

**Laurence C. Thompson and M. Terry Thompson.** *Thompson River Salish Dictionary: n̄eʔkémx̄cin*. In the series *University of Montana Occasional Papers in Linguistics* 12. Linguistics Program, University of Montana, Missoula. 1996. Pp. xxvii + 1412. US\$45.00 (hardcover).

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This book presents a massive body of lexical material collected by the authors on the language of the Thompson Salish Indians of British Columbia, whose ancestral homeland covers the lower part of the Thompson River plus adjacent areas. The term *n̄eʔkémx̄*, which formerly designated only the people of the central part of the territory, has in recent years been extended to cover the other Thompson-speaking groups as well, an extension of usage that has had to overcome some initial resistance from the non-central groups. (The suffix *-cin* 'mouth', added to the name of a group or settlement indicates 'to speak the language of that group or settlement'. The semi-standardized anglicized version of *n̄eʔkémx̄* is Ntlakapmuk.) The material presented in this dictionary was collected during a number of periods between 1962 and 1991, with the bulk of the work being achieved between 1968 and 1982. In 1983 Laurence Thompson suffered a stroke which has severely limited his involvement in the ongoing collection and analysis of Thompson language data. Fortunately, his work has been carried on in admirable fashion by his wife Terry, with the help of a number of colleagues, of whom Steven M. Egesdal deserves special mention. (The various collaborators in the project, and the native speakers of Thompson who shared their knowledge of the language are all gracefully acknowledged in the preface.)

This is the first Thompson dictionary that meets the basic criteria of completeness and reliability of transcription that one must demand of any work of such nature. There are older materials available on the language, but these are incomplete and highly unreliable because of their massive failure to record faithfully the complex phonetics of the Thompson language. (A brief synopsis of the history of Thompson linguistic studies prior to the 1960s is given in Thompson and Thompson 1992:2.) Although no guarantee of completeness can ever be given for any dictionary that covers a threatened but still spoken language like Thompson, this dictionary comes as close to the ideal as it is possible to get. The authors do not inform us how many entries are listed in the Thompson-English portion of the book (pp. 1–482), but a count of the headwords in the first ten pages (153) suggests a total of approximately 7,400 headwords (to which we have to add countless derivations from these headwords, plus examples of use in sentences). All semantic areas are thoroughly covered, with the partial exception of place names, tribal names and personal names — certainly a forgivable lacuna since the geographical locations designated by place names are often only reliably identified if one is in the presence of the location in question, and such locations may be hard to reach for knowledgeable speakers who tend to be of advanced age and often in failing health. Listing of personal names is only possible after explicit permission from the bearers of such names (an aspect of Salish culture that the authors have wisely chosen to respect). As for tribal names, the list is admittedly not exhaustive, but the names of most of the tribes bordering on the Thompsons, or the tribes with whom the Thompsons were in extensive contact, are listed. A very gratifying aspect of the dictionary is the attention paid to botanical and zoological names: rather than relying on English terms for such items (a method the hazards of which are convincingly pointed out in Kimball 1990), all botanical and many zoological items were confirmed on the basis of identification of specimens collected during field research, with the assistance of experts in the fields of botany and

zoology. For the botanical terms, the Latin names are also listed, as provided by Nancy J. Turner, of the Botany Division, Royal British Columbia Museum, and the University of Victoria.

A potential area of concern regarding any work on a previously unstudied or understudied language is the reliability of the transcriptions, especially in the case of a Salish language like Thompson with its daunting phonetics. Fortunately, there is no reason to worry here: the thorough grounding of the authors in field methodology, their long-standing acquaintance with the language, and their openness to suggestions and criticism so well-known to their colleagues in the field of Salish linguistics, all guarantee the highest quality in the transcriptions. Also, the listed items are confirmed in their phonemic details by comparisons with other Salish languages that have received expert attention. Readers can thus approach this work in the safe knowledge that all the lexical bases are covered and that the transcriptions are accurate and reliable.

