

# Quechua language I

(socio) linguistics, history, ecology of language  
& pedagogical implications.

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# What is the language called?

- Autoglotonym (names given to the language): Quechua, Quichua, Qheshwa, Keshua, Keswa, Runa-simi, Ingano (Inga), Napenio. The name Runa Simi is being enforced at present.
- The orthographic variants on the word “Quechua” are simply attempts by colonial Spaniards and criollos to represent the varying pronunciations they heard from different linguistic groups.
- At the time of the Conquest and colonization, all these names were more likely heteroglotonyms, since there is no evidence that the Quechua peoples themselves had specific names for their own languages (Cerron-Palomino 1987:31-37)

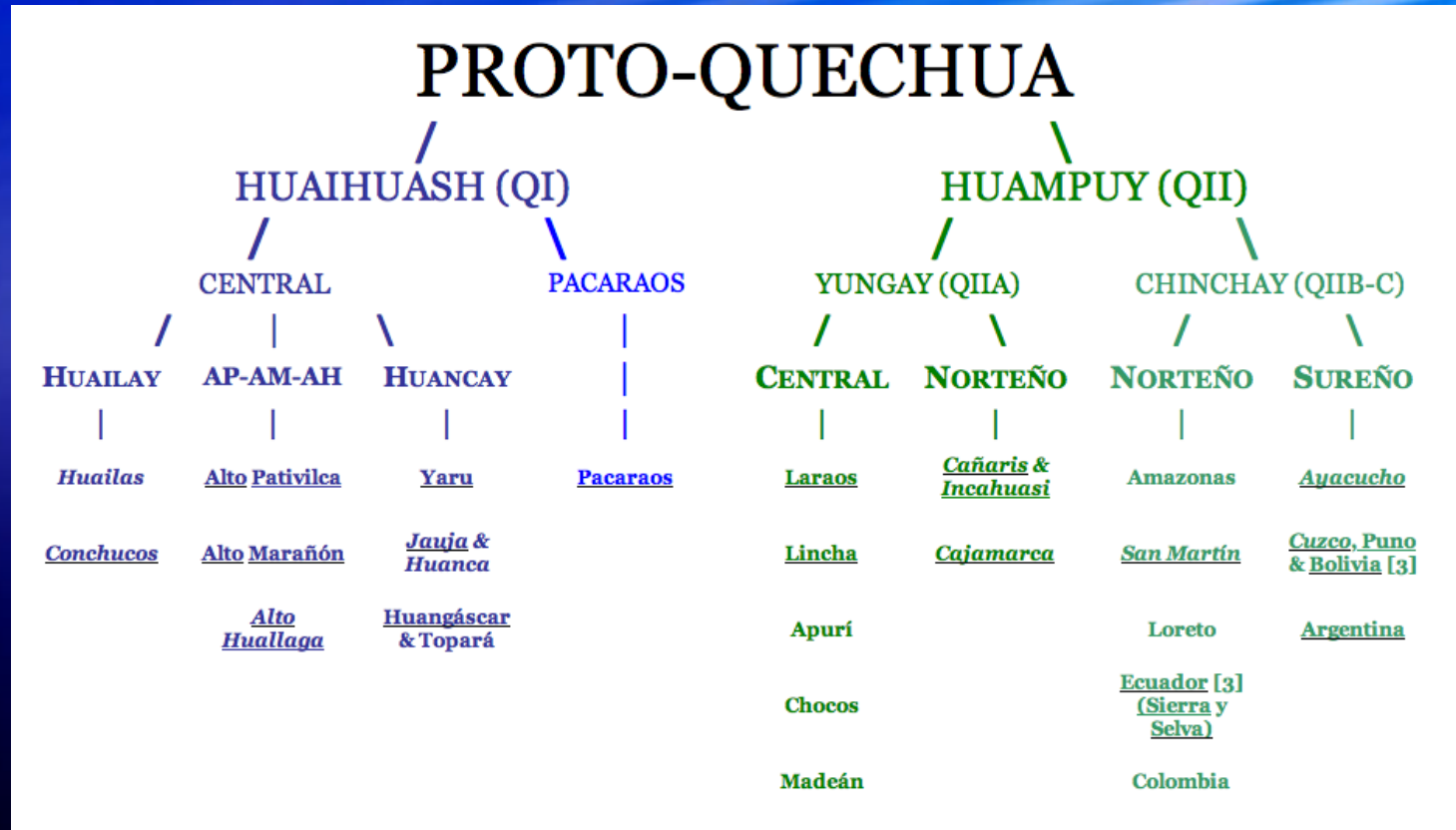
# Quechua – Runa Simi

## Language Origins

- Quechua is not ‘a language’ but a family of languages
- Quechua belongs to:  
Language Family: Quechuan
- Group: Quechua
- Classification of Quechua Dialects
- Map of Quechua Languages

