

Thompson River Salish Dictionary. Compiled by Laurence C. Thompson and M. Terry Thompson. University of Montana Occasional Papers in Linguistics 12, 1996. 1,411 pp. \$45 (hard cover). [This magnificent reference dictionary—a steal at \$45—is the culmination of more than three decades of work by Larry and Terry Thompson, sadly interrupted in 1983 by Larry’s severe stroke but brought to completion by Terry and a team of co-workers in Hawaii and British Columbia.

Together with their descriptive grammar, *The Thompson Language* (UMOPL 8, 1992), and an exhaustive ethnobotany (*Knowledge and Usage of Plants by the Thompson Indians of British Columbia*, co-authored with Annie Z. York and Nancy J. Turner, 1990), the Thompsons’ dictionary makes this Interior Salish language one of the most thoroughly documented in North America. (A collection of traditional stories, in preparation, will be the capstone to this monumental work.)

The primary (Thompson-English) section of the dictionary is organized largely by stem (the surface shape of a basic root, sometimes modified by infixes and suffixes), although a relatively small number of unanalyzable words and particles are also represented as headwords. Various subentries list the known grammatical inflections and derivations of the stem, roughly in alphabetical order. Wherever possible, illustrative sentences are given to illuminate the use of words in sentences. Other devices mark off compounds and secondary stems formed with lexical suffixes.

Appendix A at the end of the Thompson-English section gives an alphabetical list of the underlying roots, noting all the stems formed from each root. Appendix B is a list of lexical suffixes used to form secondary stems. Appendix C lists all occurring grammatical affixes, both reduplicating and non-reduplicating. The elaborate system of subject and object suffixes is laid out in tables of the major paradigms.

The English-Thompson section of the dictionary, as is usual with dictionaries of languages of this type, serves as an index to the Thompson-English section. It is however quite thorough, occupying more than a half of the book. Here, as in many other sections of this exemplary work, the effectiveness of Robert Hsu’s lexicographic database software (“Lexware”) is apparent. The Thompsons have worked closely with Hsu at the University of Hawaii for many years, and this dictionary shows how productive such collaboration can be.

—Order from: UMOPL - Linguistics Laboratory, Linguistics Program, Univ. of Montana, Missoula, MT 59812. Price in US dollars, postpaid to US addresses. For Canada add \$5 shipping; for Japan or Europe add \$9 (surface) or \$12 (air mail). Make checks payable to UMOPL.]