AHRC TRANSLATING CULTURES INNOVATION AWARD

Translating cultures and the legislated mediation of indigenous rights in Peru



PI Prof. Rosaleen Howard, Newcastle University

Co-I Dr Raquel de Pedro Ricoy, Heriot-Watt University

International Co-I Dr Luis Andrade, Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú (PUCP)



International interdisciplinary project

Combines expertise in:

- sociolinguistics and anthropological linguistics
- public service translation and interpreting
- Peruvian indigenous languages and language contact

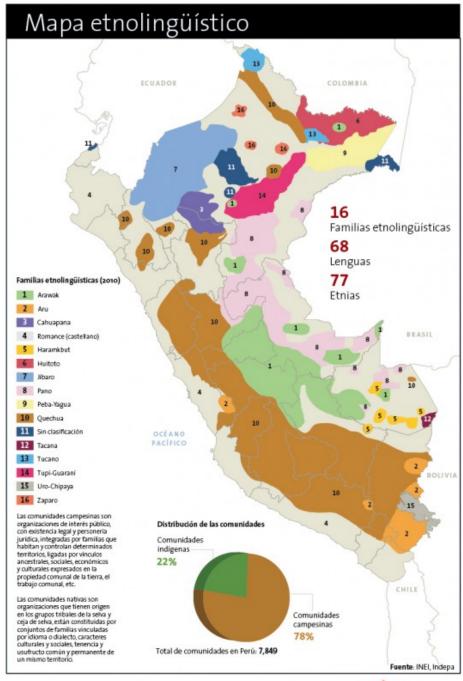
Peruvian Project Partners

- Ministry of Culture: Indigenous Languages Division of the Viceministry of Interculturality
- Servicios Educativos Rurales (SER) (rural development among indigenous populations)

Peru: diversity

- Cultural, linguistic, geographical, ecological
- Languages: Spanish plus 46 Amerindian languages belonging to 16 language families
- Andean languages: Quechua (dialect diversity) and Aymara (both with millions of speakers)
- Amazonian languages: eg. Ashaninka, Shipibo, Awajún, Wampis, Sharanahua, Harakmbut (10,000s to minus 2000 speakers)

Location of speakers of Amerindian languages in Peru's Andean highlands and Amazonian lowlands





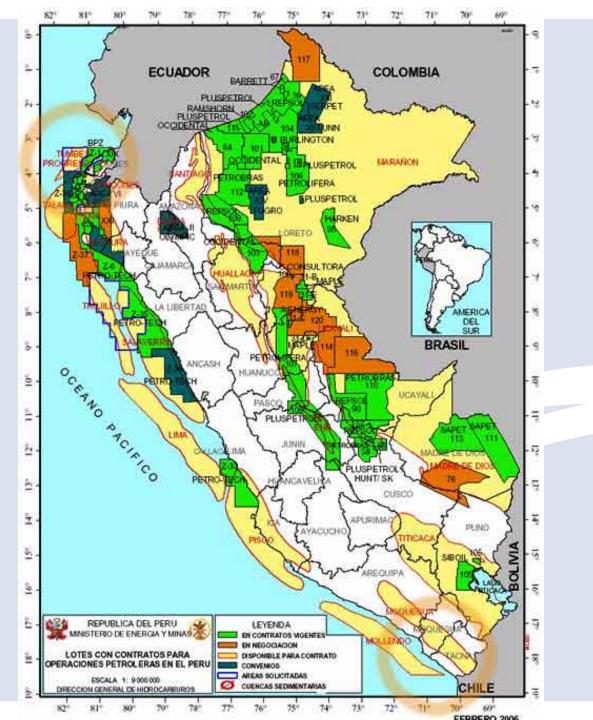
Peru: oil and mineral wealth

- 16C Spanish quest for gold replicated today in large scale state concessions to national and international oil and mining companies
- Extraction of minerals and oil from subsoil of territory where indigenous communities hold legal title

Location of mining concessions in the Andean highlands



Location of oil extraction concessions in the Amazonian lowlands and on coast



Resource extraction and social conflict

- Poorly regulated extraction techniques
- Environmental, health, and social problems among indigenous populations
- Communities rarely consulted over decisions to mine their ecologically diverse and fragile territories
- Serious conflicts have arisen as in Bagua (northern Peruvian Amazonia) in 2009

