

REVIEWS

SPOKANE DICTIONARY. Compiled by Barry F. Carlson and Pauline Flett. University of Montana Occasional Papers in Linguistics, no. 6. Missoula: University of Montana, 1989. Pp. vii + 306.

This is a preliminary edition of the first modern linguistic dictionary of Spokane, one of three dialects of the Kalispel language (Thompson 1979:693, 707). Kalispel is the easternmost Salishan language; its other dialects are Kalispel and Flathead. Carlson and Flett produced a preliminary version to provide a first dictionary to aid language revival efforts spearheaded by Flett and to aid descriptive and comparative work on other Salishan languages by linguists and Amerindian researchers. Though estimates of remaining speakers are not given in the work, numbers of remaining speakers are small, and this *Dictionary* will fulfill its applied, descriptive, and comparative aims. As it stands, it is a very useful work, easy to use and rich with interesting words and dependable linguistic analysis.

The volume begins with "Acknowledgments" to the native speakers, tribal supporters (such as Chief Alex Sherwood), and linguists who aided in the gathering, analysis, computerization, and production of the final result. Tony Mattina, Tim Montler, and Bob Hsu were all involved in the computerization (Hsu's Lexware was used), as were Deirdre Black and Larry Eby. The acknowledgments conclude with an appreciative note to the people of the Reservation where Spokane is spoken: "Since 1969, language research by Carlson and Flett has touched nearly every speaker of the language on the reservation. Information was always offered freely, with the good nature characteristic of the Spokane people. Hopefully this version of a Spokane Dictionary will please them and encourage a later, greatly expanded edition."

The "Introduction" discusses the background of the *Dictionary*: its beginning as a computerized root list growing out of Carlson's grammatical study with information from speaker Margaret Sherwood. It has been expanded to include the following: some material from a rich body of traditional texts taped from Albert Sam and transcribed with the help of Margaret Sherwood; all the ethnobotanical information collected by Bob May with help of Antoine Andrews (Chewelah Kalispel), Nancy Flett, and ethnobotanist Nancy Turner; some data from narrative texts in Spokane by Lucy Peuse and some in Kalispel by Antoine Andrews; some data from sample texts collected from other speakers; and information collected from speakers by Pauline Flett.

The "Introduction" also provides further information on the Spokane reservation in eastern Washington, where this dialect is spoken, and further information about Pauline Flett's involvement. Flett, a member of the Spokane tribe, learned to write her language in the early 1980s, directs tribal work with the language, and continues to gather valuable information from elders on the language. Carlson, a professor at

the University of Victoria in British Columbia began fieldwork with Spokane in 1969 as a graduate student under Laurence Thompson at the University of Hawaii. His Ph.D. dissertation, "A Grammar of Spokane, a Salish Language of Eastern Washington," was published in 1972 in the University of Hawaii's *Working Papers in Linguistics*. He has written a number of articles analyzing Spokane phonology and morphology (Carlson 1976; 1980a; 1980b; 1989 and Carlson and Thompson 1982, etc.) and has published a traditional Spokane coyote story in the 1978 volume edited by William Bright (*IJAL Native American Text Series*).

The *Spokane Dictionary* is in two parts, Spokane-to-English and English-to-Spokane. The Spokane-to-English part is organized with roots and lexical affixes as headwords. The square-root sign precedes each type of headword (though it might be better omitted with affixes since they are not roots and the formatting is sufficient to indicate their main entry status).

The Spokane alphabetical order used is easy to follow for English speakers, approximating that of English (*a c c' č ċ e h i k k' k^w k^w l l' ł ʁ m m' n n' o p p' q q' q^w q^w r r' s š t t' u w ẉ x x^w x̣ x̣^w y ý ʃ ʃ^w ʃ' ʃ'^w*). Root entries include the base form of the root, the vowel which appears in allomorphs of the root before certain suffixes (where attested), the stress type of the root (s = strong, w = weak, v = variable), additional root shapes—dialect or idiolect variants in parentheses (where attested), then derivational and inflectional surface forms based on each root—given in the order: inflections, reduplications, lexicals (derivations with lexical affixes), and nominals (these are not mutually exclusive as some cooccur). Carlson uses an equal sign (=) to indicate lexical affixes and a hyphen (-) to indicate inflectional affixes, a practice he invented in his dissertation, I believe, which is becoming more standard in recent works on Salishan languages (Montler 1986, Mattina 1987, Thompson and Thompson 1991, Kinkade 1991, Galloway 1990, Bates, Hess, and Hilbert 1994, etc.).

