

Content and structure of the DOBES Cashinahua archive:

The Cashinahua archive, assembled between 2006 and 2011 by Eliane Camargo and Sabine Reiter, is a result of the DOBES project “Documentation of Cashinahua” which was hosted by the Max-Planck-Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology in Leipzig (Germany) and the Laboratoire d’Ethnologie et de Sociologie Comparative (LESC) of the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (France).

The archive contains audio and video recordings of discourse and chants, which have partially been transcribed and translated. The material includes different versions of myths, historical narratives (e.g. about migration and first contacts with other indigenous groups and non-indigenous people) and autobiographical narratives told by several members of this Panoan society.

The major part of the data was collected by the project team (Camargo, Reiter and Philippe Erikson) along the river Purús and its tributary, the Curanja, in Peru. Many of the older men and women were willing to share with members of the project team their memories of the past, of myths, chants and cultural practices which nowadays are no longer part of their everyday life. The data were transcribed and translated in collaboration with different younger members of the Cashinahua society, especially with Alberto Roque Toríbio, Ercília Shuarez Aladino, Hulício Moisés Kaxinawá, Noeda Puricho Bardales and Texerino Kirino Capitán.

The archive also contains some older material, collected from the 1970s onward by the German anthropologist Barbara Keifenheim and by Eliane Camargo, and a small collection of photographs by Harald Schultz, a Brazilian photographer who visited the Peruvian Cashinahuas in 1951¹. There is further material destined for indigenous education: two linguistic manuals for Cashinahua teachers, two primers, a trilingual book about Cashinahua history and a transcription into current orthography and literal translation of *Rã-txa hu-ni ku-ĩ. A lingua dos Caxinauás do rio Ibuacu, afluente do Muru, Prefeitura de Tarauacá*, a collection of Cashinahua texts which was first published in 1914 by the Brazilian historian Capistrano de Abreu.

The archive is divided into “cultural” and “linguistic data”.

Within “cultural data” (1), there is a sub-division into six different cultural domains:

- 1.1 Artefacts (produced by men and women)
- 1.2 (Phenomena of) cultural contact (e.g. the village schools)
- 1.3 Everyday culture (including alimentation, hunting, fishing, planting practices and shamanism)
- 1.4 *Kene* (graphic designs produced by Cashinahua women)
- 1.5 Songs (related to various events and performed by different singers well-known in the Cashinahua society)
- 1.6 Special events (the initiation rite, the *nixi pae*, among others).

¹ These photographs were made available by the Museum of Archeology and Ethnology (MAE) of the University of São Paulo (USP).

The “linguistic data” (2) are also sub-divided into:

- 2.1 Elicited data
- 2.2 Grammar
- 2.3 Non-elicited data
- 2.4 (Data for) education(al purposes).

The elicited data contain the Cashinahua lexicon, which was collected by Camargo since the 1990s and counterchecked with a team of Cashinahua teachers and specialists (e.g. in animals). Part of the lexicon is divided into lexical fields, and a general part contains a complete dictionary of the language.

A grammar (2.2) of the language is currently in preparation. A short grammatical overview can be obtained by consulting the educational material in sub-section 2.4. There are also plans to integrate studies about the language, written by project members, in sub-section 2.2 of the archive.

The major part of the archive data can be found in sub-section 2.3. These non-elicited data are divided into dialogs and monologs of the speakers. Two or more participants, talking about a variety of subjects, are involved in the dialogs. The monologs are divided into different discourse genres:

- 2.3.1 Biographies (of members of the Cashinahua society)
- 2.3.2 Data related to the book by Capistrano de Abreu (e.g. current versions, told by workshop participants, of myths collected by this author; a transcription in current orthography of the book)
- 2.3.3 Descriptions of cultural practices (e.g. how to make a hammock or a clay pot)
- 2.3.4 Explanations about cultural knowledge (e.g. about medical plants or shamanism)
- 2.3.5 Myths and narratives of historical events.

Finally, there is a section 2.4 containing data specifically developed to be used by the Cashinahua teachers and students in the indigenous schools. This section also includes material which was used in the workshops realized by members of the project team together with Cashinahua teachers.