
Reviews

Colville-Okanagan Dictionary, compiled by Anthony Mattina. University of Montana Occasional Papers in Linguistics 1987 No. 5. viii, 354p. US\$18. (Available from Linguistics Laboratory, Department of Anthropology, University of Montana, Missoula, Montana 59812, U.S.A.)

In the Introduction¹, Mattina describes this dictionary as:

a first, preliminary edition of a dictionary of Colville-Okanagan, a Salish language continuum spoken in present-day British Columbia and Washington State, in an area that extends north-south along the Okanagan Valley from what is now Enderby, B.C., through Vernon, Kelowna, Penticton, Oliver, Osoyoos; Oroville, Wash., Omak, and Okanogan; also north-south along the Sanpoil and Kettle River valleys; and in the area west of the Columbia River as far west as Grand Coulee Dam. (page i)

A map, showing this area illustrates the front cover of the dictionary. Mattina lists the contributors of language information and describes the sources from which he compiled the dictionary and provides references to other written works about the Colville-Okanagan people's language, culture, history and environment. Within the dictionary entries, the sources of illustrative examples are indicated allowing the reader to make judgments about features such as dialect and register.

The Introduction describes the kinds of entries contained in the dictionary in terms of their morpho-phonological category – roots, particle skeletons, affix skeletons, full affixes and words – along with the minimal information about the phonological and morphological features of the language which the dictionary user needs to properly access information in the entries. The structure of the entries and the conventions followed by Mattina in composing dictionary entries are clearly set out with remarkable brevity. It is imperative that the dictionary user, particularly one unfamiliar with this language, read the Introduction, especially pages vi–viii.

The alphabet order for Colville-Okanagan entries is also given in the Introduction. Although the dictionary has running entry headers on each page, the user does have to refer back to the Introduction, at least until he/she becomes familiar with the alphabet order. This could have been avoided if the alphabet list were printed as a footer across each page.

To evaluate the quantity and quality of the information that a dictionary provides about the lexicon of a language, one needs to take several factors into consideration by trying to answer these questions (amongst others): how readily accessible to a user, or variety of users, is the information contained in the dictionary, what sources of language information were accessible to the dictionary compiler, how well did he or she use this information and present it?

The value of dictionaries varies greatly for different users. Mattina explicitly compiled this dictionary for the benefit of “Okanagan and Salish speakers, linguists and students”

(p. vi). In Canada there are some elderly speakers of the language still alive and there is interest in the Okanagan community in maintaining knowledge of a former way of life, of the language and the people's history. Mattina mentions the *Okanagan Indian Curriculum Project* in Canada with which he has been connected and from which this dictionary project has drawn benefit and which it in turn aims to support. The sort of information that people connected with this Project might want to get from the dictionary would include word meanings, spellings, words relating to particular content areas or semantic domains and a sense of the physical and cultural environment which Okanagan speakers traditionally shared. Such information is fairly readily accessible from the dictionary entries, aided by good cross-referencing of entries.

Materials for use by people wanting to learn the language, particularly in the context of school programs for children in Colville-Okanagan communities where the language is no longer in daily use by children could be successfully derived from this dictionary by people with an understanding of the children's needs and a good knowledge of and/or about the language. I don't believe that this dictionary could be used as the direct source of language data in school rooms at least not until students have benefited from some explicit teaching about the spelling system and its relation to the sound system of the language as well as about morphophonemic features of the language, word-formation principles and so forth.

Linguists should find this dictionary an easily accessible mine of linguistic data.

Moreover, apart from information searches dependent on the form of the dictionary entries and overall organization of the lexical information, any user would derive great profit and enjoyment from simply browsing through these dictionary entries as so many of them are wonderfully rich in information conveyed through the many illustrative sentences and textlets.