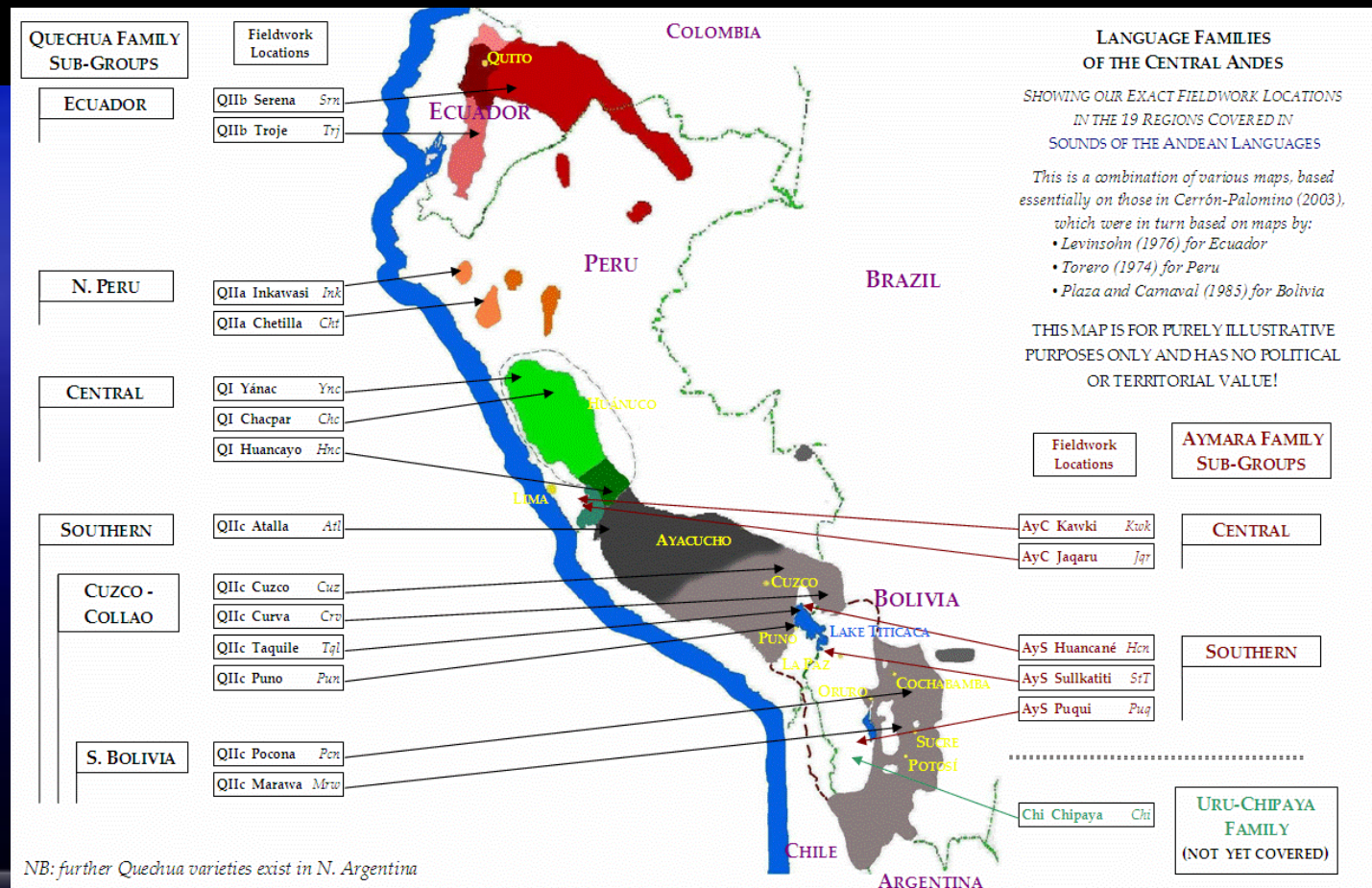


# Classification of Quechua Dialects Cerrón-Palomino, Rodolfo (1987)



# Map of Quechua Languages (P. Heggarty)

Quechua is not 'a language' but a family of languages.



**A language, large in number of speakers but still considered to be “an endangered language”.**

Quechua has a substantial population base, currently estimated to be between eight to fourteen million speakers.

This population of Quechua speakers is spread across six South American countries: Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru. One might wonder how a language which is so widely spoken could be endangered.

