

## Kakua nasalization: phonetic evidence and phonological analysis

Nasalization phenomena have been generally described as a suprasegmental (prosodic) feature in the languages of the Vaupes area (Colombia-Brazil), where instead of being considered a local coarticulatory phenomenon, is described as a property syllables or entire morphemes (Gomez-Imbert 1997, Aikhenvald 2000 and 2003, Epps 2008, Bolanos 2010, Chacon 2012, Silva 2012).

Although this account has been based on the impressions of very skilled fieldworkers, there are not instrumental analysis that could further quantify the phonetic properties of the nasal phenomenon in most of languages of the area.

The aim of this paper is twofold: On the one hand, we present the very first phonetic documentation of nasalization in Kakua by providing acoustic and aerodynamic data gathered in the field. On the other, we discuss the phonological representation of the complex nasals. We discuss our results in the broader context of the cross linguistic trends and the typology of complex nasals. We conclude with a discussion of the implications of our findings for the historical and comparative study of Amazonian languages.