The organization of the dictionary is as follows: Introductory section (including Table of Contents, Preface, Introduction, and List of Abbreviations), pp. i–xxvii; Part One (Thompson-English), pp. 1–561 (with the dictionary proper, pp. 1–482, Appendix A [Root List], pp. 483–530, Appendix B [Lexical Suffix List], pp. 531–543, Appendix C [Grammatical Affix List and Transitive Paradigm Tables], pp. 545–555, and Bibliography, pp. 556–561); Part Two (English-Thompson), pp. 563–1412.

The introductory section is mainly concerned with explaining the organization of the dictionary proper (pp. 1–482). The entries in the dictionary are organized by headwords (i.e., words without prefixes, more on which below), arranged in the following alphabetical order: *p a c c' ç ə ə ɾ ɾ' h i j k k' k'' k''' l l' ł ʃ' m m' n n' o p p' q q' q'' q''' s s t t' θ u w w' x x'' x''' y y' z z' ɕ ɕ' ɕ'' ɕ'''*. The symbol *θ* is rare and occurs only in words borrowed from neighbouring Halkomelem or from English. The phoneme *t'*, which is rare and limited to apparent loanwords, merges in some idiolects with *ʃ'* (which, by the way, coalesces Proto-Salish \**t'* and \**ʃ'*, Thompson and Thompson 1992:6). The symbols of the alphabet are printed across facing pages throughout the Thompson-English dictionary (including *ł*, which only occurs in underlying roots, but not glottalized *ł'*, which is also limited to underlying roots — see Thompson and Thompson 1992:43 for details on this matter).

As was said above, the entries in the dictionary consist of headwords. These fall into three types: particles (full words that in general do not take any morphological operations), full words (that is, words that may take a variety of morphological operations, but may also occur by themselves, as monomorphemic free forms), and stems (the roots of full words which can be extended or changed by a variety of morphological operations; many stems do not occur without at least one morphological operation). The particles, full words and stems are listed as such in the dictionary, according to their alphabetical order. To give a few examples: a particle like *χatki(y)* '[I] guess, apparently, it has become clear (that ... )' is listed as such in the *χ* section, and the full word */xʔit* 'scout/raider' and the stem */caz-* 'snow-disappear' are also listed as such in their respective sections.<sup>1</sup> Also listed as

<sup>1</sup>A slash precedes the surface roots of full words and stems, but not particles, and a hyphen follows stems that do not occur without derivations. Where a hyphen precedes a morpheme it signals a non-lexical suffix. A phoneme in square brackets indicates an infix. Square brackets enclosing a phoneme with a preceding high dot signal an inserted reduplicative morpheme. A high dot without square brackets signals a reduplicative addition before or after a stem. An equals sign signals a lexical suffix.

separate entries are most non-prefixal derivations of full words and stems, that is, those derivations that involve reduplication, infixation, or vowel change, or any combination of these, e.g., /xɔʔi[·ɔ]t 'little (young?) scout, spy, advance warrior surveying route for party of raiders' (with infixal reduplication of the ɔ), /c[ɔ]áz 'snow-disappear' (with infixed ɔ, not to be confused with the infixal reduplication of ɔ in the previous item), which occurs as a free form, and /ca[ɔ]z- 'snow-disappear' (with the infixed ɔ after the vowel), which is the basis of the further derivations *nca[ɔ]z=énk* 'snow disappears from the face, front, side of the hill or mountain', *nca[ɔ]z=éw's* 'snow is melted off the trail or road', *(n)ca[ɔ]z=úym'x<sup>w</sup>* 'snow disappears from the ground, snow is all gone from the land', all with different lexical suffixes (which are introduced by =). Following the alphabetical order, /xɔʔi[·ɔ]t is listed before *xɔʔít*, while /c[ɔ]áz and /ca[ɔ]z- (in that order) precede /caz-. An example with an extension that precedes the root is *cək'/cék* '[of weather, air, atmosphere inside] pleasantly cool', which is based on the root (stem) /cek- (also listed separately) '(...) degrees and types of cold (...)', and which contains left-branching reduplication of the first consonant-vowel-consonant of the root, an operation that signals the category "augmentative". (Following the general ordering principles of the dictionary, *cək'/cék* is listed as a separate entry, and — since ə follows e — it is listed after the root /cek-.) A stem with internal vowel change is /qix<sup>w</sup>-, listed separately as a reduced form of /qayx<sup>w</sup>- 'man'.

