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On the external relations of Purepecha : an investigation into classification, contact and patterns of word formation

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Citation

Bellamy, K. R. (2018, April 26). *On the external relations of Purepecha : an investigation into classification, contact and patterns of word formation*. LOT dissertation series. LOT, Utrecht. Retrieved from <https://hdl.handle.net/1887/61624>

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Issue Date: 2018-04-26

STELLINGEN

1. On the basis of the data and methods currently available to linguists, all evidence points to Purepecha being a language isolate. The search for genealogically related languages should not have priority at this stage, and should be eschewed in favour of language-internal analysis from both synchronic and diachronic perspectives.
2. The lexicon of metallurgy is not able to support the long-distance interaction scenarios suggested by both archaeological and genetic evidence. This may be due to the largely non-verbal nature of technology transmission, which obscures the context of the contact situation.
3. The major, irreversible changes to the socio-political situation in present-day Michoacán that occurred when the Spanish arrived have radically altered the observable borrowing patterns in Purepecha.
4. Purepecha roots display varying levels of semantic transparency, whereby the most opaque should be glossed conceptually, such as $\sqrt{\text{PERCEIVED FOULNESS}}$ in the case of the basic smell roots, rather than traditional infinitives as 'to stink'.
5. Null results are also valid results and, where appropriate, should also be reported.
6. Writing does not require inspiration; rather it requires routine, discipline, support, and a vast amount of tea.
7. The study of English is not yet exhausted; northern English dialects continue to supply unexpected grammatical constructions and sound changes. Nevertheless, greater emphasis should be placed on researching minority, under-studied languages, including training students and native speakers how to conduct such investigations.
8. Like many other enjoyable aspects of life, research is best when done together and shared. Collaboration and cooperation should be the norm.
9. To acquire actual Dutch friends in The Netherlands it is necessary to join at least one club or sports team, preferably one that involves a lot of interaction.
10. While persistence and speed can get you a long way, the key to a winning squash game is height and depth on the drives and a soft touch for the drop shots.