

A G R A M M A R

O F

R E S Í G A R O

by

Trevor R. Allin

Bound in three volumes

VOLUME I

SUMMER INSTITUTE OF LINGUISTICS

## CONTENTS

Abbreviations & Symbols .....	vi
Some Resigaros.....	viii
Sketch Map I.....	ix
Sketch Map II.....	x
0. Introduction.....	1
0.1. The Language and the People.....	1
0.2. Previous References to the Resigaros, and work on the Language.....	3
0.3. The Basis of the Present Description.....	20
0.4. Theoretical Framework of the Present Description.....	24
0.5. Scope.....	39
PART I: PHONOLOGICAL HIERARCHY.....	42
0. Introduction.....	43
Chapter 1. Phoneme Level.....	46
Chapter 2. Syllable Level.....	75
PART II: GRAMMATICAL HIERARCHY.....	96
Chapter 1. Root Level.....	97
1.1. Verb.....	97
1.2. Noun.....	98
1.3. Pronoun.....	99
1.4. Adjective.....	101
1.5. Adverb.....	102
1.6. Demonstrative.....	103
1.7. Numeral.....	103
Chapter 2. Stem Level.....	105
2.1. Verb.....	105
2.2. Noun.....	109
2.3. Pronoun.....	115
2.4. Adjective.....	119
Chapter 3. Word Level.....	124
3.1. Verb.....	124
3.2. Noun.....	150
3.3. Pronoun.....	176
3.4. Adjective.....	193
3.5. Adverb.....	196
3.6. Demonstrative.....	198
3.7. Numeral.....	200
Chapter 4. Group Level.....	204
4.1. Verb.....	204
Chapter 5. Piece Level.....	212
5.1. Verb.....	212
Chapter 6. Phrase Level.....	218
6.1. Endocentric Phrases.....	219
6.1.1. Verb.....	219

6.1.2. Noun.....	223
6.1.3. Numeral.....	235
6.2. Axis-Relator Phrases.....	238
6.2.1. Dative Object.....	238
6.2.2. Purposive.....	243
6.2.3. Benefactive.....	248
6.2.4. Instrument.....	250
6.2.5. Concomitant.....	251
6.2.6. Comparative.....	257
6.2.7. Conditional.....	260
6.2.8. Adjunct.....	262
6.2.9. Directional.....	265
6.2.10. Locative.....	271
Chapter 7. Clause Level.....	280
7.1. Clause-level Tagmemes.....	281
7.1.1. Nuclear Tagmemes.....	285
7.1.1.1. Predicate.....	285
7.1.1.2. Subject.....	290
7.1.1.3. Object.....	290
7.1.1.4. Causative Object.....	291
7.1.1.5. Quotative Object.....	293
7.1.1.6. Dative Object.....	294
7.1.2. Peripheral Tagmemes.....	295
7.1.2.1. Dative.....	296
7.1.2.2. Purposive.....	296
7.1.2.3. Benefactive.....	297
7.1.2.4. Instrument.....	298
7.1.2.5. Concomitant.....	298
7.1.2.6. Comparative.....	299
7.1.2.7. Conditional.....	299
7.1.2.8. Adjunct.....	299
7.1.2.9. Directional.....	299
7.1.2.10. Locative.....	300
7.1.2.11. Temporal.....	300
7.1.2.12. Vocative.....	302
7.1.2.13. Negative.....	302
7.2. Clause Structure.....	305
7.2.1. Basic -- Declarative.....	306
7.2.2. Derived Clauses.....	344
7.2.2.1. Interrogative.....	344
7.2.2.2. Imperative.....	353
7.2.2.3. Nominalized.....	355
7.2.2.4. Relativized.....	357
Chapter 8. Sentence Level.....	369
Chapter 9. Text.....	377
APPENDIX I: LEXICON.....	380
Part I: Resigaro-Spanish-English.....	382
Part II: Spanish-Resigaro.....	459
APPENDIX II: COMPARATIVE WORD LIST.....	493
Bibliography.....	528

## ABBREVIATIONS & SYMBOLS

### 1. Abbreviations

In the abbreviations that follow, capital letters are used to indicate tagmemes, levels, and major word classes, while lower case letters are used to indicate morphemes. Abbreviations indicating neither morphemes nor tagmemes or major word classes follow normal practice with regard to capitalisation or otherwise (e.g., Sp. for Spanish). Where no norm appears to exist, that form has been chosen which it is believed will be easiest to recognize (e.g., Orel for Object relativization).

