

**The Status of Documentation for British Columbia  
Native Languages**

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# 1. Introduction

This document describes the status of documentation for the native languages of British Columbia.<sup>1</sup> The kinds of documentation described are: (a) dictionaries; (b) grammars; (c) collections of text; and (d) textbooks. Ideally, a language should have a comprehensive dictionary containing necessary grammatical information and analytic apparatus. It should also have a comprehensive reference grammar. Ideally, there should be extensive text, of a variety of types (stories, formal speeches, casual conversation, etc.) with translation and annotation of lexical, grammatical, cultural, and historical points. Audio recordings of the material in the texts are highly desirable. The kind of textbook of interest is one suitable for a serious course of study for adults, e.g. at university level. Such a textbook will not be suitable for younger students, but its existence means that the necessary information exists and that the dependencies among topics have been worked out. In other words, it means that the basis exists for other kinds of curriculum.

The references given in each section are not intended as exhaustive bibliographies. In general, only major items of documentation are cited. Studies of narrow scope, however interesting they may be from a theoretical point of view, are not necessarily listed.

In addition to the strictly linguistic information described here, truly complete documentation will require encyclopaedic cultural information as well. Areas of particular importance are: kinship terminology, biological terminology, traditional technology, spirituality, and placenames. Such ancillary materials are not discussed here.

This document also describes the linguistic expertise available for the various languages. A language about which no linguist is knowledgeable is worse off than one about which one or more linguists are knowledgeable, even if they have not yet produced all of the necessary documentation.

It is important to note that it is not really sufficient to have only a single linguist working on a language, no matter how talented and productive. A single person can only do so much work, a problem which is exacerbated when there are significant dialect differences. Moreover, different linguists have different talents and interests, so they will do a better job on some aspects of the language than on others, and will give some aspects more emphasis than others.

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<sup>1</sup> The first version of this report was prepared in January 1999 at the request of Grand Chief Edward John. It is updated from time to time as new information becomes available. Additions and corrections are welcome. The summary information is also available on the Yinka Dene Language Institute web site: [www.cnc.bc.ca/yinkadene/ydindex.htm](http://www.cnc.bc.ca/yinkadene/ydindex.htm). This site also contains extensive bibliographies for the languages of British Columbia, not just the major items cited here. From the main YDLI index, select *British Columbia and Other Native Languages*. On this page, in the section entitled *The Native Languages of British Columbia*, select *The Status of Documentation for BC First Nations Languages* to see a current summary. Select *Bibliographies* to see an index of the bibliographies. I am grateful to Emmon Bach, Donna Gerdtts, Sharon Hargus, Mercedes Hinkson, Peter Jacobs, Jeff Leer, Paul Michel, Keren Rice, Patricia Shaw, and Marie-Lucie Tarpent for providing information and reviewing previous versions.

It is therefore highly desirable for several linguists to be at work on a language. Hundreds of linguists have worked on most European and East Asian languages, for example, yet there are many things that we still do not understand about these languages. It is a reflection of the very poor state of documentation of native languages that it is generally considered fortunate if even a single linguist has done extensive work on a native language.

In the following, after a discussion of the uses of documentation, the status of documentation is first described for the individual languages, grouped by language family. The overall state of documentation is summarized in the final section.

## **2. The Value of Documentation for Native Languages**

Linguistic documentation has a wide variety of uses.

### **2.1. Cultural Record**

Linguistic documentation is an important part of the record of a culture. It helps to record what the culture is like for future generations and to provide many details for the present generation. It also helps to explain the culture to outsiders.

### **2.2. Curriculum Development**

Documentation provides the necessary material for developing language curricula and teaching materials. Lists of necessary vocabulary and definitions can be obtained from dictionaries. Grammars provide a frame of reference for designing the curriculum as well as explanations that can be incorporated into teaching materials. Texts provide examples that can be used in teaching and as reading material.

Reference works are useful for curriculum development not only because they assemble the information in a convenient form but because, if well done, they require the authors to think about the language carefully and work out difficult and subtle points. Teaching materials prepared without reference to comprehensive documentation of high quality are likely to be ad hoc; the information that they present is likely to be incomplete if not inaccurate.

