

Object-Prefix Incorporation in Proto Tupi-Guarani Verbs

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ABSTRACT—In recent years, much study has been done on languages within the Tupi-Guarani language family, making possible both phonological (Lemle 1971) and morphological (Jensen 1984) reconstruction of Proto-Tupi-Guarani as well as a tentative division of the various languages into eight subgroups (Rodrigues 1984-1985). This family is unique in the Tupi stock in having developed a new set of prefixes for independent verbs along nominative-accusative lines. The present paper presents reconstructions of the prefixes involved in this new system: **a-* '1SG', **ere-* '2SG', **o-* '3', **oro-* '1EXCL', **ja-* '1INCL', and **pe-* '2PL'.

It shows that in a transitive verb whose object is third person, and object prefix **i- ~ c-* should be reconstructed between the subject prefix and the stem, as in such languages as Guarani and Tupinambá. This analysis is productive as well in explaining the variants of **opo-* (second-person plural object with first-person subject) which occurs in some languages, *apo-* and *oropo-*, as a reanalysis of *po-* (second-person plural object) analogous to the third-person object prefix. It also provides a basis for explaining the **ti-* (first-person plural subject) prefix, which occurs in some languages, as a derivation from three prefixes: purpose + subject + object (**t-ya-i-*).

KEY WORDS—Tupi-Guarani, historical linguistics, reconstruction, incorporation, morphology, Guajajara, Kayabi, Wayampi