Derivations that are not listed as separate entries (compounds and many forms with suffixes) are listed as sub-entries under their respective stems. A heavy diamond and a new paragraph introduce most sub-entries, but in a large number of cases a heavy right-pointing arrow (not starting a new paragraph) is used to introduce a new derivation. (The use of the right-pointing arrow is not explained and it is also missing from the list of symbols on p. xi. It is therefore not quite clear to me what distinguishes it from the diamond.) For example, the three derivations of /ca[ɔ]z- quoted above are listed under that stem, preceded by the arrow. Since the alphabetical listing may scatter various derivations of the same root over different entries (see the examples above), each entry of a full word or stem (but not particles) comes with a reference to the root list in Appendix A. Entries in the root list are signalled by √, to keep them separate from the surface roots in the main dictionary, which (as we have seen) are signalled by / . Thus, both /qayx<sup>w</sup>- and /qix<sup>w</sup>- (quoted above) refer to the root √qayx<sup>w</sup>, and this root in its turn lists all its surface manifestations in the main dictionary, thereby allowing the tracing of its full morphological scope.

Since prefixes are ignored for listing purposes, a word like *s/qayx<sup>w</sup>* 'man' with the nominalizing prefix *s-* has to be looked up under the stem /qayx<sup>w</sup>. In the same way, one will find *ɔes/k'él̥* 'already dirty' (with the stative prefix *ɔes-*) under /k'eł̥- '(...) muddy or dirty'. A list of prefixes is given on p. xviii.

The exclusion of the prefixes makes for a certain awkwardness in the listing of individual items, in that a form with a prefix will be listed under its non-prefixed stem, while a non-prefixed item will usually receive an individual entry. For example, *nca[ɔ]z=úym'x<sup>w</sup>* is listed under /ca[ɔ]z-, as we have seen above, but the form *cək'/cek-=úym'x<sup>w</sup>* 'a cool place' (also with the suffix =úym'x<sup>w</sup> 'land') is given its own listing (with a cross-reference to /cek-, where it is repeated, thus creating a redundancy). Also, in the case of suffixed forms without prefixes it is not always clear to me why some are listed under their stem, while others (like *cək'/cek-=úym'x<sup>w</sup>* above) receive a double listing. For example, of a number of cases with the suffix =useɔ 'berry, fruit [and related objects, especially round ones — VE]' the form /caq<sup>w</sup>=úseɔ 'fruit turns red' is listed under /ceq<sup>w</sup>- ~ /caq<sup>w</sup>- (a doublet) 'brown/red', and /ciq<sup>w</sup>-=úseɔ 'red variety of choke cherry fruit *Prunus virginiana*' is listed under /ciq<sup>w</sup>- 'red',

but *cəq<sup>w</sup>/ciq<sup>w</sup>-=úse?* 'red huckleberry, whortleberry' is given its own listing while it is also listed under */ciq<sup>w</sup>-=úse?* under */ciq<sup>w</sup>-*. I also wonder why a partially completed form like */X'ú[·X']p=y'eq<sup>w</sup>-* is given its own listing while the completed form *res/X'ú[·X']p=y'eq<sup>w</sup>* 'gnarled or twisted plant' can be looked up under */X'up-* 'twist'. The organizational principles thus lead to a number of redundancies, which could have been easily avoided because the authors have done a superb job of meticulously marking all morphological operations in the entries, and a reader who would find, for example, *res/X'ú[·X']p=y'eq<sup>w</sup>* in a text, should have no trouble stripping this word down to its stem */X'up-* and finding the word in question under that stem. I would therefore have preferred either an entirely alphabetical organization, with full recognition of the prefixes, which would have given each derivation its own single listing, or (even better) a list-by-roots approach, with all derivations listed under the pertinent root, along the lines of Kinkade's dictionary of Upper Chehalis (Kinkade 1991) or Kuipers' dictionary of Shuswap (Kuipers 1974).