Users should access the dictionary both through entries in the *Colville-Okanagan to English* section (pages 1–289) and the *English to Colville-Okanagan* section (pages 293–354). This latter section is basically a word Finder List. A user wanting to know the Colville-Okanagan word(s) corresponding to English 'head' would find the entry reproduced as Appendix I.

Notice the cross-references to entries in the *Colville-Okanagan to English* section in which 'head' is found as an English gloss or translation equivalent. Then come extensive subentries consisting of words, phrases and idioms containing 'head'. To get more information about related Colville-Okanagan words and expressions, the user should consult the entries indicated in the list at the beginning of the 'head' entry in the *Colville-Okanagan to English* section, such as the entry for *qn* 'head, top' reproduced as Appendix II.

In his Introduction, Mattina alerts the user to deficiencies in his dictionary. Being compiled mainly from natural language material, i.e. texts, rather than as a result of systematically working to build up a lexicon domain by domain by seeking information about individual lexical items from language speakers, some common words, including some names of body parts, are missing while some possibly esoteric words are included. Likewise, textual examples may only provide a figurative or extended use of a word, not its 'basic' use, or only a subset of possible meanings or uses. On the other hand, because Mattina has also carried out extensive data collection with a view to analysing the phonological and grammatical analysis of the language, he was well-placed as a lexicographer of the language. His understanding of the underlying structure of the forms has informed his presentation in which each morpheme-type is distinguished. To make full use of a dictionary, users require knowledge of the grammar of the target language, so that in the case of languages which lack the documentation readily available to users of dictionaries of languages which have enjoyed a long tradition of linguistic

documentation, the ideal publication would comprise two parts: grammar and lexicon – ideally with cross-referencing between both parts. For users of dictionaries of languages such as Colville-Okanagan, most of whom are not native speakers or students of the language who can bring their innate knowledge of the grammar and lexical organization of the language to the task of dictionary consultation, it is imperative that there be ready access to both grammar and lexicon.

Ignorant of this language at the onset, I found that Mattina's decision to present roots and skeletons as vowelless 'headwords' while supplying, in illustrative examples and subentries, the surface phonological form of the words in which the root or skeleton figures, allows for optimal clarity with brevity. I found it not too difficult to locate the relevant morpheme form within illustrative words contained in the entry. It might be the case, however, that while a linguist might find Mattina's presentation logical and accessible, native language speakers might not, since they may expect head-words to be fully formed phonological words. For instance, I observed that literate Warlpiri-speaking people in central Australia had considerable difficulty locating verb entries using a version of a Warlpiri-English dictionary in which verbs were listed by verb stem – their native-speaker intuitions about verbs led them to search for an inflected form of the verb which constituted a phonological and morphological word.

Because language learners want to be able to pronounce words – not isolated morphemes – it is the surface phonological form that they require. For example, in the entry under *qn* 'head' which is preceded by = to indicate that it is a *lexical affix skeleton*, one finds these surface forms for 'head' within actual words: *qn*, *qin*, *qən*, *qi*, *q*.² Once the user finds words inside the dictionary entries, he/she can learn how to use (including pronounce) the form corresponding to 'head'. If the user starts from the English to Colville-Okanagan finder list, finding a form, and subsequently words containing it, is a relatively easy task thanks to the excellent cross-referencing provided. However, for a Colville-Okanagan speaker who attempts to find a word he/she knows directly in the Colville-Okanagan to English section of the dictionary, the task might be somewhat daunting. With such a user in mind, another approach to dictionary design might be to give all words as headwords with appropriate cross-referencing. With languages of this sort, I believe that the lexicographer is in a non-win situation and must make a design choice to suit the needs of the majority of users as best as possible within both linguistic and practical constraints such as allowable dictionary size.

