

A digital sketch grammar of Yawarana

Florian Matter

April 26, 2022

1 Verbs

TODO: write introduction
section 1.1

1.1 Basic morphological template

The following table shows the morphological template of Yawarana verbs, i.e. the order in which bound morphemes can occur within a verbal word form.

The first slot contains personal prefixes. The relative order of three tense-aspect-mood suffixes can be seen in the following example:

- (1) Yawarana
tipapějsejne waijtajne
tipa-pěj-se-jne waijta-jne
go.group-PLUR-PST-PL mouse-PL
'las ratas se fueron'

More data is needed to firmly establish the relative order of all suffixes.

1.2 Person

Person marking is identical on transitive and intransitive verbs:

Table 1: Basic verb template				
Prefix	Root	Aspect	Tense	Number
<i>i-</i>		<i>-pěti</i>	<i>-se</i> <i>-jpě</i> <i>-tojpe</i>	<i>-jně</i>

- (2) a. Yawarana
 uyīwīj yawë usenejkari sukuri jwama
 u-y-īwīj yawë u-s-enejka-ri sukuri jwama
 1-LK-house TEMP.LOC 1-DETRZ-watch-IPFV quietly ***
 ‘yo me quedo en mi casa tranquila’
- b. Yawarana
 mëyaruwari, mëpëkëpene
 më-yaruwa-ri më-pëkëpene
 2-laugh-IPFV 2-alone
 ‘usted se rie sola’

1.3 Aspect

1.3.1 The pluractional marker *-pëti*.

This aspect-marking morpheme is known from other Cariban languages [1]. This example illustrates its *-pëj* allomorph:

- (3) Yawarana
 tipapëjsejne waijtajne
 tipa-pëj-se-jne waijta-jne
 go.group-PLUR-PST-PL mouse-PL
 ‘las ratas se fueron’

1.4 Tense

1.4.1 *-jpë*

-jpë is etymologically a nominalizer, but now it also functions as a simple past marker:

- (4) Yawarana
 ana këyetajpë, intipijkë ana chi yawë
 ana këyeta-jpë intipijkë ana chi-Ø yawë
 1+3 grow.up-PST a.little 1+3 COP-IPFV TEMP.LOC
 ‘nos criamos cuando estábamos chiquiticos nosotros’

It also occurs on nouns:

- (5) Yawarana
 tawara ma ana këyetajpë, ana papa pan patajpë të
 tawara ma-Ø ana këyeta-jpë ana papa pan pata-jpë të-Ø
 too throw-IPFV 1+3 grow.up-PST 1+3 father:VOC deceased town-PST go-IPFV
 ‘así nos criamos después de que se murió mi papá en su pueblo’

1.4.2 The supine

The suffix *-se* can be used to express a co-called supine meaning, i.e., purpose of motion. Intransitive verbs occur unprefixes, while transitive verbs can carry person prefixes.

- (6) Yawarana
 enijpëtërë waraijtokomo ijtëse ti mĩjna tẽijpo wĩnjse
 enijpëtërë waraijtokomo ij-të-se ti mĩjna tẽijpo wĩnj-se
 one man 3-go-PST QUOT there far sleep-SUP
 ‘un hombre se fué allá, a dormir lejos’

2 Postpositions

TODO: write

3 Nouns

TODO: write

3.1 Nominal possession

References

- [1] Simone Mattiola and Spike Gildea. “The pluractional marker *-pödi* of Akawaio (Cariban) and beyond”. In: (under review).