Nancy H. Hornberger, Serafin M. Coronel-Molina. *Citation Information*. International Journal of the Sociology of Language. Volume 2004, Issue 167.



# Quechua multidialectalism

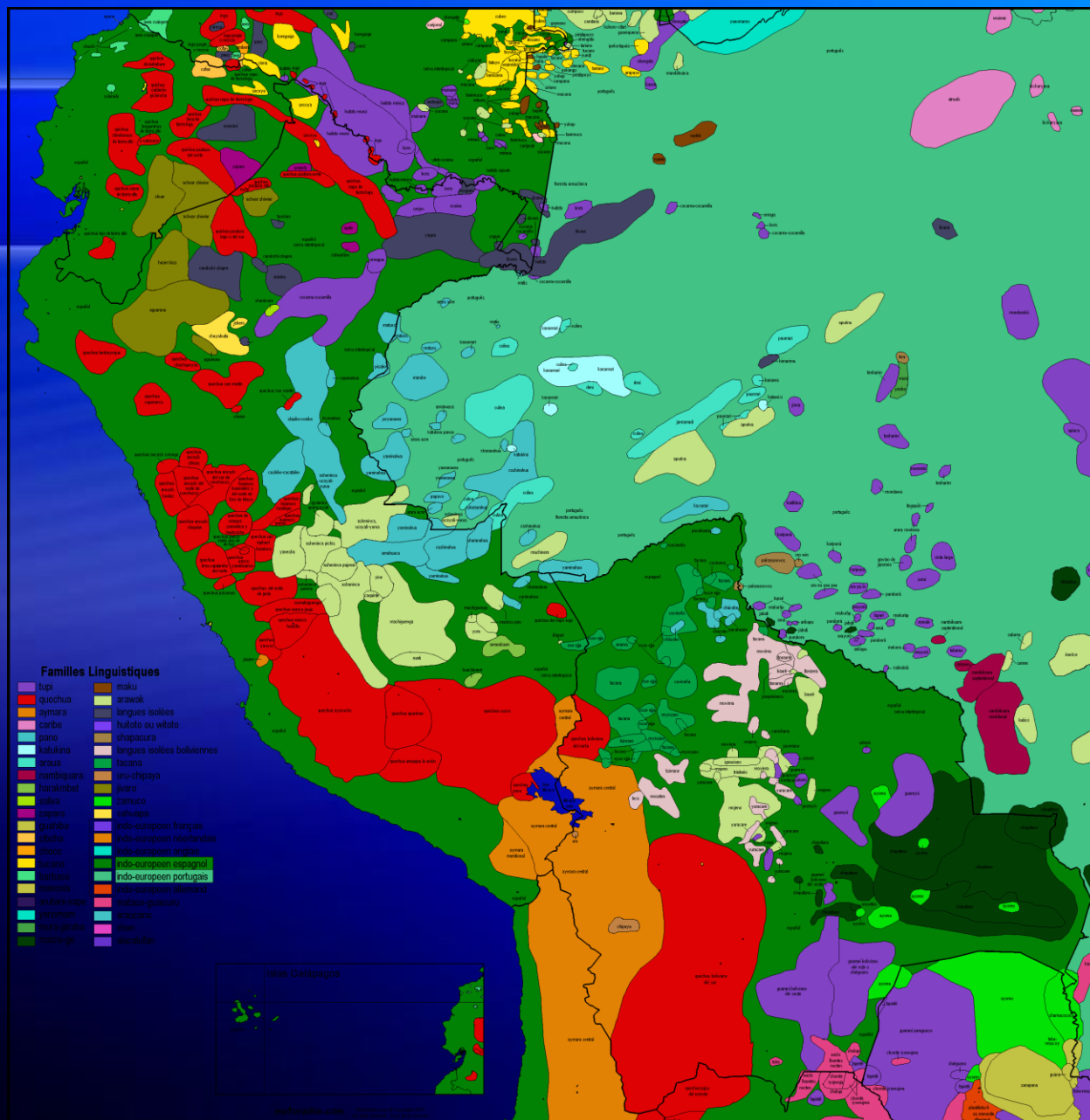
It is important to understand not only the historical situation of contact (with Spanish) that Quechua has endured for more than 500 years, but also the linguistic diversity within the language that is disguised by the use of one name to refer to **multiple varieties** .