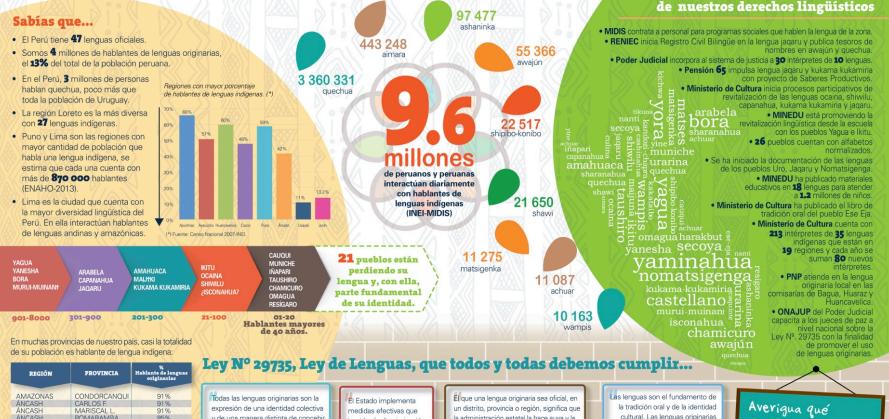
Indigenous rights legislation

International

- ILO Convention 169 (1989)
- UN Declaration on Indigenous Rights (2007)

Peruvian

- 1993 Constitution recognises cultural diversity
- 2011 Law on Right to Prior Consultation with Article on 'Language'
- 2011 Law on Language Rights
 - Action: Translation and Public Service Interpreter training for speakers of indigenous languages and Spanish, Ministry of Culture since 2012



ÁNCASH **POMABAMBA** 85% APURÍMAC 90% APURÍMAC 81% CHINCHEROS **AYACUCHO** CANGALLO 90% **AYACUCHO** VÍCTOR FAJARDO 86% AYACUCHO 90% CUSCO 88%

Todas las lenguas originarias son la expressión de una identidad colectiva y de una manera distinta de concebir y de describir la realidad, por tanto, gozan de las condiciones necesarias para su mantenimiento y desarrollo en todas sus funciones. (Artículo 1)

El Estado implementa medidas efectivas que impidan la discriminación de las personas por el uso de las lenguas originarias. (Artículo 17) El que una lengua originaria sea oficial, en un distrito, provincia o región, significa que la administración estatal la hace suya y la implementa progresivamente en todas las esferas de actuación pública, dándole el mismo valor jurídico y las mismas prerrogativas que al castellano como en la lengua originaria oficial (Artícula 10)

Las lenguas son el fundamento de la tradición oral y de la identidad cultural. Las lenguas originarias constituyen el patrimonio cultural immaterial de los pueblos originarios del Perú. Todas las lenguas originarias están en igualdad de derechos.

significa...

on Estado que avantea en la promocion

uyariway (quechua) jilata (aimara)

Project aims

- To analyse the processes of translation and interpretation between Spanish and the Amerindian languages, aimed at implementing legislation on indigenous language rights among Andean and Amazonian people of Peru
- To explore the challenges faced by indigenous translators and interpreters working in languages that occupy structurally unequal positions in society and in contexts where fundamentally different cultural understandings may be at work: fields of health, the legal system (law courts, police), prior consultation on natural resource extraction, and potentially others

Research Questions

- 1) What conceptual difficulties arose during the translation of the Law on Language Rights from Spanish into such Amerindian languages as Quechua, Aymara, Ashaninka and Shipibo?
- 2) What is the nature of the new state interpreter-training programme: (a) social, cultural and linguistic identities of the trainers and trainees, (b) curricular content, (c) issues around professionalisation, (d) post-training employment of graduates?
- 3) How are the translations of the laws received and disseminated among the indigenous communities?
- 4) How does interpreter-mediated interaction in public service or consultation contexts work in practice?

7th Interpreter Training Course, Lima 09/14









Methods

- Documentation analysis
- Think Aloud Protocols (TAPs) to study translation strategies with the translators of the Language Law
- Observation of Interpreter Training sessions
- Questionnaire to people on State Register of Translators and Interpreters for Indigenous Languages
- Semi-structured interviews with all categories of stakeholder
- Focus groups and workshops with Project Partners and associated stakeholders

Outputs and outcomes

- Co-authored articles in academic journals of disciplinary range
- Chapter in book on The Politics of Multilingualism in the Andes-Amazon Region
- Website
- Public and academic presentations
- Press and media exposure
- Capacity building of team and partners
- Impact on Peruvian language rights policy
- Seminars both in Peru and the UK

Results so far...

- worked on translations of the Ley de Lenguas with the translators of two varieties of Quechua (Ancash and Ayacucho, Aymara, Shipibo and Ashaninka
- particularly interesting is to compare how they deal with translating concepts such as 'law' and 'rights' into their languages

Results so far...

- Attended meetings of the team at the Indigenous Languages Division of the Viceministry of Interculturality
- Invited to contribute to a training course for indigenous language interpreters in the health sector, Pucallpa (Ucayali region, Peruvian Amazonia), Dec. 2014
- Contributed a 3-hour session on Linguistic Human Rights

Linguistic Human Rights session, Pucallpa, Dec. 2014

- PowerPoint presentation; debate
- group work; each language-based group discussed the translation of the Language Law into their respective languages
- asked to think about how to deliver the message of the law to their communities using a more everyday register