

The historical development of the Wayampi Language

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ABSTRACT—This study describes aspects of the phonology and morphology of the Wayampi language (Brazil) from a diachronic perspective within the framework of the Tupi-Guarani linguistic family. In chapter 1 phonological changes in the development of Wayampi are traced from Lemle's (1971) reconstruction of Proto-Tupi-Guarani, with modifications suggested by Rodrigues. Chapter 2 contains a systematic comparison of the phonological rules of Wayampi with those of Tupinamba (Rodrigues, 1981). In chapter 3 I have reconstructed a series of grammatical morphemes of Proto-Tupi-Guarani based on comparative data from representatives of each of the eight subgroups proposed by Rodrigues (1984/1985) for the linguistic family. This study concludes with a discussion of the value of diachronic input in the analysis of an indigenous language.