Aside from the social, cultural, economic, and political factors which often contribute to the endangered status of a language, Quechua also contends with logistical, communicative, and ideological obstacles due to its purportedly mutually unintelligible varieties.

Nancy H. Hornberger, Serafin M. Coronel-Molina. *Citation Information*. International Journal of the Sociology of Language. Volume 2004, Issue 167.

Because different varieties are spoken across a large number of diverse communities and because every Quechua community exists within its own particular local, regional and national context, each variety presents unique challenges for language planners. And although there are some sociolinguistic commonalities across regions, the diverse mosaic of socio-cultural contexts and experiences makes it difficult to generalize regarding a single, monolithic “Quechua situation.”

Nancy H. Hornberger, Serafin M. Coronel-Molina. *Citation Information*. International Journal of the Sociology of Language. Volume 2004, Issue 167.





# Present distribution of native Quechua or Runa Simi speakers in Peruvian territory.

- . Apurimac 76%
- . Ayacucho 80%
- . Huancavelica 66,5 %
- . Cusco 63,2 %
- . Puno 43,2 %
- . Lima 9,5 %

Although the majority of Quechua speakers are located in 'the highland areas', at present it is possible to hear **Runa Simi** spoken in all regions of the Peruvian territory.  
Foro Educativo Peru: Chirinos (2001) Atlas Lingüístico del Perú.

Cuadro 2. Población de 5 años y más por lengua materna andina en cada departamento, según censo de 1993

