

Achuar (Huasaga, Chankuap)

Richard Gippelhauser and Elke Mader's corpus

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Presentation

a) The data-set

The data-set “Achuar (Huasaga, Chankuap)” is the product of a collaboration among the author Elke Mader, the encoder Grégory Deshoullière, and the Kinsources project.

Collected by Elke Mader and Richard Gippelhauser and based on their (already systemized) notes, this data-set concerns principally the Achuar speaking population from Huasaga area of the Upper Amazon in Peru (mainly Huasaga [Chankuap or Chakuap] river, Wirayaku [Wiraik] river, Asapachi river, Sinchiyaku [Sanchik] river, Chichierta [Chichírat] river, Asapachi River and Lago Anatico area).

All the archives from Elke Mader and Richard Gippelhauser fieldwork (1979-1980) are kept by Prof Elke Mader (University of Vienna, elke.mader@univie.ac.at).

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b) *The Achuar*

Distributed between north-east Peru and south-east Ecuador, the Achuar² are part of the Jivaroan population cluster which includes the Shuar, located in southeast Ecuador, the Awajun and Wampis (Huambisa) of the Marañón basin, and the Shiwiar of the middle Pastaza valley, closely connected to the Achuar. During the period in which Elke Mader and Richard Gippelhauser conducted fieldwork, the Achuar – mainly hunters and swidden-horticulturalists – lived in dispersed settlements of three or four closely related households. These local groups were embedded in territorialized networks of regularly intermarrying households. These units – referred as “endogamous nexi” in the ethnographic literature – comprised an average of 100 to 150 persons, or some ten scattered households. The residence pattern was prolonged temporary uxorilocality. The Achuar terminology of reference corresponds to the "two-line terminologies" that has been associated with the Amazonian Dravidian systems.

Material description

The documents use in the *Mader-Gippelhauser Kinship Data-set* are combined in one notebook which contains:

- “Kinship tables”: a series of 8 kinship graphs (numerated 1 to 8).
- “Index to kinship tables”: numerated 36 to 63, this index included:
 - The personal number attributed for each individuals of the household
 - The name
 - The sex and alive/dead information
 - Coordinates for the households list and map
- “Map of settlement locations”: the situation of the houses in a map of the Huasaga River/Chankuap River and its tributaries (cf. Map of settlement location.pdf).

² Sometimes referred as Achual, Achuara, Achuale, Jivaro or Maina.

- “List of Households”: 25 pages machine-printed, with numeration (2 to 24), in which it is attributed a number for each house of the map. Its provides also information on:
 - The numbers, name, sex, ethnic affiliation and occasionally age of the inhabitants of the household
 - The number of the corresponding diagram (but not all inhabitants are included in the diagram)
- 8 pages format A3 with the kinship graphs (bigger version)

MORE INFORMATION on each Achuar house can be found in the original Archive in which this kinship dataset is based. There are more than 100 pages of descriptions³, maps and sketches of the houses.

Individuals, Attributes and Households

All the data refer to the year 1979.

Note that both individual names and associated place names are not shown in the anonymized version of the data-set. However, residence is still shown as a separate attribute (see below).

a) Name: The encoder indicates all the orthographical versions of the names of each individual as they were originally written, which means that he includes in parenthesis all the different ways of writing the name that have been found in the notebooks. For instance:

259 Kapuchak (Kapoachak) [Huasaga]

or

687 Tsetsim (Ttsim) [Pastaza]

To facilitate coding, and when the information is clear from the notebooks, the place of residence of the individual appears written in square brackets (these are frequently names of rivers). For instance:

1 Jimpikit [Huasaga]

b) Attributes:

- **Note⁴:** The encoder writes in “note” commentaries regarding genealogical or marriage aspects of an individual or the inconsistencies that have emerged during the process of codification.

³ The description are usually in German language. We have not yet processed this document.

⁴ The anonymised version does not include this information.

- **BIRT_DATE:** *Date of birth*. The ages are estimates made by the ethnographers (Mader, p.c.)
- **ETHNI_FIL:** *Ethnic affiliation*. The entries are: Mestizo, Muratos, Quichua, Shuar and Achuar Maynas (= Achuar from Corrientes river). No indication means “Achuar”.
- **DUPLI:** Indicates a possible *duplicate* in the corpus (after codification). Most of them had been checked, but errors can still emerge so the encoder has chosen to leave this information for future works on the data-set.
- **RESI:** *Place of residence*. Almost always names of rivers.
- **DEAD:** If an individual is noted as dead or not.
- **Add.:** The cross (X) indicates that the person has been added by the encoder. It is not indicated in the photocopies.

c) *Relation: “Households”*

List of the households, from H1/1 to CH3/1 (see Map of settlement location.pdf). The numbering of households has to be read as follows:

- The first letter indicates the nearest river, for instance:
 - a. H for Huasaga (also known as “Chankuap” and sometimes “Wasaka”)
 - b. A for Asapachi
 - c. S for Sinchiyaku (also known as “Sanchik”)
 - d. W for Wirayaku (also known as “Virayaku”, “Huirayaku” or “Wiraik”)
 - e. K for Kustanch
 - f. CH for Chichierta (also known as “Chichírat” or “Checherta”)
- The following number indicates the settlement location counting from Lago Anatico upriver (on the tributaries from their mouth upriver) and comprises locations “near” the bank of the indicated river.
- If the number of the settlement location is followed by “a” or “b” the site lies inland from the mentioned settlement. For instance:
 - g. H7 on Huasaga bank
 - h. H7a at Pintacocha
- The following number indicates the house (household) within the settlement location. This information is part of the attribute “Note”. For instance:

- i. H16 – settlement location Puerto Rubina
- j. H16/2 – Tiriruk
- k. H16/10 Walter, etc.

The attribute “Note” contains indication regarding whether the household had been shifted or abandoned.

Remarks on coding

The coding was done by Grégory Deshoullière with Puck⁵ in 2014.

Despite our efforts, the data-set at this stage still imperfectly reflects the data contained in the notebooks. The main difficulty emerges from the fact that the encoder is not the ethnographers. Without a global understanding of the notebooks and the fieldwork, it was at times impossible to avoid duplications of individuals or to establish certain connections between them. A revised version will be made available in the near future.

Perspectives on the Achuar population of the 70s

The data-set Achuar (Huasaga-Chankuap) is part of the “Cluster Achuar” which regroups the corpus of Richard Gippelhauser & Elke Mader (around 1139 individuals), the corpus of Philippe Descola and Anne-Christine Taylor (around 800 individuals) and the corpus of Antonino Colajanni (around 1160 individuals), all the corpus are based on a fieldwork conducted during the late 1970s.

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⁵ <http://www.kintip.net/>

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