Available online for purchase or by subscription.


A discussion of shared patterns of split-ergativity in Bauré, a South Arawak language spoken in Bolivia, and one variety of Kurripako spoken in Venezuela. The paper, despite factual limitations in the analysis of Kurripako, contains some insights into Proto-Arawak grammar.


A detailed fieldwork-based analysis of the noun phrase structure, patterns of number marking, and classifiers in Achagua, once an important language of Venezuela and Colombia, nowadays highly endangered.
A detailed semantic analysis of a two-way gender system in Garifuna, a North Arawak language of Central America. Gender choice is partly based on sex, and partly on physical properties of the referent. The paper is based on limited work with speakers residing in North America.

**Mixed Arawak-Carib Language and the Emergence of Island Carib**

One of the most fascinating events in the history of Arawak languages was the emergence of a mixed Arawak-Carib language in the Lesser Antilles just prior to the European conquest, which is discussed in Taylor 1951 and Taylor 1977. Speakers of Iñeri, a dialect of the Arawak language now (misleadingly) called Island Carib, were conquered by Carib speakers. They developed a “mixed” Carib/Arawak pidgin which survived until the 17th century. “Speech of men” and “speech of women” were distinguished in the following way: women used morphemes and lexemes of Arawak origin, while men used lexical items of Carib origin and grammatical morphemes mostly of Arawak origin. The pidgin coexisted with Carib used by men and Iñeri used by women and children; it belonged to both parties and served as a bridge between them. This diglossia gradually died out with the spread of competence in Island Carib among both men and women. As a result, Island Carib, an Arawak language, underwent strong lexical and, possibly, grammatical influence from Carib.


A comprehensive study of the history of the Black Carib speakers in Honduras, and the lexicon and grammar of the Garifuna (or Black Carib) language, with a special focus on differences between male and female speech and the Carib structures.


This fundamental monograph deals with the linguistic situation in the West Indies, past and present. It contains an outline of extinct languages (including the Arawak languages Taino and Shebayo) and an in-depth discussion of Island Carib (an extinct North Arawak language that formed the basis of Garifuna, or Black Carib). There is also discussion of the mixed Carib-Arawak pidgin, and how its elements survived in Island Carib.

**Language Contact and the Effects of Language Obsolescence**
Many North Arawak languages are in contact with their non-Arawak-speaking neighbors, such as Carib (Carlin 2006), Tucanoan (Aikhenvald 2006, and also Aikhenvald 2002 [cited under Dictionaries of North Arawak Languages] and Aikhenvald 2012), and Witotoan (Aikhenvald 2001 [cited under Articles and Book Chapters]). Effects of language obsolescence on Arawak languages in contact are addressed in Aikhenvald 2012.


The Vaupés River Basin is a linguistic area characterized by obligatory societal multilingualism regulated by linguistically based exogamy between speakers of one North Arawak language, Tariana, and East Tucanoan languages. This study explores the patterns of contact-induced change and preservation of common Arawak categories in Tariana, focusing on marking grammatical relations.


A study of contact-induced change and the effects of obsolescence with a special focus on North Arawak languages Baré, Tariana, Resígaro, and Mawayana. Special consideration is given to the influx of lexical loans and the diffusion of grammatical patterns.


Mawayana (also known as Mapidian) is a highly endangered North Arawak language, closely related to Wapishana. The few remaining speakers of Mawayana reside in villages where Wai Wai and Trio (Carib family) are spoken by the majority of inhabitants. This detailed study examines the ways in which Mawayana has been restructured under the influence of Carib languages.

**Dictionaries of North Arawak Languages**

Comprehensive dictionaries (most of them alphabetical) are available for North Arawak languages. Jusayú and Olza Zubiri 1988 is a thematic dictionary of Guajiro. Cadete 1990 is an alphabetical dictionary of Wapishana and contains unglossed examples. Schauer, et al. 2005 is a comprehensive dictionary of Yucuna that contains elaborate contexts for each entry. Alphabetical dictionaries with limited information are available for Piapoco

A comprehensive dictionary of approximately five thousand entries consisting of three parts: a thesaurus by semantic fields covering body parts, human classification, kinship terms, flora, fauna, and other fields; a Tariana-Portuguese and a Portuguese-Tariana finder list; and a brief sketch of the grammar of the language. Published in *Boletim do museu Goeldi* 17.1, July 2001.


