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Abstract

This study presents the results of a grammatical and phonological analysis of the Katukina-Kanamari language spoken by some 2200 people in Amazonas, Brazil. The work is organized into four chapters as follows:

Chapter one gives background into the Katukina linguistic family. An overview of the standard classification for the language is offered prior to a revised version of the internal classification of the language family. Thereafter, the reader will find a review of relevant linguistic and anthropological studies. The second part of this chapter deals with some aspects of the Katukina do Biá and Kanamari communities, and gives a description not only of the geographic location and demography but also the cosmology, mythology, language use, and education of the community under investigation.

The following chapter begins with an overview of the identified phonological and morphophonological characteristics, starting with the consonantal and vocalic segments, their phonological opposition, and respective phonetic manifestations before progressing to the sound environment patterns for the phonemes, which, in this language, are the syllable and the phonological word. The section on the syllable offers a description of the syllabic structure and inventory, and describes the distribution of consonantal and vocalic segments in the onset and coda and in the nucleus, respectively. Thereafter the stress pattern on word and phrase levels is examined prior to a thorough description of the identified morphophonological processes.

The third chapter gives a study of morphological topics, beginning with the typological definition of the language and definitions of the word classes of nouns, verbs, post-positions and adverbs. Nouns, verbs, and adverbs compose the category of the inflectional classes while the adverbs compose the non-inflectional class. The second part of the chapter gives the derivational and inflectional morphological processes of the inflectional classes.

The fourth chapter is dedicated to the syntactic structure in Katukina is divided into six sub-chapters: (4) Phrase-internal structure; (5) Sentence syntax; (6) Adjuncts; (7) Changes in argument structure; (8) Complex sentences; (9) Sentence types. The first sub-chapter is organized into two sub-sections. In the first, the types of identified phrases are given, with emphasis extended to shared characteristics. In the second, each type of phrase with their respective properties is treated. The sub-chapter entitled *Sentence syntax* provides the syntactic structure of Katukina in three sub-sections, which deal with (a) types of identified predicates along with their characteristics, (b) internal and external sentence arguments and their function and control characteristics; and (c) adverbial and post-positional phrases, with special attention to their morphological composition and positional distribution. Thereafter, the third sub-chapter, *Changes in argument structure* is dedicated to the description of the mechanisms that modify the argument structure of the verbs. This sub-chapter is divided into a description of the mechanisms that decrease and increase verbal valence. In *Complex sentences* one finds a description of sentence coordination and subordination. Finally, the sub-chapter on *Sentence types* deals with declarative, imperative and interrogative sentences.