Questions to answer about Magical Writing in Salasaca, Chaps 1 – 3

These are compulsory questions for you to prepare for discussion.

1. Who are the people described in this book? What language do they speak and what is their position within the larger society, socially and linguistically? What concepts from the course so far can you usefully apply to understanding these questions?

2. What are the contexts in which the book’s subjects encounter writing, and what kind of writing is it? Think of every possibility mentioned in this section of the book. Use this opportunity to think about the diversity of contexts in which you encounter writing and text. How are they similar/different?

3. Based on your reading so far, why does writing have power, to the Salasacas? Do you feel that the parallels drawn with Western society are appropriate, in other words, do words have a kind of magical power in our own culture and society (or others that you know about?)