An alphabetical bilingual dictionary of Wapishana which contains approximately 2,500 entries. Each entry is supplied with examples of usage (with no interlinear gloss). The dictionary is accompanied with a brief outline of the Wapichana writing system.


A comprehensive alphabetical dictionary of the largest North Arawak language, with ample exemplification and some contexts of use. The dictionary is bilingual (Guajiro [or Wayuunaiki]-Spanish) and contains more than two thousand entries.


This bilingual dictionary of Piapoco, a North Arawak language spoken by approximately three thousand people in Venezuela and adjacent areas of Colombia, contains more than two thousand entries arranged alphabetically and accompanied by examples. There is also a Spanish-Piapoco list, and a concise outline of the Piapoco grammar which covers most aspects of the language.


An alphabetical dictionary of Baniwa of Içana (based predominantly on the Hohôdene dialect), containing approximately two thousand entries. The dictionary is based on a limited amount of fieldwork. It contains a brief introduction to the
phonology and the morphology of the language, and the history of the speakers. A Portuguese-Baniwa word list is also provided.


This comprehensive alphabetical dictionary of Yucuna, a North Arawak language spoken by just under two thousand people in Colombia, contains more than three thousand entries accompanied by numerous examples and illustrations. There is also a Spanish-Yucuna dictionary; an appendix with annotated pictures of the most common fishes, animals, and birds; the structure of a longhouse and human body parts; and a further appendix with a thesaurus and a grammar sketch.

**Pre-andine Arawak Languages**

Arawak languages spoken in the Andean foothills and surrounding areas include Campa languages, which form an undisputable subgroup, spoken in Peru and also in the adjacent regions of Brazil. Amuesha (also known as Yanesha’) and Chamicuro (which in the early 21st century is close to extinction), both spoken in Loreto Province, Peru, can each be considered a special subgroup. Piro, and a number of purported dialects (such as Mashco-Piro and Maniteneri), are spoken in Peru and adjacent areas of Brazil. Iñapari, an endangered language of eastern Peru, is closely related to Piro. Apurinã, spoken in the state of Amazonas in Brazil, has sometimes been grouped together with Piro (Payne 1991, Aikhenvald 1999, Aikhenvald 2006 [cited under Articles and Book Chapters]; Aikhenvald 2012 [cited under Monographs and Dissertations]); however, this has not been fully proved. Further outlines of Pre-andine Arawak languages and their features are in Adelaar 2004, Wise 1985, and Wise 1986. Wise 2002 addresses applicatives and valency-increasing devices across Pre-andine languages.


A monumental survey of languages of the Andes and surrounding areas with an incisive outline of major grammatical and phonological features of a selection of Arawak languages spoken in the Andean foothills (Campa and Amuesha, or Yanesha’).

A highly competent outline of the language situation, language spread, and linguistic characteristics of the indigenous languages of lowland Peru, with a special focus on the Pre-andine Arawak languages.


A pioneering and insightful survey of selected features of phonology, morphology, and syntax of the major Pre-andine Arawak languages with a special focus on Campa and Piro (as the best known to date), highlighting their synthetic structure, cross-referencing, noun categorization devices, and clause-linking techniques.


A highly professional modern analysis of valency-changing devices in the indigenous languages of Peru, with a special focus on synthetic Pre-andine Arawak languages and their applicative and causative derivations, in the light of comparison with other Arawak languages.

**Campa Languages**

Campa languages form a closely knit subgroup, consisting of Ashaninca, Ashéninca, Axininca, Ashéninca Peréné, Machiguenga, Nomatsiguenga, and Nanti (only recently contacted; see Michael 2008). The analysis in Payne 1981 provides a general framework for describing Campa languages which is also reflected in the grammars Payne, et al. 1982 and Swift 1988.


