

Konrad Rybka

## The linguistic encoding of landscape in Lokono

**Have you ever wondered how the landscapes we live in are structured linguistically? How does landscape related lexicon and grammar differ across languages and why?**

This book—a result of the collaboration between the author and the interdisciplinary project *Language, Cognition, and Landscape* at Lund University—explores these intriguing questions from a number of vantage points.

It offers the reader a detailed examination of the linguistic means used to talk about landscape in Lokono—a critically endangered Arawakan language. The Lokono people live in Suriname, Guyana, and French Guiana; this book focuses on the Surinamese dialect. Its geographic focus in turn is the border area between the grass savanna and the rainforest riddled by a number of creeks and rivers.

The book caters for the interested semantician, who will find here a comprehensive description of the landscape-related lexicon. The comparative analysis of landscape-related grammar in turn offers insights for descriptive linguists and linguistic typologists. The book contains also an elaborate description of the Lokono grammar of space. This allows the reader to locate the landscape-domain—the realm of geographic-scale space—within the larger domain of spatial relations. Being the first detailed description of spatial relations in an Arawakan language, the book is also an invaluable source of information for linguists interested in the cross-linguistic study of the grammars of space in general. Moreover, the book is rich in cultural information pertaining to the landscape domain, offering the linguistic anthropologist a glimpse of the Lokono subsistence practices, material culture, and traditional beliefs inextricably linked to the local landscape. Finally, the interdisciplinary setting, in which the book took its shape, renders the book appropriate for other audiences interested in landscape, particularly geographers and landscape ethnoecologists.

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