	Total	Castellano	%	Quechua	%	Aimara	%
<b>Total</b>	19.308.603	15.405.014	79,78	3.199.474	16,57	412.705	2,14
Amazonas	283.162	247.117	87,27	1.050	0,37	0	0,00
Áncash	834.161	525.372	62,98	300.433	36,02	0	0,00
Apurímac	321.157	72.070	22,44	245.953	76,58	927	0,29
Arequipa	819.837	657.538	80,20	140.535	17,14	16.692	2,04
Ayacucho	421.849	120.139	28,48	297.727	70,58	0	0,00
Cajamarca	1.075.051	1.051.210	97,78	11.666	1,09	0	0,00
Callao	576.373	533.140	92,50	34.916	6,06	3.246	0,56
Cusco	885.828	307.920	34,76	560.101	63,23	2.836	0,32
Huancavelica	324.864	105.446	32,46	216.385	66,61	0	0,00
Huánuco	555.787	374.630	67,41	172.749	31,08	0	0,00
Ica	501.075	463.700	92,54	32.999	6,59	1.097	0,22
Junín	899.884	756.955	84,12	116.703	12,97	0	0,00
La Libertad	1.112.389	1.098.124	98,72	4.928	0,44	0	0,00
Lambayeque	807.359	778.528	96,43	23.098	2,86	0	0,00
Lima	5.742.511	5.118.928	89,14	547.397	9,53	26.018	0,45
Loreto	573.017	535.579	93,47	9.603	1,68	0	0,00
Madre De Dios	56.778	39.922	70,31	13.687	24,11	786	1,38
Moquegua	115.818	87.703	75,72	12.580	10,86	14.741	12,73
Pasco	195.026	165.706	84,97	22.114	11,34	0	0,00
Piura	1.201.931	1.185.687	98,65	2.717	0,23	0	0,00
Puno	938.275	218.991	23,34	405.596	43,23	305.951	32,61
San Martín	469.730	450.588	95,92	11.893	2,53	0	0,00
Tacna	194.700	146.085	75,03	6.847	3,52	40.411	20,76
Tumbes	136.305	133.943	98,27	563	0,41	0	0,00
Ucayali	265.736	229.993	86,55	7.234	2,72	0	0,00

Fuente: Chirinos (2001).

Nota: La cifra de 7.510 aimarahablantes residentes en el "resto del Perú" que consigna Chirinos no ha sido incluida.

**“Quechua is spoken in 6 Andean countries: Peru, Bolivia, Ecuador, Argentina, Colombia and Chile. Due to international migration and transnational migration Quechua speakers are now living in various countries of the world. Quechua not only belongs to the Andean world, but also to the Amazon and coast. ”**

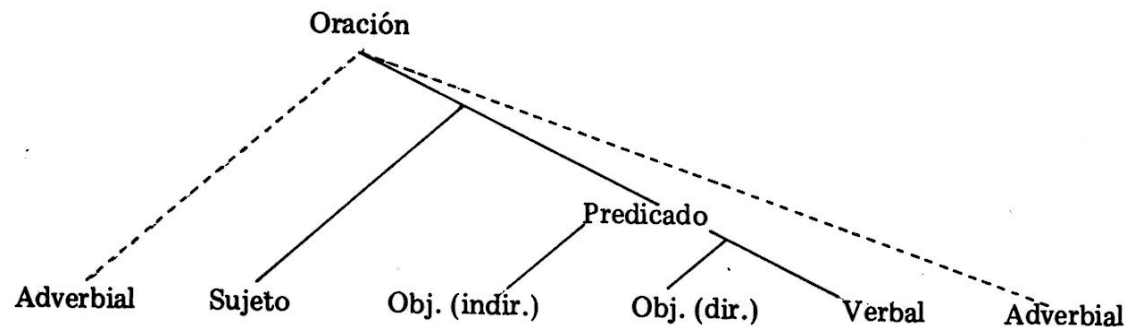


# Linguistic Features

- Three vowels a, i and u.
- The Cusco variation has accepted 5 vowels into the phonetic repertoire.
- Depending on variations/dialects, these vowels may vary in duration. This does not change the number of available phonemes.
- In southern dialects the consonantal repertoire includes aspirant and glottal variations.
- Quechua – Runa Simi is an agglutinant language with highly regular structure in all its grammatical components.
- Morphologically structure is built through the use of suffixes and prefixes.

# Syntax follows the Subject-Object-Verb word order.

from Wolck W.(1987) Breviario Quechua.