Somewhat more bothersome is the fact that the particles are not listed in the root list (Appendix A). We now have a complete listing of the roots in the dictionary (pp. 1-482), but with these roots mixed in with full derivations, and we have a list of roots without the particles in Appendix A, but we do not have an exclusive list of all the roots (such as can be easily gleaned from Kinkade's and Kuipers' dictionaries).

These minor points of criticism detract nothing from the fact that this is an outstanding piece of work, marvelous in scope and rich in detail. History has not been kind to the Thompson Indians (or to any other Native American group), and their language has suffered greatly from forced acculturation and brutal oppression. Fortunately they have found Laurence and Terry Thompson on their side, and this dictionary stands as a monument to the linguistic heritage of the Thompson people. It can proudly take its place beside the other classic dictionaries of Salish languages, such as Bates, Hess and Hilbert (1994) for Lushootseed, Carlson and Flett (1989) for Spokane, Kinkade (1991) for Upper Chehalis, Kuipers (1967-69, 1989) for Squamish, Kuipers (1974, 1989) for Shuswap, and Mattina (1987) for Colville-Okanagan. The dictionary is extremely useful not only to Salishists (especially those with comparative-historical interests), but also to Amerindianists in general who will find many examples of the polysynthetic structure of a typical Salish language which can be used in linguistics classes at any level or as illustrations of theoretical points. Semanticists will enjoy the book for its detailed coverage of such semantic fields as kinship terms and folk taxonomies. Particularly useful to morphologists are the lexical suffix list in Appendix B and the grammatical affix list and transitive paradigm tables in Appendix C. The Thompson language can now claim to be one of the best studied in Native North America, since this dictionary complements the authors' 1992 grammar, and their massive Thompson ethnobotany (Turner, Thompson, Thompson, and York 1990). A collection of traditional Thompson stories is in preparation.

The dictionary is blissfully free of major typos, and those that I found are too obvious to cause serious confusion. On p. xi there is a word missing after "sparse" (first line, left column). The word *noθpín* on p. xv (third line from bottom) should be *no<sup>s</sup>θpín*. On p. xxiii the third and fourth lines from the bottom in the second column need to be connected. The word "Ashcroft" on p. xxv (left column) needs to be lined up with the other words. The abbreviation "TRAD" on p. xxvii (right column) needs to be placed before "TRANSLOC". The slash is missing between the raised dot and the stem *ciq<sup>w</sup>* in *s-cəq<sup>w</sup>.ciq<sup>w</sup>-=úse?* on p. 32 (line 15, left column). The stems */ken<sup>1</sup>-* and */ke<sup>1</sup>-* on p. 85 should have the raised "1" after the hyphen, not before.

This is the twelfth volume in the *University of Montana Occasional Papers in Linguistics*, a series dedicated to the study of the Native languages of the Northwest, published since 1980 under the editorial supervision of Anthony Mattina and Tim Montler. A word of thanks is in order to these scholars for their unwavering dedication to the study of Salish and neighbouring languages. The quality of the volumes in the *UMOPL* has been consistently high, and the series includes, among many fine contributions, the Spokane, Upper Chehalis and Colville-Okanagan dictionaries referred to above. We look forward to many more volumes in this series. Few Native language families have been served so well in recent years by such a variety of outstanding scholars, under such careful editorial stewardship.

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