A	Adjunct tagmeme	Dem	Demonstrative
A-R	Axis-relator phrase	der	derivator
phrase		desid	desiderative clitic
adct	Adjunct Phrase marker	dim	dininutive suffix
Adv	Adverb	dir	directional marker
Adv	Adverbial Emphatic	ditr	ditransitive
Emph	tagmeme	dl	dual
adv	adverbial emphatic	DO	Dative Object tagmeme
emph	morpheme	DOP	Dative Object Phrase
Aj	Adjective	DP	Directional Phrase
AP	Adjunct Phrase	dub	dubitative clitic
Att	Attributive tagmeme	Emph	Emphatic tagmeme
aug	augmentative suffix	emph	emphatic morpheme
Aux	Auxiliary	excl	exclusive
aux	auxiliary indicator	extrap	moved by extraposition
ind		f	feminine
B	Base	frus	frustrative clitic
bas	basic filler of periph slot in VG <sub>ii.i</sub>	fut	future clitic
Ben	Benefactive tagmeme	H	Head tagmeme
ben	benefactive marker	I	Instrument tagmeme
BP	Benefactive Phrase	Ig	Interrogative tagmeme
C	any consonant	ig	interrogative morpheme
C.L.	complete list	IgCl	Interrogative Clause
Cl	Clause	ImpCl	Imperative Clause
cl	class	imptv	imperative
clsfr	classifier suffix	incho	inchoative
CO	Causative Object tagmeme	incl	inclusive
Conc	Concomitant tagmeme	incomp	incompletive clitic
Cond	Conditional tagmeme	instr	instrument marker
CondP	Conditional Phrase	Int	Intensifier tagmeme
conn	connector	int	intensifier morpheme
CP	Concomitant Phrase	intent	stated intention clitic
cstv	causative	Inton	Intonation Contour
Ctv	Comparative tagmeme	intr	intransitive
CtvP	Comparative Phrase	IP	Instrument Phrase
D	Directional tagmeme	L	Locative tagmeme
Dat	Dative tagmeme	Lim	Limiter tagmeme
dat	dative marker	LP	Locative Phrase
DeclCl	Declarative Clause	M	Modifier tagmeme
		m	masculine
		M.O.C.	may omit classifier

## O. INTRODUCTION

### O.1. The language and the people.

Resígaro is spoken by a handful of people living on the banks of a northern affluent of the Amazon in north-eastern Peru. These remnants of the Resígaro tribe live amongst the Ocaina and the Bora in the villages of Puerto Isango and Brillo Nuevo, respectively, on the banks of the Yaguasyacu river, a tributary of the Ampiyacu, which flows into the Amazon at Pebas. The location of these villages in 1972<sup>1</sup> is indicated in sketch map II.

In 1915, Whiffen estimated that there were about 1,000 Resígaros between the Muenane, the Nonuya and the Boro (sic. -- for Bora), along the banks of the Japurá (= Caquetá), to the north of the Kahuinari (= Cahuinari) river, in Colombia (cf. sketch map I).

In 1971-72 I found four adult speakers (Alicia Ocagane and her two daughters, Adelina and Rosa, and son Pablo) and six children in Puerto Izango. The children had Resígaro mothers and Ocaina fathers. There were also some Ocaina speakers (e.g., the teacher, José Andrade) who said that they were Resígaros, but

---

<sup>1</sup>A letter dated 9th August 1974 from my main informant, Pablo Andrade Ocagane, indicates that the Puerto Isango community of some 200 Ocainas has relocated the village half-an-hour's journey (by canoe) downriver from the 1972 location. The Resígaro speakers in the community have moved along with the Ocainas.

no longer spoke the language.

In Brillo Nuevo I found one woman (Cecilia) of about fifty years old who was Resigara, but was married to a Bora, and had not spoken the language for years, except on occasional meetings with the Resigaros from Puerto Isango. There were also several other Bora speakers (e.g. Jihkyepa?) who said that they were Resigaros, but had lost their parents when children, and had been brought up by Boras. They now spoke no Resigaro, but understood some of it.