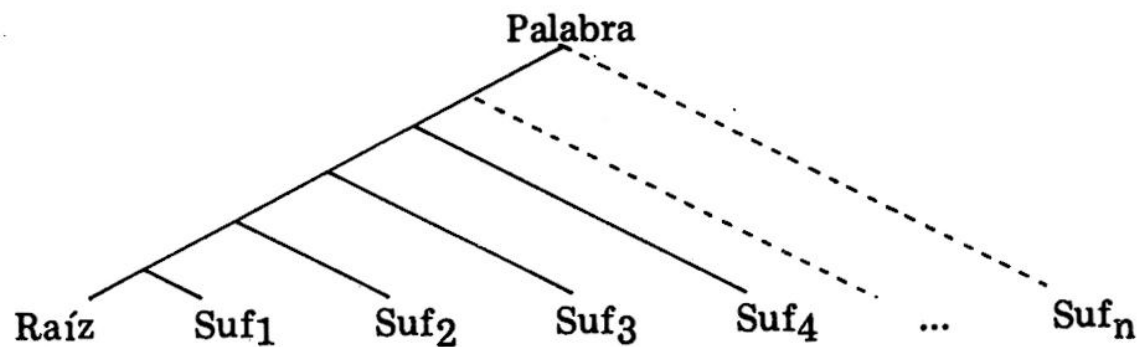


1. Warmi	Pablota	kashkita	qurqan.
	2. Tañikta	kwintukta	willaykaa.
3. Uchuk wamlakaq		lluqmikta	mikun.
4. Taytaykiman		kay waskhata	qoyapuwanki.
5. Hinaspa	llanq'aqkuna	aqhata	t'inkarinku awkikunaman.
6. Warmi		yuraq sarata	tarpuyn trakraypi
7. Chay wamrataka	panta		karay

1. "La mujer le dio sopa a Pablo". (Ancash-Huailas)
2. "Estoy contándole un cuento a Daniel". (Huanca)
3. "La muchachita come mazamorra". (Huanca)
4. "Por favor, me lo entregas esta sopa a tu papá". (Cusco)
5. "Y entonces los trabajadores invitan la chicha a los auquis". (Cusco)
6. "La mujer está sembrando maíz blanco en mi chacra". (Cajamarca)
7. "Dale (de comer) pan a este niño". (San Martín)

# Suffixes

(from Wolck W. (1987) Breviario Quechua.





Meaning in English:		<i>one</i>	<i>two</i>	<i>three</i>	<i>four</i>	<i>five</i>
<b>Quechua</b>	Original Quechua	*[suk]	*[iʃka]	*[kimsa] <sup>=A</sup>	*[tawa] *[ʃusku]	*[pitʃa] <sup>=A</sup>
Ecuador	Chimborazo	[ʃux]	[iʃki]	[kimsa]	[tʃusku]	[pitʃke]
	Tena	[ʃux]	[iʃki]	[kɨŋse]	[tʃusku]	[pitʃke]
Northern Peru	Inkawasi	[uk]	[iʃkɛ]	[kimse]	<i>n.a.</i>	<i>n.a.</i>
	Cajamarca	[sux]	[iʃkɛ]	[kimse]	[ʃusku]	[pitʃke]
Central Peru	Corongo	[huk]	[iʃkɛ ']	[kinse]	[tʃusku]	[pitʃke]
	Caraz	[uk]	[iʃkɛ ']	[kimɛ]	[tʃusku]	[pitʃke]
	Chavin	[huk]	[iʃkɛ]	[kimɛ]	[tʃusku]	[pitʃke]
	Huancayo	[huk]	[iʃkɛ]	[kimse]	[tawa]	[pitʃa]
Southern Peru	Huancavelica	[huk]	[iske]	[kimse]	[tawa]	[pitʃke]
	Cuzco	[huk]	[iske]	[kinse]	[tawa]	[pitʃke]
	Puno	[uk]	[iske]	[kinse]	[tawa]	[pitʃke]
	Taquile	[uk]	[iske]	[kimse]	[tawa]	[pitʃke]
Bolivia	Apolobamba	[ux]	[iske]	[kimse]	[tawa]	[pitʃke]
	Cochabamba	[ux]	[iske]	[kinse]	[tawa]	[pitʃke]
	Sucre	[uk]	[iske]	[kinse]	[tawa]	[pitʃke]
Spelling in Southern Quechua		<i>huk</i>	<i>iskay</i>	<i>kim.sa</i>	<i>tawa</i>	<i>pichqa</i>
<b>Aymara</b>	Original Aymara	*[maja]	*[paja]	*[kimsa] <sup>=Q</sup>	*[puʃi]	*[pichqa] <sup>=Q</sup>
Central Peru	Kawki	[mæjɛ]	[pɔxɛ]	[kimse]	[puʃe]	[pitʃke]
	Jaquaru	[majɛ]	[pɔxɛ]	[kimsɔ]	[puʃi]	[pitʃke]
Altiplano	Huancané	[majɛ]	[pajɛ]	[kimse]	[puʃi]	[pitʃke]
	Tiwanaku	[majɛ]	[pajɛ]	[kimsa]	[puʃi]	[pitʃke]
	Oruro	[majɛ]	[pajɛ]	[kinse]	[pusi]	[pitʃke]