A comprehensive analysis of the means of expression of perception and information source among the Nanti, a recently contacted Campa-speaking group (closely related to Machiguenga), based on lengthy immersion fieldwork. This is accompanied by a brief sketch of Nanti grammar.

This pioneering albeit partial study of phonology and of basic morphological structures of a Campa language addresses in detail segmental phonology and phonological processes, and offers a template for verbal structure (which is highly complex) and some observations on the structure of the noun. It has provided a paradigm for describing Campa languages followed by most linguists within the Peruvian branch of the Summer Institute of Linguistics.


A partial description of phonology, phonetics, and aspects of morphology of the Ashéninca variety of Apurucayali, modeled in its framework and approach on Payne 1981. The major focus is on the structure of the highly complex verbal word, in terms of slots and their order within the word.


A basic outline of the grammar of Caquinte, a Campa language, with a special focus on phonology and phonological processes, and verbal structure, modeled on the approach in Payne 1981.

**Monographs and Dissertations**

Payne 1989 is a comprehensive grammar cast in a pedagogical format. Mihas 2010 is the only grammar of a Campa language within a typological framework; Michael 2008 (cited under Campa Languages) offers a brief sketch of Nanti grammar. Wise 1971 covers the basic grammar of Nomatsiguenga cast in tagmemic framework. Aspects of Campa phonology and grammar are addressed in Payne and Davila 1983. Literacy and orthography development among the Machiguenga is discussed by Trudell 1993. Major dictionaries include Snell, et al. 2011; Kindberg 1980; and Shaver 1996.


A comprehensive bilingual dictionary of a Campa language, accompanied by some examples, and containing an appendix with a list of verbal affixes in this highly synthetic language.

A highly competent outline of the major features of phonology, morphology, and syntax of Ashéninca Perené, with its complex synthetic verbal structure and elaborate noun classification system. Cast in a typological framework and accompanied by text samples and a word list.


A comprehensive grammar of Ashéninca (with a focus on the Pichis, with some notes on the Upper Perené variety), cast in the frame of a teaching grammar. Supplied with numerous examples, accessible explanation, and word lists, this is a major resource on the grammar of a Campa language.


This edited collection contains six outstanding contributions each focusing on an aspect of grammar of Asheninca based on extensive textual analysis, including an unusual active-stative profile and transitivity alternations (by David L. Payne), directionals as temporal markers (by Judith K. Payne), and adverbials (by Janice Anderson).


A bilingual dictionary (Nomatsiguenga-Spanish and Spanish-Nomatsiguenga) with more than two thousand entries and good exemplification for each, accompanied by a brief sketch of phonology, and major grammatical structures.


This monumental work (of 895 pp.) contains a comprehensive bilingual dictionary of Machiguenga (or Matsigenka) with numerous examples. There is also a detailed grammar outline, and information of the ethnography of the Machiguenga, accompanied by lists of terms for flora and fauna. This is a model dictionary, and the most detailed one of a Campa language to date.
Trudell, Barbara. 1993. *Beyond the bilingual classroom: Literacy acquisition among Peruvian Amazon communities.* Dallas: Summer Institute of Linguistics and Univ. of Texas at Arlington.

An in-depth study of orthography development and literacy acquisition in previously unwritten languages, with a special focus on author’s first-hand experience among the Machiguenga and a number of other Campa groups.


This comprehensive, and pioneering, grammatical study of Nomatsiguenga is based on first-hand fieldwork and in-depth analysis of texts. Combines elements of discourse analysis and tagmemic approach.

**Articles and Book Chapters**

Payne and Payne 2005 offers an in-depth analysis of a highly unusual system of split-ergativity in Campa which is based on topical continuity of the referents and the semantics of the verb. Crowhurst and Michael 2005 discusses stress placement in a Campa language which is based on prominence and foot structure.


A pioneering account of stress placement and the notion of foot and metrical structure in a previously undescribed Campa language. Available online for purchase or by subscription.


