

***The Languages of the Andes*** by Willem F. H. Adelaar with the collaboration of Pieter C. Muysken. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2004, xxv+718 pp.

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Eleventh in the Cambridge Language Survey series, Adelaar's *The Languages of the Andes* offers a comprehensive account of both the extant and the extinct indigenous languages of Pacific, or Andean, South America. Designed as a reference for linguists, the book is organized according to five major cultural/regional groupings of languages: the Chibcha, Inca, and Araucanian spheres as well as those spoken on the eastern slopes of the Andes and in Tierra del Fuego. Highlighting the typological variation in linguistic features across the languages of the Andean cordillera, this book brings together grammatical description and example texts for the region's many languages.

The introduction of the book surveys the region's history of linguistic diversity as it has been affected by such inherent characteristics as the terrain of the Andean range and by the influences of extended contact between speech communities, the result of successive periods of conquest and, later, nation formation. Included in this first section of the book is a review of Andean linguistics research to date and a presentation of the classifications postulated for genetic relationships between the languages of the region. The remaining chapters are ordered along the north to south axis of Pacific South America, beginning with the Chibcha Sphere in the north, in present-day Colombia (Chapter 2). Chapter 3 addresses the languages of the Incan Sphere, most influentially Quechua and its derivatives. The history of Incan conquest immediately prior to the arrival of Europeans in the region is reviewed, emphasizing its likely affect on language use across the vast areas of modern Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, and northern Chile and Argentina. The authors note the Incan practice of *mitmaq*, or forced migration of entire communities, as a likely contributing factor to the domination of Quechua, which was achieved to even greater extent during the colonial period. Chapter 4 addresses the numerous languages of the eastern slopes of the Andes but also includes the languages of the Chaco region, more properly Amazonian than Andean. This chapter also touches on the influence of Quechua in the region. Chapter 5 presents the languages of the Araucanian Sphere, covering the areas of central Chile and parts of Argentina. The discussion addresses the resistance of the Araucanian (i.e. Mapuche) people to conquest, first by the Inca and later by Spaniards and Chileans, and notes the group's language maintenance until recent decades. The extinct and endangered languages of Tierra del Fuego are covered in Chapter 6. This chapter describes the

decline and loss of the nine languages spoken in this Southernmost region of the continent. Though once spoken by robust communities, there are few speakers of Fuegian languages today, their communities having been decimated by disease, war, and loss of land to the Chilean and Argentinian states. The final chapter of the book presents characteristic features of the Andean variety of Spanish. The authors review several hypotheses regarding the regional origins in Spain of Andean Spanish. Influences on Spanish of the local Amerindian languages, primarily Quechua, are demonstrated with numerous examples. An appendix presents an exhaustive “Inventory of Andean languages and language families.”

Though its primary aim is typological description of the impressive number of languages that have evolved in the region, the scope of *The Languages of the Andes* is broad enough even to include a short description of debates surrounding the settlement patterns and subsistence strategies of Andean prehistory (Introduction). Overall, the book emphasizes historical processes both descriptively, in each chapter with discussions of shift and contact, and methodologically, with example texts and grammatical analyses gathered from both historical (i.e. colonial) and contemporary published works regarding specific languages. This historical lens, together with the detailed phonological, morphosyntactic, and semantic descriptions of the languages presented, are the strengths of this reference text.

For applied linguists, this reference can provide foundational information for beginning study of any of the particular codes of the region or as a resource regarding specific grammatical features as they are present in the languages of the region. However, the book offers less information regarding the details of contemporary language use in communities (e.g. numbers of Spanish bilinguals or the distribution of fluency across generations). Nor does the text fully address public policy issues such as the incorporation or prohibition of indigenous languages in schooling or other public fora in the nations where languages are spoken. Though the publisher suggests that the book “will be a valuable resource for students and scholars of linguistics and anthropology alike” (book cover), the book provides little more than the bare ethnographic bones regarding the speech communities that use the codes presented in the book. Other sources would need to be consulted for information regarding the religious, economic, or political organization of the relevant cultural groups associated with each of the languages.

Overall, the accomplishment of *The Languages of the Andes* is a very thorough linguistic survey of the languages that have been and continue to be spoken throughout the vast region stretching along the Pacific face of South America. Readers interested in the formal characteristics of Andean languages and in the historical forces that have influenced these codes now have an excellent resource for this information.