From a comparative study of published vocabularies and grammatical descriptions, it is obvious that Resigaro is related historically to Bora, though the two languages are not at all mutually intelligible. Inasmuch as others affirm that Bora is related to Ocaina and Huitoto, Resigaro must be related to those, too, although these latter two languages sound totally different from Resigaro, and very few cognates between Huitoto and Resigaro are to be found in a comparison of approximately 370 words based on the Rowe Standard Comparative Vocabulary (tropical forest area) and the Swadesh list. A far more extensive comparison was made between Ocaina and Resigaro, involving nearly 2,000 words (including those on the above-mentioned lists), and similarly few cognates were found.

Appendix II lists the Ocaina, Bora and Huitoto words from the Rowe and Swadesh lists, alongside the Resigaro, for compar-

"these figures must be taken as very approximate, and probably overestimated in some cases" (p. 59).

The statistics are as follows:

Witoto group of tribes	15,000
Boro group	15,000
Dukaiya or Okaina group	2,000
Muenane group	2,000
Nonuya group	1,000
Resigero group	1,000
Andoke group	10,000
Menimehe group	15,000
Karahone group	25,000

An early indication of the decreasing size of these tribes is to be found in Whiffen's statement,

"The Boro and Resigero also intermarry -- at least cases of such marriages are known".

This, in spite of the fact that

"The Boro, Resigero and Okaina may not love each other, but they agree in their detestation of the Witoto" (pp. 60-61).

This detestation was shown by fighting and cannibalism:

"Most, if not all, of the Indians of the upper rivers are indisputably cannibals, especially the Boro, Andoke, and Resigero groups" (p. 120).

Whiffen also recounts the unusual case of a Resigero chief who collected a band of warriors to punish those members of his own tribe who submitted to the whites, in order to deter others from submitting. He states that in one place he found 38 dead

## 0. Introduction.

In describing the three nodes, above (section 0.4.2.), an example was given from the phonological hierarchy, phoneme level. This indicated that phoneme contrasts are described under the contrast node, allophonic variation described under the variation node, and distribution under the distribution node.

However, while this presentation might be theoretically satisfying, in practical terms it is at least inconvenient, if not inappropriate, and taguemicists have generally described the phonological hierarchy without reference to the three nodes (e.g. Elson (ed.), 1967).

Even Kenneth Pike has not followed this presentation completely. In the article he co-authored with Rachel Saint in Studies in Ecuadorian Indian Languages: I (Elson (ed.), 1962), though the description is in terms of the three nodes, a concession is made to convenience in that first consonants are described in terms of each of the three nodes, and then vowels are described in the same way (cf. p. 2).

Other articles (by other authors) in the same publication reduce these six sections to five, by grouping consonants and vowels for distribution, though separating them for the other nodes (see, for example, Borman (pp. 45-59)).



In the present description, it has been thought preferable to reduce this further to the original format of the three modes (i.e., in three sections), by changing slightly the components of each section.

Thus, on the phoneme level, for instance, contrast mode summarizes the contrastive-identificational features of phonemes in two matrices and a short statement (for suprasegmentals).

Detailed exemplification of the phonemes, justifying their establishment as separate units, is reserved for the variation mode. This is considered appropriate since the variant manifestations of the phonemic unit (an abstract entity) are the phonemes, just as the variant manifestations of the Noun Phrase, for instance (in the grammatical hierarchy), are different types of NP. Inherent in the establishment of different types -- in any hierarchy -- is their contrast with other types at the same level.

In this, the presentation of the phonology in this description parallels that of the grammar, where the contrast mode merely indicates briefly the contrastive characteristics of the levels and units in question as a whole, in justification of the establishment of that level (and, in the grammar, the particular class -- noun word versus verb word, etc.). It also has the advantage of permitting the allophones of a

ii) pá - ?osí - ku - ná  
       all "hand" dual rest  
 B: NnSt<sub>3</sub> sx 1      sx 3      sx 4  
       └──────────┘  
           Num<sub>ii</sub>

"ten" (Lit.: "all two hands",  
 i.e., both hands)

### 3.7.3. Distribution.

The members of the class of numeral words are distributed in the Numeral Phrase. Sub-classes are set up on the basis of this distribution.

#### 3.7.3.1. Sub-class 1.

This consists of all the above numerals, which are distributed in Numeral Phrase type i.

#### 3.7.3.2. Sub-class 2.

This consists of the numerals sagú, "one", and migaakú, "two", which are also distributed in Numeral Phrase type ii.

(For further details, cf. 6.1.3.2., below.)

---

"two" is the ring finger, "three" is the index finger, and "four" is the forefinger. "Five" is the hand. "Six" is the little finger of the other hand, etc. -- cf. 6.1.3.2.2.2., below.