

1. Description

1.1 Name(s) of society, language, and language family:

Name of Society: Torá (1) Alternate names: Toraz (1)

Language: Torá (1)

Language family: Chapacura (1)

1.2 ISO code (3 letter code from ethnologue.com): trz (1)

1.3 Location (latitude/longitude): Amazonas, lower Rio Marmelos, Tributary of Rio Madeira (1)

1.4 Brief history:

The Torá language is an extinct language that once belonged to the language family, Chapacura. The Torá language has not been studied to any great extent. Because of these two things, solid information on the Torá is hard to find.

The Torá traditionally occupied the whole of the Madeira River and its tributaries, but were forced to make due with a small part of that land when the colonial administration occupied the region (2). When the colonial administration first began to occupy the region, the Torá were among the first peoples to resist the administration's efforts, and thus, unfortunately, were also among the first Indians to suffer significantly for their resistance (6).

Around 1716, the Torá sent war parties to attack boats carrying cacao from Solimões to Para (3, p398). As a consequence to this, in 1719 the Torá were the target of a punitive expedition that was organized to wipe them out (2). The expedition destroyed a large number of Torá (3, p398). A few sources mentioned the 18th century 'punitive expeditions' that the Torá were victims of (6).

Many Torá returned to the bush, but that did not protect them from the rubber boom. The rubber gatherers captured the Torá as crews to navigate down the Madeira River (3, p399). It was about 1870 when the Torá, along with other Indians, were put in the Mission of Sao Francisco of the Preto River. A subgroup of Torá, the Torá of the Marmellos joined them in the Mission, but returned to their original home after the mission was abandoned. Once the Torá returned to their land, they were decimated by various epidemics of smallpox, measles, and influenza and by harsh treatment in the rubber gatherers' camps (3, p399).

According to Julian H. Steward (1948), in 1923, there were only 12 Torá left (3, p399). Because of the small number and little written history on the Torá, nothing was found on the Torá's history after 1923. However, according to UNESCO, the Torá speakers possibly disappeared recently (5).

1.5 Influence of missionaries/schools/governments/powerful neighbors:

In 1719, a Portuguese expedition under Joao de Barros da Guerra destroyed a large number of Torá (3, p399). When the rubber gatherers arrived, they captured the Torá as crew for the navigation of the Madeira River (3, p399).

1.6 Ecology (natural environment): the Madeira River

1.7 Population size, mean village size, home range size, density:

Population size: For the most part, the general consensus found while researching says that Torá is an extinct language. According to ethnologue.com, there are no known speakers and a small ethnic population of 51 (1999) (1). According to World Oral Literature Project (University of Cambridge), the number of speakers is 40, but there was no date associated with that number (4).

Multitree.org provided four different endangerment statuses (4):

UNESCO status: Extinct

Ethnologue status: Nearly Extinct

Sutherland's Red List (University of Cambridge): Critically Endangered

Because of this no information was found on the Torá's mean village size, home range size, or density.

2. Economy

- 2.1 Main carbohydrate staple(s): not found
- 2.2 Main protein-lipid sources: not found
- 2.3 Weapons: Bow and arrow, blowguns?:
The Torá live on hunting and fishing (6), but their weapons were not found.
- 2.4 Food storage: not found
- 2.5 Sexual division of production: not found
- 2.6 Land tenure: not found
- 2.7 Ceramics: not found
- 2.8 Specified (prescribed or proscribed) sharing patterns: not found
- 2.9 Food taboos: not found
- 2.10 Canoes/watercraft?: not found

3. Anthropometry

- 3.1 Mean adult height (m and f): not found
- 3.2 Mean adult weight (m and f): not found

4. Life History, mating, marriage

- 4.1 Age at menarche (f): not found
- 4.2 Age at first birth (m and f): not found
- 4.3 Completed family size (m and f): not found
- 4.4 Inter-birth-interval (f): not found
- 4.5 Age first marriage (m and f): not found
- 4.6 Proportion of marriages ending in divorce: not found
- 4.7 Percent marriages polygynous, percent males married polygynously: not found
- 4.8 Bride purchase (price), bride service, dowry?: not found
- 4.9 Inheritance patterns: not found
- 4.10 Parent-offspring interactions and conflict: not found
- 4.11 Homosexual activities, social attitudes towards homosexuals: not found
- 4.12 Pattern of exogamy (endogamy): not found
- 4.13 What is the belief of the role of males in conception; is paternity partible? Are these “other fathers” recognized?: not found
- 4.14 What is the belief of the mother’s role in procreation exactly? (e.g., “receptacle in which fetus grows”): not found
- 4.15 Is conception believed to be an incremental process (i.e., semen builds up over time)?: not found
- 4.16 Occurrence of sexual coercion, rape: not found
- 4.17 Preferential category for spouse (e.g., cross cousin): not found
- 4.18 Do females enjoy sexual freedoms?: not found
- 4.19 Evidence of giving gifts to extramarital partners or extramarital offspring: not found
- 4.20 If mother dies, whose raises children?: not found
- 4.21 Adult sex ratio: number of adult males divided by number of (reproductive) females: not found
- 4.22 Evidence for couvades: not found
- 4.23 Different distinctions for potential fathers (e.g., lesser/younger vs. major/older):
According to one source, the Torá practice a “religious kinship, called the compadrio, or compaternity. Compaternity is a complex regional relations network that establishes ties among adults through their children (6).

When a man wants to be closer to another man, he will invite the man to be his sons' godfather. In spite of the relationship between the godfather and godson, the really important relationship is between the two fathers, or the compadres (6).

