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Interpreters, Language Policies and Language Shift in Colonial Latin America.

Many will agree by now that, hand in hand with missionization, translation played a decisive role in the shaping of language policies during early colonial periods in Latin America. However, much of such language policies are, as a matter of fact, related to the work of interpreters. Sometimes specifically chosen and educated for such mission, but most times unknown (or barely referred to, anonymously, in prologues and letters) many of the earlier missionary grammars and vocabularies were written with their direct intervention.

This presentation (and my research) focuses, specifically, on the role of the interpreters in the formation of the so called *lenguas generales / línguas gerais* during the colonial period, in the Tupí-Guaraní area.