Each root is followed by its meaning before its derived and inflected forms are given. This allows the reader to tell quickly if he is looking at a root with the right meaning without going into the entry much further. While word classes are not indicated, the glosses and examples make them quite clear in most cases.

The inflected forms list simple intransitive and middle voice forms first; then follow various forms inflected for aspect, control/noncontrol, etc.; then transitive forms and more highly inflected forms. Reduplications (reduplicated forms) are listed next; reduplication is used for plural/augmentative, diminutive, out-of-control, and repetitive. Forms using lexical affixes then follow and actually constitute the bulk of entries under each headword.

The last listings are, as Carlson says, "a catch-all," with forms with nominalizing affixes, agentives, prepositionals, and other affixes. Compounds with two or more roots also exist and are shown under the first root, with subsequent roots preceded by their own root signs.

The "Introduction" conveniently lists all the affixes in each group, with their glosses, but does not list all the lexical affixes since they are incorporated as main entries and can be found by shape or gloss in the *Dictionary*. The inflectional and nonlexical affix glosses are not given in the entries themselves. Instead, each inflected or derived form or sentence is given with its usual fluent translation. This has the

advantage of making the work more usable and immediate for learners and nonlinguists. The linguist seeking analysis can refer to the "Introduction" and/or to Carlson's *Grammar* to confirm the inflectional and derivational structure of the surface forms.

While some Spokane letters have comparatively few entries (twelve under the letter *a*, five under *i*, twenty-nine under *q*), much of this is due to the fact that this is a preliminary dictionary; with other cases, such as glottalized resonants, there are few entries because these sounds are rare initially in roots or affixes—they often arise from historical or morphophonemic processes that seldom operate root or affix initially—thus there is only a single form listed under glottalized *l* and glottalized *n*, only two under glottalized *m*, etc. For *k* and glottalized *k* there are few roots and affixes listed (two and one, respectively), probably since these are rare sounds here, as in many other Salish languages.

The Spokane-to-English section is 128 pages, while the English-to-Spokane section is 175 pages. Thus the English-to-Spokane section is more than a finder-list. Roots, affixes, and derived words are all given in this section, and every form is shown with affixes and roots fully indicated (inflections hyphenated and derivational affixes attached with equal signs). Where it is a root form that is glossed, the stress class, vowel alternant, and alternant forms are given, as in the Spokane-to-English section. The advantage of a fuller English-to-Spokane section (fuller than a finder-list) is that this section is more immediately usable for speakers and language learners. One need not do cross-checking with the Spokane-to-English section, unless one wants to know more detail about related forms or the derivational or inflectional history of a form.

Alternant meanings (allosemes, in my terms) in the English-to-Spokane part of the *Dictionary* are given separated by periods but without capitalization. This serves well to separate the meanings, though no semantic environments or domains are given to help predict which alloseme occurs in which context. In a later edition more detailed meanings and cultural information, as well as semantic environments/domains, could be given for each alternant meaning. Flora are identified with scientific names as well as common names, and both can be found in the English-to-Spokane entries:

genus Spokane term. common name. genus species (subspecies), and
common name Spokane term. genus species (subspecies). [Carlson's punctuation]

Other cross-references are also fairly thorough in this part of the *Dictionary*. For example, the term for 'preserved meat' is found under both 'preserve' and 'meat' (where other types of meat are also listed).

Literal meanings of derived terms are seldom given but, when given, are listed at the end of the allosemes of the term: thus, under 'chickenpox' the Spokane term follows, then "smallpox. pox. It's visible on the outside." Most literal meanings can be uncovered by looking up the roots and affixes separately, but I'd rather see them in the entry.

In sum, this *Dictionary* is a welcome addition to the growing list of Salish language dictionaries. It is easy to use, very competently done, and has much useful information for anyone interested in learning Spokane, comparing Spokane to other languages, or looking at Indian lexicography. I hope the authors will be able to

continue gathering and analyzing data on the language so that we can see a fuller edition of this *Dictionary*, as clearly done and as well analyzed.

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