If there is to be another edition of Mattina's Colville-Okanagan dictionary, I would recommend to the publishers that they include a fulsome grammar section and that they spend a little more money on the production giving the volume(s) a strong and attractive cover and extra-strength flexible binding and consider including appropriate illustrations, including photographs alongside the text. Judging from this 'first, preliminary edition' any subsequent edition will be of such excellent quality that it deserves a better quality physical presentation than was afforded this edition. It is unlikely that Mattina's dictionaries of this language will be bettered, and I think that many future generations of Colville-Okanagan people will treasure their copy – they will not want it to fall apart from too much loving use.

Notes

¹ At the outset I must warn readers that I was asked by the editor of the *International Journal of Lexicography* to review *Colville-Okanagan Dictionary* from the standpoint of a linguist-lexicographer engaged in compiling a dictionary of a language with a

recent and very limited written tradition, rather than from the standpoint of a Salish language specialist, which I certainly am not.

² I have not indicated prosodic contrasts here.

Mary Laughren
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Colville-Okanagan Dictionary

Appendix I

head $\acute{c}ásy=qn$, $=qn$, $=qin$, $=qin'$, $=qn'$, $=qi-$, $=q$. a whole head $n-mlk^w=qin$. back of the head $k\acute{t}-k\acute{m}=ap=qn$, $=ap=qn$. bald head $n-cq^w=\acute{s}aws=qn$. be hit on the back of the head $\acute{t}c-\acute{c}=ap=qn$, $k\acute{t}-sp'-p'=ap=qn$. be hit on the head $sp'-ap=qn$, $sp'-ap=qn-m$. be hit on top of the head $n-sp'-p'=aws=qn$. crown of head $n-k\acute{m}=aws=qn$. cut off somebody's head $n-kt'-kt'=us-nt$. cut somebody's head in half $n-xl=aws=qn-nt$. cut somebody's head off $n-xl=us-nt$. get dizzy, have a spinning head $n-sl-p=qin$. head of the river $k\acute{m}=qin$. head or ear rest $s-n-qa?=\acute{ina}?$. hit somebody on the head $k-\acute{t}c=qin-m$, $k-sp'-ap=qn-m$, $k-sp'=qi(n)-nt$, $sp'-ap=q(n)-nt$. top of head $=aws=qn$, $=\acute{s}aws=qn$. one head $naqs=qn$. pat somebody on the head $\acute{t}ac=q(n)-nt-m$. pull something out of the top of the head $\acute{c}wq=\acute{aya}=?qn-(n)t$. put the hand(s) under the head $k\acute{t}-klx=ap=qn$. raise one's head $k\acute{at}=qn-m$. several head of animals $x^wa?-x^wa?=\acute{s}q\acute{a}xa?$. ten head $?apn=kst=\acute{aya}=?qn$. tip one's head $n-\acute{t}p=qsa-m$. top of the head $=\acute{aya}=?qn$. two heads $?asl=\acute{aya}=?qn$. wash one's head $k-\acute{c}i\acute{w}=qn$.

headache $n-\acute{ca}?\acute{r}=qin$, $qil=qn$.

headdress feather headdress $s-k-\acute{c}l=qin$.

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Appendix II

$=qn$ $=qin$ head, top. « $qap-qin-tn$. Hair on the head. (OkB)» « $s-\acute{c}m-qin$. Brains. (OkB)» « $xn'-qin-tn$. Cover, lid. (OkB)» « $\eta-taq-qin-(n)t-x^w$. You vote (you pick