4.24 Kin avoidance and respect?: not found

4.24 Joking relationships?: not found

4.25 Patterns of descent (e.g., bilateral, matrilineal) for certain rights, names or associations: not found

4.26 Incest avoidance rules: not found

4.27 Is there a formal marriage ceremony?: not found

4.28 In what way(s) does one get a name, change their name, and obtain another name?: not found

4.29 Is marriage usually (or preferred to be) within community or outside community? (m/f difference?): not found

4.30 Are marriages arranged? Who arranges (e.g., parents, close kin)?: not found

4.31 Evidence for conflict of interest over who marries who: not found

Warfare/homicide

4.14 Percent adult (male) deaths due to warfare: not found

4.15 Outgroup vs ingroup cause of violent death: not found

4.16 Reported causes of in-group and out-group killing:

There was no information found on more recent in-group or out-group killings, but the 18th century "punitive expeditions" killed most of the Torá (6). For more information on past killings, see 1.4 Brief History.

4.17 Number, diversity and relationship with neighboring societies (external relations):

Although no other source confirmed this, there was one source that mentioned the trading of the Brazil nut to neighboring societies (6).

The Torá gather the Brazil nut for commercialization, a productive activity into a complex trading system involving Indians and locals. The locals will supply the Torá with products, comprised of basic and industrialized foodstuffs (6).

4.18 Cannibalism?: not found

5. Socio-Political organization and interaction

5.1 Mean local residential (village) group size: not found

5.2 Mobility pattern: (seasonality):

Towards the end of the 19th century, the Torá were described as sedentary (6).

5.3 Political system: (chiefs, clans etc, wealth or status classes): not found

5.4 Post-marital residence: not found

5.5 Territoriality? (defined boundaries, active defense): not found

5.6 Social interaction divisions? (age and sex): not found

5.7 Special friendships/joking relationships:

The Torá practice a "compaternity" or "compadrio," where the man asks another man to be his son's godfather, in order to create closer ties. The important relationship is the one between the two adults, or "compadres" (6). "Compaternity" is mentioned in 6.13 Religion and 4.23 Distinctions for potential fathers.

5.8 Village and house organization: not found

5.9 Specialized village structures (mens' houses): not found

5.10 Sleep in hammocks or on ground or elsewhere?: not found

5.11 Social organization, clans, moieties, lineages, etc: not found

5.12 Trade: Although no other source confirmed this, one source mentioned the trading of the Brazil nut to neighboring societies (6). The Torá gather the Brazil nut for commercialization, a productive activity into a complex trading system involving Indians and locals. The locals will supply the Torá with products, comprised of basic and industrialized foodstuffs (6).

5.13 Indications of social hierarchies?: not found

6. Ritual/Ceremony/Religion (RCR)

6.0 Time allocation to RCR: not found

6.1 Specialization (shamans and medicine): not found

6.2 Stimulants: not found

6.3 Passage rituals (birth, death, puberty, seasonal): not found

6.4 Other rituals: not found

6.5 Myths (Creation): not found

6.6 Cultural material (art, music, games): not found

6.7 Sex differences in RCR: not found

6.8 Missionary effect: not found

6.9 RCR revival: not found

6.10 Death and afterlife beliefs: not found

6.11 Taboo of naming dead people?: not found

6.12 Is there teknonymy?: not found

6.13 Briefly describe religion (animism, ancestor worship, deism, magic, totems etc.):

According to Joshuaproject.net, the Torá people's major religions are 25% Christianity and 75% Ethnic Religions (7). There was nothing found that further described their religion.

However, one source did mention the "compadrio", which they called a "religious kinship" that establishes a tie among adults through children. When a man wants to have closer ties with another man, he will ask the man to be one of his son's godfather, creating an important relationship between the two men (the compadres). I am not sure that this can be classified as part of their religion, but because the source did refer to it as "religious kinship," it is worth noting (6).

7. Adornment

7.1 Body paint: not found

7.2 Piercings: not found

7.3 Haircut: not found

7.4 Scarification: not found

7.5 Adornment (beads, feathers, lip plates, etc.):

Traditionally, the Torá have a tattooed strip running from the corners of the mouth to the ears (3, p399). There was no information found about whether or not the very small population of Torá that are left (if there are any) still practice this adornment.

7.6 Ceremonial/Ritual adornment: not found

7.7 Sex differences in adornment: not found

7.8 Missionary effect: not found

7.9 Cultural revival in adornment: not found

8. Kinship systems

8.1 Sibling classification system: not found

8.2 Sororate, levirate: not found

8.3 Other notable kinship typology, especially cross-cousin (MBD/FZD) typology (Crow/Hawaiian/Omaha etc.): not found

9. Other interesting cultural features (list them):

Numbered references

1. Lewis, M. Paul, Gary F. Simons, and Charles D. Fennig (eds.). 2013. *Ethnologue: Languages of the World, Seventeenth edition*. Dallas, Texas: SIL International. Online version: <http://www.ethnologue.com/language/trz>.
2. Lingua Mon Casa De Les Llengues. *Torá*. Online version: http://www10.gencat.cat/pres_casa_llengues/AppJava/frontend/llengues_detall_print.jsp?id=877&idioma=5.
3. Steward, J. H. (1948). *Handbook of South American Indians*. Smithsonian Institution Bureau of American Ethnology Volume 3: The Tropical Forest Tribes.
4. MultiTree: A Digital Library of Language Relationships. *Torá*. Online Version: <http://multitree.org/codes/trz.html>.
5. SOROSORO (2009). *Chapacuran language family*. Online version: <http://www.sorosoro.org/en/chapacuran-languages>.
6. Povos Indigenas No Brasil. *Torá*. Instituto Socioambiental. Online version: <http://pib.socioambiental.org/en/povo/tora/1057>
7. Joshuaproject.org. *Tora of Brazil*. U.S. Center for World Mission. Online version: <http://www.joshuaproject.net/people-profile.php?peo3=15564&rog3=BR>.