## Quechua Color Words



yana



yuraj



ch'ixchi



ch'unpi



puka



willapi



k'ellu



k'omer



sut'ijankas



kulli

# Standardization

- Language contact, time & geographical isolation Has resulted in grammatical and lexical standardization. The best resources to find information about standardization are the following: Wolck's (1987) *Pequeno Breviario Quechua*, Cerron-Palomino's (1987) *Linguistica Quechua*. There are many more but these two are essential.
- Quechua in its different forms, is spoken in five different countries in Latin America: Bolivia, Argentina, Colombia, Peru & Ecuador.
- The largest number of bilingual and monolingual Quechua native speakers is concentrated in Bolivia, Peru and Ecuador.
- Presently different sources indicate 12 to 11 million speakers, including both bilingual and monolingual.



# Children in classes, Ccochaccasa School, Angaraes, Huancavelica.

<http://youtube.com/watch?v=20xBcgEBmQY>



# Traditional community – children singing at school – Cusco.

[youtube.com/watch?v=HCoO1ciB2Ek](http://youtube.com/watch?v=HCoO1ciB2Ek)<http://>



# Graphization

- In 1560, Fray Domingo de Santo Tomas wrote the Grammática o arte de la lengua general de los indios de los reynos del Peru, this was the first work produced on the topic. (N. Hornberger, Coronel-Molina S. , 2000)
- In 1606, Diego González Holguín wrote, the Gramática y Arte Nuevo de la lengua general de todo el Perú llamada lengua Quechua o lengua del Inca. In 1608, he produced a dictionary, the Vocabulario de la lengua General de todo el Perú llamada lengua Quechua o del Inca. (N. Hornberger, Coronel-Molina S. , 2000)
- Attempts to standardize the language have been more or less continuous since the Spanish Conquest. Most colonial efforts to standardize Quechua using the Spanish alphabet as a model for most part failed. One of the main concerns and challenges as with many other Oral Traditional languages of the world is that western alphabets never seem adequate to fulfill the task of accurate sound representation.

# Graphization

- The Third Congreso Indigenista Interamericano that met in La Paz, Bolivia in 1954. (Coronel-Molina S., N. Hornberger, 2000)
- Efforts to develop an alphabet that would be able to represent the language at all levels that is: phonologically, morphologically and syntactically were attempted successfully. Some of the results included: establishing orthographic rules, how to classify Spanish loan words into Quechua orthographic system, and the use of only three vowels (a,i,u) in both Quechua and Aymara official alphabets.
- The development of a unique standardized alphabet to represent all the distinct dialects of Quechua –Runa Simi is not an easy process, nor is it complete.



## Is there Diglossia in countries where Quechua is spoken?

- Yes, Diglossia, exists in all countries where Quechua is spoken.
- Large degree of diglossia is practiced, in all Andean countries. Although this should also be evaluated on a case by case basis. Further reading on this topic could include Jose Maria Arguedas's novels.



- Quechua originating near Lima, was the administrative language of the Inca Empire which spread it over a huge area of South America.
- The Spaniards spread it further since they used it as an administrative language during the early colonial period.
- Many of today's Quechua speakers are descendants not only of the Incas, but of the peoples they conquered.
- Quechua or Runa Simi is not widely read nor written; most of its speakers do not know how to read or write it, even among those literate in Spanish.