A detailed study of a highly unusual pattern of split ergativity in Asheninca Campa, where the choice of a nominative-accusative or of an absolutive-ergative pattern marked through cross-referencing (also depending on the tense-aspect value of the clause) is determined by the topicality of the participants.

**Amuesha**

Amuesha is a highly synthetic Arawak language which has a number of unusual features (including various phonological traits such as glottalization, and lack of genders) which set it apart from neighboring Pre-andine Arawak languages. As first outlined by Wise
1976 and then further discussed by Adelaar 2006, Amuesha must have undergone contact-induced impact from numerous unrelated languages (among them Quechua). Duff-Tripp 1997 is a basic grammar of the language; Duff-Tripp 1998 is a dictionary. Wise 1963 is a pioneering analysis of Amuesha verb structure.


A comprehensive investigation of contact-induced changes in Amuesha, in the areas of phonology, grammatical structure, and lexicon, with a potted outline of the history of the Amuesha people and their contacts with Quechua speakers. Not all the unusual elements in Amuesha can be accounted for by Quechua influence; a number of substrata from unknown languages have contributed to its specific profile of Amuesha.


A basic grammar of Amuesha (or Yanesha’), which covers most issues, including highly synthetic verb structure and complex phonology. Lack of interlinear glossing of examples makes using this resource somewhat difficult.


A bilingual dictionary of Amuesha-Spanish and Spanish-Amuesha with more than three thousand entries and numerous examples and explanations. It is supplied with some information on orthography, phonology, and elements of grammar.


A pioneering and influential article dealing with a highly synthetic language and its verb structure, detailing the major verbal categories and their presentation in terms of tagmemics. Available online for purchase or by subscription.


A highly innovative discussion of unusual features of Amuesha, an Arawak language which differs from other members of the family in its phonology,
grammar, and lexicon. This paper puts forward the hypothesis of intensive Quechua influence on Amuesha and discusses the Quechua elements in the language. This was the first scientific approach to contact-induced change in an Amazonian language.

Chamicuro

Chamicuro is undoubtedly an Arawak language; however, it is structurally and lexically very different from other Pre-andine Arawak languages. Parker 1987 and Parker 1991 are fundamental descriptions of Chamicuro (which is on the verge of becoming extinct). Parker 1994 and Parker 1999 address issues of typological interest in this language.


A word list and a selection of stories in Chamicuro (not glossed) translated into Spanish, with a brief outline of the Chamicuro alphabet, collected from the last speakers of this language.


A detailed study of the phonology and segmental phonological processes of Chamicuro based on fieldwork with the last speakers of the language (cast in the framework of autosegmental phonology), with an attempt at offering a putative Amuesha-Chamicuro reconstruction. Also contains a brief sketch of morphology (with a focus on the verbal structure).


An incisive discussion of laryngealization and other phonological processes in Chamicuro, with a focus on translaryngeal vowel harmony. Available online for purchase or by subscription.


Unlike many Amazonian languages, Chamicuro has definite articles which are cliticized to the preceding word in a clause. The article addresses this typologically unusual phenomenon in a clear and insightful way. Available online for purchase or by subscription.
Piro and Iñapari

Piro (also known as Yine) and its dialects (including the barely described Mashco-Piro and Maniteneri) are spoken by more than two thousand people in Peru and adjacent regions of the state of Acre (Brazil) and of Bolivia. Matteson 1965 is a comprehensive grammar, and Nies 1986 is a dictionary. Iñapari, on the verge of extinction in the early 21st century, is closely related to Piro (Valenzuela 1991, Parker 1995).


A comprehensive and highly informative grammar of Piro, accompanied by a selection of texts, and based on intensive fieldwork. Cast in the tagmemic framework, it is not always easy to follow; nevertheless, this is among the best grammars of any Arawak language to date.


A bilingual dictionary of Piro (Piro-Spanish and Spanish-Piro) with more than ten thousand entries, accompanied by illustrative examples, a brief but informative grammar sketch, a list of grammatical affixes, and number words. One of the most elaborate dictionaries of an Arawak language to date.


