Cusco Quechua has a complex system of both evidential and validational suffix markers (Weber 1989, Nuckolls 1993, Floyd 1999, Faller 2002, 2003). Traditionally, evidential markers have been described as conveying the speaker’s source of information, while validational markers have been described as conveying how sure the speaker is about the information (s)he is presenting. While this seems to hold true for utterances marked with only an evidential or validational, additional meanings are present when the two systems interact.

Only a small amount of work has begun to question what the effects of the interaction of these two systems might be (Faller 2002). The goal of the present paper is to systematically address this question. I have collected preliminary data by working with three consultants in Cusco, Peru over a period of two months.

These data suggest that evidentials combined with validationals are used to signal speaker commitment (see Gunlogsen 2008, Harris 2012). That is, evidentials combine with validationals in predictable ways in cases where the evidential is underdetermined for speaker commitment. Additionally, the interaction of these systems is used by hearers to gauge speaker reliability. Rankings of speaker reliability based on statements with evidentials and validationals suggest that perceived reliability is not analogous to the level of speaker commitment.

Along with illuminating aspects of the relationship between speaker commitment and perceived reliability, these effects help explain counterintuitive data relating to the pragmatics of combined evidential and validational marking in Cusco Quechua. As this work is still preliminary, a full pragmatic analysis is not yet provided and additional work is necessary in order to understand what implications this analysis has for previous analyses of the semantics and pragmatics of Cusco Quechua evidentials and evidentials in general.

**Selected References**