Compilation of a dictionary also allows for standardized innovation where necessary. Native languages often lack words for some things that have been introduced recently. If students are not taught terms for these things, they will not be able to talk about them, and they may draw the conclusion that the language cannot be used to talk about the topics that they want to talk about. This will reduce their motivation to learn and use the language. It is therefore important to provide them with the vocabulary they need. It is better for people in the community to create new terms together, than for this to be left to individual teachers or developers of teaching materials.

Where languages are in danger of dying out, documentation provides a safety net. Nothing can completely replace the natural transmission of a language from one generation to the next, but if a language does die out, documentation is the only hope of resurrection. In California, where quite a few native languages have become extinct, the documentation that some linguists, notably the fabled John Peabody Harrington, produced while they were still alive is considered to be of enormous value. In some communities, people are trying to relearn their ancestral language by using the material that was recorded many years ago.

### **2.3. Resource for Language Learners**

Documentation is an important resource for language learners. Not all language learning takes place in the classroom. This is especially true of advanced language learners, much of whose learning is the result of their trying to use the language, by listening to people speak it, by speaking it themselves, by reading it, or by writing it. Without dictionaries and grammars, it is difficult and time-consuming, if not impossible, for language learners to improve their knowledge by themselves.

### **2.4. Resource for Fluent Speakers**

Even fluent speakers of a language have a use for documentation, especially for dictionaries. Many fluent English speakers, for example, still look things up in dictionaries of English. This is because nobody knows everything about their language. They may encounter a word that they do not know, or they may want to know something like the history of a word. People can use a bilingual dictionary to find out the correct English equivalent to a word, which they may not know, especially when it is something that they normally refer to in their own language.

### **2.5. Resource for Literacy**

People learning to read and write their language find dictionaries useful because they provide examples of correct spelling. Texts are useful for reading practice.

### **2.6. Reference for Language Workers and Scholars**

Documentation is useful for translators and interpreters, who may need to locate the best word to use or figure out the best translation of a grammatical construction. It is also useful to ethnobiologists, anthropologists, historians and other scholars.

### **2.7. Language Technology**

In recent years various language technologies have become widely available for major languages. Word processors provide tools such as spell checkers and grammar checkers. Computer programmes translate text from one language to another.

Similar computer programmes function as assistants to human translators, enabling them to provide better translations than a computer programme can, faster and more easily than they could working by hand. Speech recognition software allows people to give spoken commands to computers and other devices and to dictate to word processors rather than typing. Speech synthesizers allow machines to speak.

Some uses of these technologies seem like toys or frills, but they can be extremely valuable to handicapped people. Moreover, they can play a valuable role in the maintenance of minority languages. For example, the ready availability of high-speed, high-quality machine translation would make it much more practical for government and business to be conducted in native languages. Machine translation and translator’s assistants are extensively used in the European Union, where more than a dozen languages are in use. Such technology reduces the pressure for everyone to use a single dominant language such as English. Similarly, if documents could easily be translated between native languages and English and French, or from one native language to another, there would be less pressure to use English and French as common languages.

Language technology of this sort is impossible without extensive, detailed documentation. A machine translation programme, for example, must know the grammar of the languages it is translating and must have dictionaries of both languages available to it.

## **2.8. Policy Information**

Documentation provides information necessary to make decisions about language policy for political and educational purposes. For example, good documentation makes it possible to have a clear picture of the nature of dialect differences and how to deal with them.

## **2.9. History**

Documentation provides information useful for understanding history. It helps us to interpret old documents and oral history and to understand place names. A variety of inferences about prehistory may be made from linguistic information.

## **2.10. Dispelling Racism**

Many non-native people have the false idea that native languages are primitive, imprecise, have no grammar, or are limited in their expressive capacity. Some people even think that native people do not have real languages, that they are “just grunts”. Documentation of a language displays its sophistication and complexity and thereby helps to dispell racist attitudes.