them). (Cv)» «kən ɲ-ʔaʔq̣ʷ-əm-qín. I came out with it
 loud. (Cv)» «s-n-wulp-qín. A stroke. (OkB)»
 «swat-qín. Expression used after doing something wrong.
 (Cv)» «wkna-qín-x. People from Okanogan. (Cv)»
 «c-ən-məl̥ḳʷ-qín. A whole piece. (PS)» «yaʃ-p-qín.
 Lots, a crowd. (PS)» «kən ɲ-čaʔr-qín. I have a
 headache. (Cv)» «ḳʷu ɲ-cah-əh-qín. We are facing a
 direction. (PS)» «c-ən-q̣ʷəc-qín. A snag. (Cv)» «kən
 c-k-s-qəm-qín-əm. I drive the team. (Cv)» «ḳəm-qín-s.
 The head of the river. (PS)» «məc̣-qín-əm. To oil one's
 hair. (Cv)» «məx̣-qín-əm. To stoop. (Cv)» «p̣əʔ-qín.
 Mushroom. (Cv)» «n-cə-cəl-cəl̥x̣ʷ=qín. Pineapple
 weed.» (OkB) «sə-sp̣-qín. Wheat.» (OkB)
 «s-ḳʷl-ḳʷl-qín. Saskatoon, or serviceberry.» (OkB)
 «s-nəq-nəqt-qín. Salvia.» (OkB) «wup-wup-qín. Giant
 hyssop.» (OkB) «qíṇ head, top. «q̣ʷəl-q̣ʷast-qíṇ.
 Cattail rushes. (OkB)» «n-čə-cq̣-qíṇ-tn. Hammer. (OkB)»
 «pəq-pəq-qíṇ. Whiskey jack. (OkB)» «qn -qən, -qn
 head, top. «čáʔsi-qən. Head. (Cv)»
 «ḳʷaw-qən-míst-əm-s. He coaxed her. (PS)» «iwà
 ḳnáyaʔ-qən. He tried to listen. (PS)» «kən q̣íl-qən. I
 have a headache. (Cv)» «q̣ʷác-qən. Hat. (Cv)»
 «t-x̣ʷəy-x̣ʷáy-qən. Piled. (PS)» «kən
 wiʔ-s-k-s-wəl-qən-(n)cút. I have recovered. (Cv)»
 «ɲ-ʃʷəl-ʃʷəl-qən-m-ənwíx̣ʷ. Inside it (e.g. a clam shell).
 (Cv)» «ɲ-x̣ʷáy-qən. Poles tied together. (Cv)»
 «ɲ-cq̣ʷ-ʃáʷs-qən. Bald head. (Cv)» «ʔíxəm-qən. Man's
 name. (Cv)» «s-q̣íc-qən. Bird's wattle. (Cv)»
 «t-tíʔəlq̣ʷp-qən. Coyote's son's name. (Cv)»
 «s-čám-yaʔ-qn. Skull. (OkB)» «s-q̣íc-qn. Stomach.
 (OkB)» «s-pwal-qn. Salmon club. (OkB)»
 «səp̣-əp̣-áp-qn. Get hit on the head with a stick. (OkB)»
 «kən xát-qn-əm-s. I start my song. (Cv)»
 «ɲ-ḳəm-qn-íʔx̣ʷ. The top of the house. (Cv)»
 «məl-qn-úps. Eagles. (PS)» «ḳʷəl-ḳʷəlaʃ-qn. Red
 Indian paintbrush.» (OkB) «pəl-pəl-qn-íʔmíx̣.
 Thimbleberry.» (OkB) «sə-yáya-qn. Water parsnip.»

(OkB) «s-támu?-qn. Skunk cabbage.» (OkB)
 «s-tə-tiyáy-qn. Foxtail barley and speargrass.» (OkB)
 «wəs-wásxn-qn. Lupines (long flowered type).» (OkB)
 «xəp-xíp-qn. Hawk's beard.» (OkB) =qn' head, top.
 «c-n-q^wásq^wa?-qn'. Stupid. (OkB)» =qi- head, top.
 BEFORE -(nt-)s. «kəhk^w-qí-s axà? ya? lkasát. He
 opened the trunk. (PS)» «n-ɬac-qí-s. He ties it. (Cv)»
 «ʔal-qí-s-əlɬ. They put the cover on it. (PS)»
 «k-ɬəc-qí-s. He was going to whip him on the head. (PS)»
 =q head, top. before -s. «n-təp-q-sá-m. He tipped his
 head. (PS)» «n-xla-ws-q-s. He cut his head in half.
 (PS)»