# Was Quechua the main language of the Incas?

- Quechua or Runa Simi was the lingua franca of the Inca Empire or Tawantinsuyu. Aymara or Chipaya has been signaled to be the native language of the Inca tribe (Cerron Palomino.)
- The Tawantinsuyu was a highly multilingual empire, with hundreds of languages spoken in the territory.
- Language policy: Additive Bilingualism.
- How was literacy defined before contact point?
- Use of mnemonic devices
- Oral traditional society
- Relationship with memory as a device to store data. Expanded memory capacity.
- Highly visually trained. Colors, forms, symbols shown in dressing codes, weaving, etc.
- Essential relationship to nature - the earth and the sky.

# Kipus - On theory of Inca writing (J. Noble Wilford)

<http://www.ee.ryerson.ca:8080/~elf/abacus/inca-khipu.html>





# Pre- Columbian Textile



# Writing without words: Alternative Literacies in Meso-America & the Andes.

(Hill & Mignolo, 2001) recommended reading

- **The assumption that native peoples of the Americas are 'writingless cultures' is one of the most persistent errors of ethnology.** (Kramer, 1970,12)
- **Writing is in fact present everywhere in gesture and speech itself, in traces and paths of landscapes: Orality and script do not therefore constitute a mutually exclusive binary; still less are they moral opposites.** (Derrida, Spivak, 1976)

Brotherston, Gordon (1992) Book of the Fourth World. recommended reading

**Multiple Literacies**



**in the Andes.**

**He (the Inca) ordered that the dresses of each village should be different, that the people might be known, for down to this time there were no means of knowing to what village or tribe an Indian belonged.**

citation from *Relacion de antiguedades deste reyno del Piru* (1620): Juan de Santa Cruz Pachacuti Yamqui Salcamaygua. Transaltion from Sacred Texts.























# The contact point period

## America in 1492

“On the eve of Columbus voyages, Native America possessed an astounding diversity of languages, greater by far than all Europe.”

“In 1492, as many as 2,000 separate mutually unintelligible languages were spoken by the many different peoples inhabiting the Western Hemisphere. Of these, approximately 250 were spoken in North America, some 350 in in Mexico and Central America, and 1,450 more throughout South America.”

Sherzer, J. A Richness of Voices in America in 1492 – The World of the Indian Peoples Before the Arrival of Columbus(1991:251)

# Language Ecology

(citations from Mannheim B., 1991)

“The Language of the Inka since the European Invasion.”

## Linguistic Diversity

“From the first contact with native South Americans, the European invaders were perplexed by their linguistic diversity.” (Cabello Valboa 1590:218-219, Cerron-Palomino, 1987c.)

‘Bartolomé de las Casas expressed astonishment that “thousands of languages” were spoken in South America.’ (Mannheim B. 1991:36)

# Multilingualism

(citations from B.Mannheim, 1991)

“ The Language of the Inka since the European Invasion.”

“...they speak so many languages, so different from each other ... that I believe there aren't numbers high enough to count them, there are so many ...

“This is so notably in many provinces one doesn't go a league without coming across another language, as remote and distinct from the first as Castilian Spanish from Basque, or from English, or from African languages...[..] there are some populated islands in plain view of each other, and on every island they speak a different language ....”

(Cabello Valboa, 1590)

# The contact point period entailed the encounter of :

- distinct languages (language contact)
- distinct worldviews
- multiple literacies
- multiple cognitive styles
- multiple linguistic signs
- diversas 'prácticas letradas'
- diversas formas de socialización primarias y secundarias



Specific languages are related to specific cultures and to their attendant cultural identities at the level of doing, at the level of knowing and at the level of being.

Joshua A. Fishman (2000) **Can threatened languages be saved?** (p.3) Multilingual Matters.



# Central author to my work: Partial list of Dr. Joshua Fishman's publications & articles.

- Readings in the sociology of language (1968) Den Haag, Paris: Mouton.
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