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Mochica: Grammatical topics and external relations

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Citation

Eloranta-Barrera Virhuez, R. S. (2020, May 12). *Mochica: Grammatical topics and external relations*. *LOT dissertation series*. LOT, Utrecht. Retrieved from <https://hdl.handle.net/1887/87645>

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Title: Mochica : grammatical topics and external relations

Issue Date: 2020-05-12

Stellingen behorend bij het proefschrift getiteld

Mochica: grammatical topics and external relations

van Rita Eloranta-Barrera Virhuez

1. As an extinct language, Mochica faces the fate of probably never being completely understood. (*this thesis*)
2. So far, Oré's (1607) register has been considered the earliest existing evidence of the Mochica language. Nevertheless, there seems to have been a manuscript which would have contained even earlier evidence of Mochica. This manuscript was written by the chronicler Alonso Castro de Lovaina in 1582. (*this thesis*)
3. To interpret missionary descriptions of the Spanish tradition, it is fundamental to have background information about the orthography of Spanish during the corresponding period. It is relevant to mention that the production of linguistic materials by missionaries occurred during a very special period of linguistic transformation of the Spanish language. (*this thesis*)
4. Many grammatical treatments presented in colonial grammatical descriptions constitute the first attempts to describe the corresponding linguistic phenomena in the history of linguistics, and this fact has often been dismissed. For instance, numeral classification, inalienability split, and evidentiality were first described in such works. This is certainly a debt of the modern linguist to the colonial grammarians. (*this thesis*)
5. In Mochica, the trace of a passive marking function can be observed in ergative-like constructions. In a fully developed ergative alignment, such a trace would no longer be identifiable. (*this thesis*)
6. General classifiers are commonly attached to the citation form of numerals, probably because speakers tend not to count in abstract terms but rather conceptualizing numbers as reckoned items or objects (Eloranta 2017: 324).

Eloranta, Rita. 2017. Language contact across the Andes: The case of Mochica and Hibito-Cholón. In Karin Dakin, Claudia Parodi & Natalie Operstein (eds.), *Language Contact and Change in Mesoamerica and Beyond*. Amsterdam/Philadelphia: John Benjamins.

7. The register of the Hibito numerals (1, 2, 3) drawn up by Tessmann (1930: 458) includes by chance, relevant information about a Hibito numeral classifier. Moreover, the word for 'stone' is strikingly similar to the endings of these Hibito numerals. There seems to be a connection between the final segments in the numerals and those in the word for 'stone'. This makes it probable that the numerals listed by Tessmann (1930: 458) were in fact bimorphemic and contained a numeral classifier etymologically related to the word for 'stone' (Eloranta 2017: 323)

Eloranta, Rita. 2017. Language contact across the Andes: The case of Mochica and Hibito-Cholón. In Karin Dakin, Claudia Parodi & Natalie Operstein (eds.), *Language Contact and Change in Mesoamerica and Beyond*. Amsterdam/Philadelphia: John Benjamins.

Tessmann, Günter. 1930. *Die Indianer Norost-Perus*, Grundlegende Forschungen für eine systematische Kulturkunde. Hamburg: Friederichsen/De Gruyter & Co.

8. Munique, considered to be a linguistic isolate, has a numeral system which resembles that of Cholón-Hibito a great deal. There is a recurrent segment [tsá] present in the numerals that go from 'one' to 'three'. This form is reminiscent of the Cholón classifier and word for 'stone' <ta> which leads to the tentative conclusion that this is a case of borrowing via contact.

Rojas Berscia, Luis Miguel & Rita Eloranta. 2019. The Marañón-Huallaga exchange route: 'Stones' and 'grains' as counting devices. *LIAMES: Línguas Indígenas Americanas*, 19, 1-27.

9. A revived language is no longer the original language. Rather than a developmental phase of Mochica, New Mochica is a new language: while it is based on Colonial and Republican Mochica, it also has different structures belonging to Spanish superimposed upon it. The integration of such structures into remnants of the original language needs to be mapped in a more systematic way in order to understand the possibilities of language revival as a means of countering the loss of linguistic (and bio-)diversity and cultural heritage (cf. Nettle & Romaine, 2000; Bartens & Eloranta forthcoming).

Bartens, Angela & Eloranta, Rita. New Mochica and the challenge of reviving an extinct language (to appear in the series *Variation and evolution: aspects of language contact and contrast across the spanish-speaking world*, John Benjamins).

Nettle, D. & Romaine, S. (2000) *Vanishing Voices: The Extinction of the World's Languages*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

10. The term "dormant" to refer to an extinct language is not accurate. Sometimes being politically correct and following current linguistic trends can lead to ambiguities or even mistakes.