

Argument structure in Kuripako: stative-active type

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I will present data on the Ehe-khenim dialect of Kuripako, a Maipurean-Arawak language spoken in the northwest Amazon, which argue for the classification of this language as of the stative-active marking type through verbal agreement. Furthermore, I argue that in this language all of the “adjectives” are non-agentive verbs, as can be seen from their structure and verbal agreement. All the data come from original research carried out in the Amazonas State of Venezuela by the author from 2000-2004.

In the Ehe-khenim dialect of Kuripako agentive S is encoded through verbal agreement as a person marker prefix. This prefix is obligatory and it agrees in person and number with S; in the third person there is a gender distinction (feminine and non-feminine) and there is also a different prefix for nominals as opposed to pronominals. Subject pronouns are only included when emphatic. Example (1) presents an A in first person and nominal P. The most common word-order is VOS.

- (1) *nukapaka* *miitsi*
 nu-kapa-ka miitsi
 1s- see-continuative cat
 PM-v-T/A n
 ‘I am seeing the cat’

The same kind of marking is present for agentive S as in example (2).

- (2) *nudiakawa* *pantiriku*
 nu-dia-ka-wa panti-liku
 1s-return-continuative -intr house-loc
 PM-v.intr-T/A-v.suf n-suf
 ‘I am returning into the house’

In contrast, for stative verbs there is an absence of a person marker prefix and the nonagentive S occupies the same position as P as in example (3).

- (3) *keepaka* *hnua*
 keepa-ka **hnua**
 be.fat-continuative **1s**
 v.st-T/A **Pro**
 ‘I am fat’

One other interesting phenomenon is the transitivizer for stative verbs which highlights the active-stative split as presented in example (4) and contrasting with example (3).

- (4) *nukeepetaka* *nokutsin*
nu-keepe-**ta**-ka no-kutsi-ni
1s-be.fat-**trans**-continuative 1s-pig-poss
PM-v.st-v.**suf** -T/A PM-n-poss
'I fatten my pig'

These and other examples will be presented to support the stative-active split in Kurripako Ehe dialect and to argue for the absence of adjectives in this language.