

# **Quotatives in Wari' and Piraha: different strategies for reporting the contents of other minds**

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In this paper I examine the distinct quotative strategies of Wari' (Chapacuran) and Piraha (Muran), two languages spoken in western Brazil, based on my own field research. The Wari' construction, which seems to be an older areal feature, based on work by Hein van der Voort, is used for a wide variety of functions and is distinctive for using the quoted sentence as the predicate of the larger sentence, i.e. avoiding the verb 'to say.' Piraha represents the other extreme, using no recursive syntactic devices (though using recursive thought) to report others' speech. One characteristic common to both is the use of quotatives to report both speech and thought, attributing quotations to animate, but non-human, and inanimate objects, as well as humans. I address the analysis of Davidson's (1968) classic paper "On saying 'that'" and argue that there is evidence that English shares some features with both Wari' and Piraha.