

## Spanish loan verbs in Paunaka: From verbal to non-verbal predication

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This talk is about inputs and outputs concerning the borrowing of verbs from Spanish into Paunaka, a critically endangered Southern Arawakan language spoken in Eastern Bolivia.

Spanish verbs can be borrowed with two different input forms. The first form, the reduced infinitive, is a common input form, not only among genetically and geographically close languages, but also as a general pattern among South American languages in contact with Romance languages (Wohlgemuth 2009:81). The second form that Paunaka borrows is past participles, preferably of verbs that end in *-ar* in Spanish (with participles in *-ado*), but also of some verbs that end in *-er* or *-ir*. Wohlgemuth (2009:112-113) reports that some languages in the world borrow participles as input forms, and Napeka, a language that was spoken in the same area, possibly shares this trait with Paunaka.<sup>1</sup>

The input forms are then either verbalized, see (1), using the same strategy that Baure and Trinitario employ, two very closely related languages, or they are integrated as non-verbal predicates, see (2).<sup>2</sup> Those non-verbal predicates can be stative or active, and they can even be used to express transitive relations. This is highly uncommon cross-linguistically, because active relations are usually encoded by verbs (e.g. Langacker 1987:189, 244; Frawley 1992:140, 142; Van Valin and LaPolla 1997:82-83, Givón 2001:52). Considering native non-verbal predication structures only, this also holds for Paunaka. The integration of Spanish verbs has thus extended the semantic space of non-verbal predication to encode not only stative, but also active relations. Interestingly, non-verbal predicates of borrowed active verbs are also found in Bésiro, the language that has been dominant in the region for 300 years (Sans 2012, p.c.).

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| (1) a. | <u>native verb</u><br><i>tikechunÿ</i><br><i>ti-ke-chu-nÿ</i><br>3i-say-TH-1SG<br>'she says to me'                                   | b. | <u>borrowed verb</u><br><i>tayurauchunÿ</i><br><i>ti-ayurau-chu-nÿ</i><br>3i-help-TH-1SG<br>'she helps me'                                   |
| (2) a. | <u>native non-verbal predicate</u><br><i>chubuiyubitu</i><br><i>chubui-yu-bi-tu</i><br>old.man-INTS-1PL-IAM<br>'we are very old now' | b. | <u>borrowed non-verbal predicate</u><br><i>metu pagaubitu</i><br><i>metu pagau-bi-tu</i><br>already pay-1PL-IAM<br>'we have already paid it' |

### Glosses:

1 = first person; 3i = 3rd person; IAM = iamitive (perfect); INTS = intensifier; PL = plural; SG = singular; TH = thematic suffix

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1 Since Napeka has become extinct by now and has hardly been documented there is no possibility for verification.  
2 Verbal and non-verbal predicates can easily be distinguished by different place of subject marking (prefixed vs. suffixed) and a different marker for irrealis reality status.

## References

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