Pirahã
Pirahã – Numbers & Stuff

• ISO 639-2 <myp>
• Spoken by Hi'aiti'ihĩ („the straight ones“)
• 2010: ~420 people
• 8 villages Maici River
• Hunter-gatherers

http://www.unesco.org/languages-atlas/
Pirahã – Origin

• Last remaining dialect of the „Mura“ language
• 19Jh 30,000–60,000 Mura

Linguistical properties:
• Small number of phonemes (10-13)
• Agglutination (up to 15 slots for verbs)
• Whistling speech
• Usage of tone
Pirahã - Sound

Recorded on June 1995

Everett eliciting from (male speaker)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>pil</td>
<td>water</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>jil</td>
<td>residue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>til</td>
<td>wood/thing</td>
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<tr>
<td>bit</td>
<td>blood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gisso</td>
<td>this vs (she gives a context)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ñisí</td>
<td>fat/body oil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bisi</td>
<td>sun (she gives a context)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>taahósi</td>
<td>palm frond (sp.) (first utterance is bad)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>taahousí</td>
<td>sand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kaññai</td>
<td>macaw</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ñuñapahai</td>
<td>bird arrow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ñbáagíso</td>
<td>many (first utterance is bad)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ñdañtañ(hai)</td>
<td>can (n.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ñbaññáí</td>
<td>candle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>poogahai</td>
<td>arrow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ñtoogiízi</td>
<td>hoe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>koññlo</td>
<td>inside</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ñoosí</td>
<td>seed (sp.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ñboopai</td>
<td>throat/neck</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ñoóo</td>
<td>what’s up ng</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ñtoobáí</td>
<td>down (n.)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

July 2, 1995

http://archive.phonetics.ucla.edu/Language/MYP/myp.html
Pirahã – Points of Interest

• No color words except for light and dark
• No past tense
• Numbers are restricted to words similar to “few” and “many”
• Small number of pronouns
• Language can be encoded in music
• Lack of recursion (Claimed by Daniel Everett)
Pirahã – Exkurs: Daniel Everett

- Prof. of Linguistics & Anthropology
- wanted to be a missionary 1977
  -> failed
- became highly criticized for his view on Pirahã
- Wrote several books about his time at the Amazon river
Pirahã – Future?

Vulnerable

• (-) Small amount of native speakers
• (+) Population growing
• (+) No real use of second languages
Pirahã – Ressources

Not public:

Public:
• [http://archive.phonetics.ucla.edu/Language/MYP/myp.html](http://archive.phonetics.ucla.edu/Language/MYP/myp.html) --> wordlists
Pirahã - Fun fact

http://dioezese-linzold.at/redaktion/data/kathmaster/sternsinger08_buben.jpg
Pirahã – Other sources

• https://www.ethnologue.com/language/myp
• http://www.language-archives.org/language/myp
• http://www.endangeredlanguages.com/lang/myp
• http://blog.rev.com/articles/language/languages-on-endangered-watch-list/
• https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pirah%C3%A3_people
• Everett, Daniel L. (2008). Don't Sleep, there are Snakes
• The Grammar of Happiness (2012)

(18.05.2016)