

Spoken and visual negation in two languages of Ecuador

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The method of ‘multimodal typology’ (Floyd and DeVos 2015), which compares ‘composite’ utterances (Enfield 2009) across spoken and/or sign languages as part of a single spectrum of human expression, and similar approaches related to the emerging field of ‘gesture typology’ bring an explicitly cross-cultural and cross-linguistic perspective to studies of visual bodily communication. The extension of methods of grammatical typology to the typology of multimodal expression makes it possible to see both striking similarities in unrelated cultures as well as highly culture-specific types of visual bodily expression. This study directly extends the findings of a particular area of grammatical typology, that of negation (Kahrel and van den Berg 1994; Michael and Granadillo on South American languages in 2014), to multimodal typology. It asks what types of visual bodily expression occur in that linguistic context in two South American indigenous languages spoken in Ecuador: Highland Quichua (Quechuan) and Cha’palaa (Barbacoan). Using two large transcribed video corpora, a data set of examples of gesture and visual expression will be identified during speech representing major grammatical classes identified in negation typology: (1) negation constructions with negative particles like “no/not”, (2) negative verbs like “lack”, and (3) negative pronouns like “none/nobody”. The distinct typological profiles of the two languages structure the types of composite utterances that are possible, for example in the case of Cha’palaa which has no lexical particle “no” at all, but rather a negative suffix requiring a verb. Both languages also show specific cultural conventionalizations such as a Quichua raised and waving open hand gesture to say “there is no more/nothing/none”. The presentation will review the types of visual expression seen with these types of spoken negation constructions in the two corpora, and make some preliminary observations about trends in composite utterances of negation.

Enfield, Nick J. 2009. *The anatomy of meaning: Speech, gesture, and composite utterances*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Floyd, Simeon and Connie DeVos. June 2015. Multimodal typology of celestial pointing for time reference. Language and Cognition Department Presentation. Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics. (in preparation as article)

Peter Kahrel & René van den Berg (eds.). 1994. *Typological studies in negation*. (Typological studies in language 29.) Amsterdam/Philadelphia: John Benjamins

Michael, Lev, and Tania Granadillo. 2014. *Negation in Arawak languages*. Brill’s Studies in the Indigenous Languages of the Americas 6. Leiden/Boston: Brill.