

## Preface

Research of Amazonian languages has recently been intensified in various academic centres around the world. In Brazil, a new indigenous linguistic research centre was opened at the Federal University of Amazonas, Manaus, in the middle of the region where most of the Amazonian languages are spoken. At approximately the same time, the Netherlands Organisation of Scientific Research (NWO) created a grant type subsidizing international cooperation efforts among researchers and research centres in all areas of science. The present collection of studies is the result of a cooperation initiative subsidized by NWO (grant number 236-70-005), which was started in 2007, among the endangered languages research group at the Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam (Leo Wetzels), the centre for Amerindian studies at Leiden University (Willem Adelaar), the Centre d'Études des Langues Indigènes d'Amérique (CELIA), Paris (Francesc Queixalós), the Programa de Pós-graduação em Antropologia Social (PPGAS) of the Museu Amazônico at the Federal University of Amazonas (Frantomé Pacheco), and the Núcleo de Pesquisas em Ciências Sociais e Humanas (NPCSH) of the Instituto Nacional de Pesquisas da Amazônia (INPA) (Ana Carla Bruno). In 2008, the Núcleo de Estudos Indigenistas (NEI) of the Universidade Federal de Pernambuco (UFPE) (Stella Telles) has joined the programme.

The main objective of this initiative is to create a practice of exchange and cooperation in the area of indigenous Brazilian languages, within which students and researchers are encouraged to take advantage of the expertise present at the cooperating institutions.

The proponents of this project contend that a coordinated research effort will effectively and promptly bring the indigenous languages of the Amazon region to bear on issues that are important for linguistic theories, since the analysis of the Amazonian languages is expected to uncover new insights into phonological, morphological, and syntactic typology. In order to launch the programme, three conferences were planned, the first of which took place in Manaus, from December 3-7, 2007, the proceedings of which were published as *Amerindia* 32. In the present volume, most of the papers presented at the second meeting are published, which took place in Recife from November 24-27, 2008, focusing primarily on themes relating to *word-prosodic systems* and *nominalisations*.

The papers collected in this volume were reviewed by the editors and, at the editors' discretion, by external reviewers where expertise was deemed necessary.

We are grateful to the institutions that, through their financial support, have made the organisation of this conference possible: NEI/UFPA, NWO, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, CELIA, CNRS/IRD (Institut de Recherche pour le Développement), and UFAM. Special thanks go to the local organisers Stella Telles (NEI and Programa de Pós-graduação em Letras of the UFPE), Claristella Santos (NEI/UFPE), and Aldir S. de Paula (Programa de Pós-graduação de Letras e Linguística of the Universidade Federal de Alagóas), whose dedication and organising talents have made this conference possible. We also thank all the contributors to the conference for their interesting contributions. Finally, many thanks to Duna Troiani, for the care she took in preparing the camera-ready copy.

Francesc Queixalós & Leo Wetzels  
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