

My research focuses on the language of the Piraha, an indigenous community in the Brazilian Amazon Jungle. Studies of their culture and language have shown that they demonstrate a lack of certain common traits previously considered to be universal to other languages such as a system of counting and an imbedded grammar. Cultural values and traditions indicate that the Piraha exist purely within the moment, and this is demonstrated in their eating, sleeping, storytelling, and tool manufacturing habits, all are immediate and temporary. The immediacy of their vocabulary and their lack of counting or planning for the future reflect these values, influencing the language. My research aims to evaluate how their language is more effective within their cultural context despite its lack of these traits.