A collection of all materials available on Iñapari (most of them based on original fieldwork with a family of last speakers of the language). This source contains an Iñapari-Spanish and a Spanish-Iñapari word list, and also a grammar sketch and observations concerning orthography and phonology of the language.


This paper provides a definitive proof of Arawak affiliation of Iñapari based on lexical and grammatical cognates, and comparisons with Piro and a few other languages of the Pre-andine area.

Apurina
Various issues of the grammar of Apurina (also known as Apurinã, Ipurina, and Kangiti) are discussed in Pickering 1971, Pickering 1973, and Aberdour 1985. Facundes 2000 is a reference grammar of the language.


A detailed analysis of discourse structure and devices employed for maintaining reference and reference tracking in Apurina, based on a large corpus of texts.


A reference grammar of Apurina cast in a typological framework and based on original fieldwork. It approaches most issues in the grammar of the language (especially incipient classifiers, and verbal structures); however, scientific argumentation is lacking.


**Arawak Languages of the Xingu Indigenous Park**

Arawak languages spoken in the Xingu Indigenous Park are Waurá, its close relative Mehinaku, Yawalapiti, and the now-extinct Kustenaú. Possession, clause structure and clause types, and verbal structure in Waurá are discussed by Richards 1973, Richards 1977, and Richards 1988. Ball 2007 offers an ethnographic study with little attention to grammar. Mori 2007 addresses the structure of a noun phrase in Mehinaku. Mujica 1992 is the only available grammar sketch of Yawalapiti. Pioneering materials on these languages (and also the now-extinct Kustenaú) are in von den Steinen 1886 (cited under General Overviews). Unfortunately, there are no comprehensive grammars of any of the Xinguan languages.

A discussion of Waura (Wauja) rituals, identity, spatial orientation, and some social structures, also addressing selected topics in the grammar of the language including gender and possession types and their conceptualization.


A brief analysis of major nominal categories in Mehináku, an Arawak language of Xingu (closely related to Waurá). This clearly written and incisive paper addresses categories such as possession and noun classification, and the general structure of a noun phrase.


A brief but concise outline of phonetics, phonology, and elements of morphology nominal marking and classifiers) in Yawalapiti, a Xinguan Arawak language on the verge of extinction.


A paradigm-setting analysis of highly complex possessive noun phrases in Waurá, with special attention paid to possession classes. Nouns in Waurá can be obligatorily or inalienably possessed, optionally or alienably possessed, or may not be possessible at all. The paper also discusses phonological process involving possessive suffixes and prefixes.


A pioneering account of the sentence structure in Waurá with special attention to the structure of simple clauses.


First-ever attempt at outlining the structure of the verb of Waurá, a highly synthetic language, outlining slots and fillers (cast in accordance with the tagmemic model).
Arawak Languages of Areas near Xingu

A genetic grouping which would include Paresi (also known as Haliti and as Parecis) and Xinguian Arawak languages (e.g., Payne 1991 [cited under Articles and Book Chapters]) has yet been substantiated. Rowan and Burgess 1979 is a comprehensive grammar of Paresi; a partial structural analysis of its phonology is in Romling da Silva 2009 and a partial treatment of its verbal morphology in Brandão 2010; Rowan 2001 is a dictionary which contains valuable information but no glosses. Enawenê-Nawê (also known as Salumã) is very little described; a partial analysis of phonetics and phonology is in Rezende 2003.


A partial sketch of Paresi grammar, with some attention to phonology (especially accent placement), word classes, and the structure of a noun, focusing on a selection of verbal categories, among them negation.


A first attempt at establishing phonemes and their allophones in Enawenê-Nawê, using trace theory. Based on a limited amount of original fieldwork, this thesis contains rather few data of the language.


A partial analysis of phonetics and phonology of Paresi cast in a generative framework.


An alphabetical dictionary of Paresi, with a Portuguese-Paresi finder list. Supplied with illustrative examples, it contains more than two thousand entries.


