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SUMMARY

This study provides a description and analysis of the phonology of the Saynáwa language, a member of the Pano linguistic family.

The Saynáwa language is spoken by seven Indians of the Saynáwa / Jamináwa ethnic group, who live in the *Terra Indígena Jamináwa do Igarapé Preto*, in the city of Cruzeiro do Sul in the state of Acre, Brazil. This language is moribund: with so few speakers, all of whom are over 50 years old, the language is not being taught to new generations of Saynáwa / Jamináwa (totaling 86 individuals in 2010).

To study the phonological structure of Saynáwa before its disappearance, we conducted field surveys in 2008 and 2010. The data collected in those sessions is the foundation of the present study, which is divided into an introduction and three chapters.

The introduction provides the internal classification of the Pano linguistic family, for which we propose to include Saynáwa among the languages of the Cabeceiras subgroup, alongside languages like Kaxinawá and Jamináwa. We also offer a general description on the Saynáwa / Jamináwa ethnography .

Chapters 1, 2 and 3 deal specifically with the phonology of Saynáwa.

In Chapter 1, we list the consonant and vowel phonemes and analyze a number of consonantal and vocalic sounds acoustically. We also describe the syllable structure and analyze syllabification and resyllabification processes.

In the following chapter, we account for the metrical structure and accent of the language, identifying the main prosodic constituents. The influence of prosody on the vowel system and the Saynáwa phonology as a whole is described in considerable detail.

Finally, in Chapter 3, we analyze the phonological and morphophonological processes identified in Saynáwa. Among the phonological processes, we highlight lenition, vowel lowering and lengthening, neutralization, epenthesis, and assimilation (vowel nasalization, retroflexion, etc.). As for the morphophonological processes, we identify metathesis and epenthesis, and show how prosody also influences the Saynáwa morphophonology.