

## ON TONAL AMAZONIAN TYPOLOGY

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Until quite recently, very few Amazonian languages were reported to be tonal. For South America, seven tonal languages were registered by Yip [10] and twelve by Maddieson [6], all located in Amazonia. A notable progress is represented by Hyman's recent inventory and typological characterization [5]. Hyman's survey arrives at fifty four Amazonian tonal systems, most located in Western Amazonia.<sup>1</sup> And this is only a preliminary approach, as can be inferred from the fact that only in Colombian Amazonia we count some thirty tonal languages, and that for a small family from the Norwest Amazon like the Tukanoan –that comprises twenty one languages– only ten are included in Hyman's statistics, out of the eighteen reported to be tonal [4]. The number of tonal languages in the area has certainly been underestimated.<sup>2</sup>

In typological perspective, Hyman addresses the question of how Amazonian languages fit into the overall scheme of tone systems and how, in spite of the fact that all are simple two-height systems (excepted two cases), the range of phenomena they represent is considerable. Taking into account the presence of tones in underlying representations, he tentatively identifies four types of two-height systems –/H, L/, /H, Ø/, L, Ø/ and /H, L, Ø/– and leaves unclassified eight languages.

The aim of this presentation is to intend a fine-grained characterization of this typological profile, through the analysis of some of the languages in the sample, not only in terms of the tones present in UR but also by looking at the lexical vs. grammatical use of tone and at the kind of processes at play in sandhi. The languages we will focus on belong to the Tukanoan family, represented in the types proposed by Hyman as follows:

/H, L/	Barasana, Tatuyo, Wanano
/H, Ø/	(i) Tuyuka (ii) Koreguaje?, Kubeo?, Tanimuka ?
L, Ø/	None
/H, L, Ø/	Maihiki (Orejon)
/?/	Waimaha, Tukano.

First, I will show how the languages in the /H, L/ type differ both by the grammatical use of tone and by the kind of processes they appeal to [2, 3, 9]. Then I will reinterpret the Kubeo [1] and Tukano [8] data in order to remove the /?/ from their present classification. Finally, I will try to include the remaining Tukanoan languages into Hyman's groups, using available descriptions not surveyed by Hyman [4]. I hope to contribute to a better knowledge of tonal Amazonian systems by the scientific community, mainly typologists. Also, to show to young researchers and students that there is a huge and largely unexplored area waiting for them. From an areal perspective, Amazonia has definitely to be considered as tonal.

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<sup>1</sup> Over 240 languages spoken in the Amazonian area [7].

<sup>2</sup> Following Hyman's position, we count as tonal languages those reported as 'pitch accent'.

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