A pioneering grammatical description of Paresi containing a brief analysis of almost every aspect of the grammar of the language, with some exemplification,
but little in terms of argumentation. Certain features of the language—including verbal classifiers—are not discussed at all.

South Arawak Languages

South Arawak languages spoken in Brazil (the state of Mato Grosso do Sul) include Terêna and the highly endangered Kinikinao. Bendor-Samuel 1961 is an interesting attempt at capturing the grammatical structures of Terêna, but cast in an impenetrable framework. Bendor-Samuel 1966 is a pioneering piece on phonological processes including vowel assimilation and nasality spread in Terêna. Ekdahl and Butler 1979 is a competent pedagogical grammar of the language. Ekdahl and Grimes 1964 is a fine outline of the verbal structure in this highly synthetic language. Souza 2008 is a grammar of Kinikinao based on fieldwork with the remaining speakers. Other South Arawak languages spoken in the Chacos area are addressed in Tovar and Tovar 1984 (cited under Monographs and Dissertations), Loukotka 1968 (cited under Monographs and Dissertations), and Aikhenvald 1999 (cited under Articles and Book Chapters).


A comprehensive grammar of Terêna, which pays special attention to its phonology, unusual phonological processes, and highly synthetic verb structure. It is cast in a highly idiosyncratic framework which makes the discussion hard to follow. See pp. 1–81.


A classic discussion of nasal assimilation and its limitations in Terêna (in particular, regarding the treatment of the erstwhile first-person prefix realized as a nasal feature of the initial consonant or vowel), and of vowel harmony (resulting from a reflex of the erstwhile second-person prefix).


A competent grammar of Terêna cast as a pedagogical grammar. Contains a succinct analysis of phonetics, phonology, and basic facts of morphology, in addition to some syntactic structures. The strong point of this book is the wealth of examples.

A pioneering analysis of the highly complex synthetic verbal structures in Terêna, with a special focus on slots and the order of morphemes, and vowel alternations in the formation of some categories, such as realis versus irrealis.


This competent description of Kinikinao, an endangered language closely related to Terêna, contains a comprehensive analysis of the history of the Kinikinau, and their relationships with the Kadiweu and other, more aggressive, neighbors. The dissertation examines phonetics and phonology, and basic morphological and syntactic structures of the languages, comparing it with Terêna.

**Arawak Languages of Bolivia**

The major Arawak languages spoken exclusively in Bolivia are Baure and a number of varieties of Mojo or Ignaciano; major sources on these are Danielsen 2007; Ott and Ott 1983; and Olza Zubiri, et al. 2001. Ibarra Grasso 1982 provides a bird’s-eye view on indigenous languages of Bolivia, with a chapter on Arawak languages mentioning South Arawak languages of Bolivia (Guaná and Chané, both extinct), Saraveca (also extinct), and Paunaca and Paiconeca (spoken by small populations) (also see Tovar and Tovar 1984 [cited under Monographs and Dissertations]).


A competent reference grammar of Bauré, a major Bolivian Arawak language, cast in a typological framework. This grammar addresses the major issues in phonetics, phonology, morphology, and syntax of Baure, and is supplied with references to some cognates and parallels across the Arawak family. Appendices contain a list of grammatical morphemes, a short word list, and a short text.


A brief but incisive snapshot of linguistic families of Bolivia, with a special chapter on the Arawak languages of Bolivia. This chapter provides basic information on the structure of these languages, their history, and their sociolinguistic situation, and provides a few words in each language.

A masterly grammar of Mojo or Ignaciano which covers every aspect of phonetics, phonology, morphology, and syntax of the language. This valuable compendium is cast in a mixture of traditional grammar and a more modern, typologically informed model. It contains numerous illustrative examples which are not glossed (but the clarity of explanation makes up for this drawback).


A comprehensive bilingual dictionary of Ignaciano with more than two thousand entries. It is accompanied with an insightful and concise grammar sketch of the language which contains detailed information about classifiers, male and female speech forms, and the verbal structure, in addition to basic facts. Until the publication of Olza Zubiri, et al. 2001, this was the best grammatical source on Ignaciano.