

**Cowlitz Dictionary and Grammatical Sketch.** M. DALE KINKADE. University of Montana Occasional Papers in Linguistics 18. Missoula: Linguistics Laboratory, University of Montana, 2004. Pp. xxix + 341. \$20.00 (paper).

Reviewed by Paul D. Kroeber, *Indiana University*

The work under review, completed by M. Dale Kinkade shortly before his death, describes Cowlitz, a now-extinct language of the Tsamosan branch of the Salish family and a close relative of Upper Chehalis. (It is distinct from Upper Cowlitz, a Sahaptin dialect [p. x].) The bulk of the data was recorded from the last speakers by Kinkade in 1967, but the scanty material obtained by earlier workers is also included, with sources clearly marked and original orthography for the most part retained. (Manuscript materials recorded by Thelma Adamson in the 1920s could not be located, however [p. xiii].) The language was in an advanced stage of obsolescence by the time of Kinkade's fieldwork, so information on it is necessarily limited in quantity and in depth of analysis, but we are lucky to have it collected and presented with Kinkade's usual meticulous care.

The grammatical sketch (pp. 217–81) is clear, informative, and unpretentious. It focuses on morphology, especially inflectional morphology, but treats phonology and some syntactic topics as well. Cowlitz, indeed, is very similar to Upper Chehalis, a fact that was advantageous to Kinkade given his extensive work on the latter language (p. viii; cf. Kinkade [1991] and references there). For example, the two languages share a differentiation, pervasive in both inflectional and derivational morphology, between imperfective and nonimperfective aspectual forms (pp. 229–40, 246), linked in part with complex “patterns of deletion and retention of unstressed vowels” (pp. 223–24). From the comparativist's point of view, it is in a way disappointing that the languages are not more different, but, on the other hand, it is important to have their closeness publicly documented here. And Cowlitz does have at least one distinctive grammatical trait: uniquely within the Salish family, its third-person possessive suffix is normally *-i* rather than *-s* (pp. 241–43). (The examples of Cowlitz *-s* possessives that Kinkade is able to cite [p. 243] appear to be syntactic nominalizations.) Phonologically, Cowlitz is distinctive in that the velar-to-alveopalatal shift characteristic of Upper Chehalis, and of many other coastal Salish languages, is only partly accomplished in Cowlitz (pp. 222–23; Kinkade 1973).

Besides the main Cowlitz-to-English and English-to-Cowlitz lexical listings (pp. 1–120 and 121–216, respectively), appendices present lists of derivational and inflectional affixes (pp. 282–326), place names and personal names (pp. 327–37), and loanwords (pp. 337–41). In the Cowlitz-to-English lexical section, main entries are roots; subentries list attested derivatives of a given root, and sometimes inflectional forms as well, as is helpfully explained and exemplified in the front matter (pp. xv–xix).

I admit to not being entirely satisfied with the format of the lexical listings and appendices. They are in double columns, and are in rather large type; this results in choppy, short lines, often containing only three or four words, that are hard to process visually. There is certainly no objection to the large and legible type used, but entries would then be considerably pleasanter to read if they ran across the page rather than being squeezed into columns. Perhaps, too, subentries could be put on separate, indented, lines (as in, e.g., Aoki 1994), rather than run in as they are here. Still, even if the appearance of entries falls a bit short of the ideal, the lexical and grammatical information they present is more than adequate. All in all, this an extremely useful contribution to Salish studies.

### References

Aoki, Haruo

- 1994      Nez Perce Dictionary. University of California Publications in Linguistics 122. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Kinkade, M. Dale

- 1973      The Alveopalatal Shift in Cowlitz Salish. *International Journal of American Linguistics* 39(4):224–31.
- 1991      Upper Chehalis Dictionary. University of Montana Occasional Papers in Linguistics 7. Missoula: Linguistics Laboratory, University of Montana.