

Book Notice

ERASO KELLER, Natalia. (ed.) (1998) El léxico del cuerpo Humano a través de la gramática y la semántica. Sta Fe de Bogotá: Universidad de los Andes/ Centro Colombiano de Estudios de Lenguas Aborígenes. 225 p. ISBN 695-002-6 (e-mail: ccela@uniandes.edu.co).

Notice by Antonio Pamies

The Columbian research centre for Aborigene language studies (CCELA) and the Universidad de los Andes, with the support of the Columbian Ministry of Education and of the French CNRS, have published this remarkable volume, which contains ten interesting papers focused on the lexical and morphosyntactic properties of body-part names in several native American languages of the area.

Carolina Ortiz investigates the morphology of qualifying lexemes in Kogui anatomic vocabulary; while María Trillos analyses the relation between body-part taxonomy, the categories and beliefs of traditional Wiwi medicine and linguistic consciousness in Damana language. Tulio Rojas investigates monosemy and polysemy of anatomic names in Klyum language, Beatriz Vázquez compares the relation between body-part simple and compound names and the taxonomic hierarchy and paronymy of other natural elements in Guambian language. Marta Pabón investigates metaphor, metonymy and the degrees of abstraction involved in the word-formation processes of anatomic vocabulary in Tororó, as the editor, Natalia Eraso, shows the parallelism between the semantic structure of nature vision and the structure of anatomic taxonomy underlying the Embera Language, and so does Andrés Reinoso for the Piapoco language. Rito Llerena describes the anatomic vocabulary in the Embera Language in the high Sinú and San Jorge River, focusing on anatomy used as a source domain to "export" metaphors to other fields, and on the inverse mechanism, its use as a target domain for metaphors "imported" from other semantic sources; and so does Miguel Ángel Meléndez for Achagua language. María Emilia Montes analyses some semantic and grammatical topics like the alienable / inalienable marks in Ticuna body-part lexicon, including noun incorporation as a kind of possessive coded mark. The annexes include information about methodological bases, a little map and a multilingual glossary with 108 anatomic referents, alphabetically listed

using the Spanish translation as an entry, with their names in Kogui, Damana, Páez, Guambian, Tororó, Embera (Cristianina variant), Embera (Jaidukama variant), Piapoco, Achagua and Ticuna.

These studies constitute not only a very rich document on these ten languages, but also an interesting approach to the semantics of grammar and to lexical typology: discussing word-formation processes, relations between language, reality, thought and culture, in some especially relevant ethnolinguistic environments, always starting from empirical data.