

WALS Online - Open Access to Research Data

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The World Atlas of Language Structures

The World Atlas of Language Structures (WALS) is a large database of structural (phonological, grammatical, lexical) properties of languages gathered from descriptive materials (such as reference grammars) by a team of more than 40 authors.

WALS consists of 141 maps with accompanying texts on diverse features (such as vowel inventory size, noun-genitive order, passive constructions, and "hand"/"arm" polysemy). Each map shows between 120 and 1370 languages, each language being represented by a symbol, and different symbols showing different values of the feature. Altogether 2,650 languages are shown on the maps, and more than 58,000 datapoints give information on features in particular languages.

WALS Online

Through a joint effort of the Max Planck Digital Library and the Department of Linguistics of the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, all the data and analytical texts from the World Atlas of Language Structures are now freely available online at <http://wals.info/>. The materials are published under a Creative Commons License, guaranteeing open access for users and inviting scientists to use them for their work. WALS Online is by far the most important web site on the world's linguistic diversity.

Advantages of the New Medium

- Everything links to everything thus contributing to the web-of-data
- Interactivity: blog discussions, data reuse, ...
- Echo chamber: the blogosphere, link sharing, mashups, ...

Languages

Mixtec (Chalcatongo)

WALS coordinates: 17° 3' N, 97° 35' W
 spoken in Mexico

Alternative Names

- Ethnologue: Mixtec, San Miguel el Grande
- Ruhlen: Mixtec
- Routledge: Misteko
- Other: Chalcatongo Mixtec, Mixtec, Chalcatongo (Western Alta)
- ISO 639-3: mig

Features

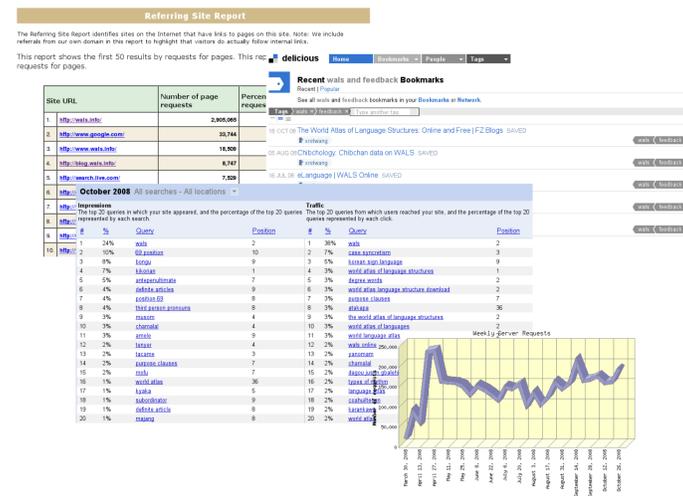
Feature	Value	References
Phonology		
Consonant Inventories	Moderately small	Macaulay 1996
Vowel Quality Inventories	Average (5-6)	Macaulay 1996
Consonant-Vowel Ratio	Average	Macaulay 1996
Voicing in Plosives and Fricatives	In both plosives and fricatives	Macaulay 1996



References for Mixtec (Chalcatongo)

- A Grammar of Chalcatongo Mixtec by Macaulay, Monica (1996)
- Linguistic Diversity in Space and Time by Nichols, Johanna (1992)
- The Syntax of Chalcatongo Mixtec: Preverbal and Postverbal by Macaulay, Monica (2005) in Verb First - On the syntax of verb-initial languages

Embedded in the New Ecosystem



Features

Combined Features

Vowel Quality Inventories and Syncretism in Verbal Person/Number Marking

Vowel Quality Inventories	Small (2-4) (93)	Syncretism in Verbal Person/Number Marking		
		No subject person/number marking (57)	Syncretic (60)	Not syncretic (81)
Average (5-6) (288)	27	33	44	
Large (7-14) (183)	18	17	14	

Click to reset icon selection to default values.



Languages

Click on the number of languages for a value combination to display the associated languages here.

- Small (2-4) - No subject person/number marking
- Araona
 - Haida
 - Kayardild
 - Martuthunira
 - Ngiyambaa
 - Pirahã
 - Pitjantjatjara
 - Qawasqar
 - Rama
 - Selknam
 - Shipibo-Konibo
 - Yidiny
- [close language display]

WALS Blog

- project news
- errata
- discussion

Unified map interface

With new three big map views in WALS Online (for features, combined features and language families) it was time to unify the user interface for these maps. With this rework, we also wanted to enhance the printing experience for WALS Online maps.

Since the easiest way to print WALS Online maps is via screenshots, we wanted to provide more flexibility in rearranging the screen layout of our maps. Now:

- you can resize the big maps,
- drag the legend to any position on the screen,
- hide the legend.

We also added the functionality to display a list of languages for a certain set of values to all big maps. Clicking on the number of languages for a certain value in the legend will display this list above the map. Clicking on one of these languages will open the corresponding info window for the language marker on the map.

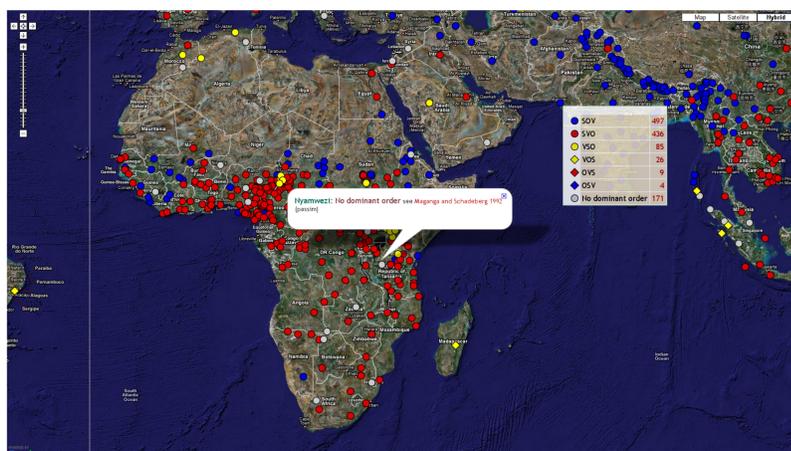
Recent Comments

- admin on Datapoint for feature 51 and language wals_code_30n
- Martin Haspelmath on Definite Articles
- Peter Kosta on Politeness Distinctions in Pronouns
- Silke Schumacher on Definite Articles
- Martin Haspelmath on Politeness Distinctions in Pronouns

Categories

- Chapters (149)
- Complex Sentences (7)
- Lexicon (10)
- Morphology (12)
- Locus of Marking in Possessive Houn Phrases (2)
- Nominal Categories (32)
- 33: Coding of Hominal Plurality (1)
- Politeness Distinctions in Pronouns (1)
- Position of Case Affixes (2)
- Nominal Syntax (7)
- Other (2)
- Phonology (19)
- Sign Languages (2)
- Simple Clauses (24)
- Verbal Categories (16)
- Word Order (18)
- Order of Subject and Object and Verb (1)
- Errata (4)
- Errata 2005 (1)
- Errata 2008 (3)
- Languages (6)
- English (1)
- German (1)
- Japanese (2)
- Polish (1)
- Warao (1)
- News (19)
- Policy (1)
- Uncategorized (2)
- Updates (4)

Maps



Reusing the Data

- Open Access is only a necessary condition for real sharing; to attract reuse, we provide the data as
- sqlite database
- excel-compatible export
- georss/kml for geo data, ready for import in google earth, openlayers, ...

Conclusion

Taking research data to the web is worth it and can be rewarding (and fun).