## 2.11. Scientific Data

Information about native languages provides an increasingly important part of the raw material for our scientific understanding of human language. In addition to contributing to human knowledge in general, this knowledge can have practical benefits for native languages, since developments in linguistic theory often provide a better understanding of phenomena in individual languages.

## 3. Athabaskan/Tlingit

The Athabaskan language family is most closely related to the nearly extinct Eyak language of southern Alaska, which is a sister to the entire family. Tlingit is a sister of Athabaskan-Eyak. The family is sometimes referred to as Na-Déné, but strictly speaking this term refers to a family that also includes Haida, the relationship of which to Athabaskan-Eyak-Tlingit is not generally accepted.

### 3.1. Babine-Witsuwit'en

Babine and Witsuwit'en are closely related dialects of the same language, known as Babine-Witsuwit'en. Babine and Witsuwit'en have sometimes been treated as dialects of Carrier under the rubric of Northern Carrier, but are sufficiently different from Carrier that they are now regarded by linguists as dialects of a language distinct from Carrier. Babine-Witsuwit'en is spoken by members of the Lake Babine, Nee-Tahi-Bun, Skin Tayi, Wet'suwet'en First Nation, Hagwilget, Moricetown, and Takla bands.

#### 3.1.1. Documentation

The only published dictionary is a small (approximately 500 word) children's dictionary (Patrick & Tress 1991) of Babine. Hargus (1999), a fairly substantial topical dictionary, is a major contribution, but is still not a comprehensive dictionary. There is no comprehensive grammar, but Hargus (to appear) will provide detailed coverage of the phonology and morphophonology of Witsuwit'en. Gunlogson (1995) and Denham (1997) deal with aspects of the syntax of Witsuwit'en, but there is no more general treatment of the syntax available. Very little text is available in Babine, but there is a collection of stories in Witsuwit'en (Hargus 1995) with accompanying audio cassette.

There is no published textbook, but there is a draft of a first semester textbook of Witsuwit'en by Sharon Hargus and George Holland; a second semester reported to be underway.

### 3.1.2. Linguists

Dr. Sharon Hargus (University of Washington) has worked extensively on Witsuwit'en with the Moricetown Band since 1986. She has worked to a lesser extent on other dialects of Babine and Witsuwit'en.

Ms. Chris Gunlagson, a graduate student at the University of California at Santa Cruz, and a former student of Sharon Hargus, has been working on aspects of the syntax of Witsuwit'en.

Dr. Kristen Denham has worked on the syntax of questions in Witsuwit'en.

Dr. James Kari, recently retired from the Alaska Native Language Center, did some work on Babine/Witsuwit'en as part of a dialect survey of the area. He has not continued to work on this language.

### 3.1.3. References

- Denham, Kristin (1997) *A Minimalist Account of Optional Wh-Movement*. Ph.D. dissertation, University of Washington.
- Gunlogson, Chris (1995) *Pronominal Prefixes in Babine-Witsuwit'en*. M.A. thesis, University of Washington.
- Hargus, Sharon L. (compiler) (1995) *Tsë Cakh Wit'en* Hagwilget, B.C.: Hagwilget Band.
- Hargus, Sharon L. (1999) *Witsuwit'en Topical Dictionary: Witsuwit'en-English and English-Witsuwit'en*. Unpublished draft.
- Hargus, Sharon L. (to appear) *Witsuwit'en Phonology and Morphology*. Vancouver: University of British Columbia Press.
- Patrick, Susie & Dorothy Tress (1991) *Nedut'en/Lake Babine Bilingual Classroom Dictionary*. Vanderhoof, B.C.: Yinka Dene Language Institute.

## 3.2. Beaver

Beaver is spoken over a fairly wide area, apparently in several dialects. The nature of the dialect differences is unknown. Beaver appears to be closely related to Sekani; indeed, Beaver and Sekani may not be distinct languages.

### 3.2.1. Documentation

Beaver is poorly documented. There is no extensive dictionary. There is a dated treatment of the phonology and morphology (Goddard 1917b), and a modern one (Randoja 1989), but no comprehensive grammar. There is an old collection of texts (Goddard 1917a). There is no textbook.

### 3.2.2. Linguists

The only linguist who has done extensive work on Beaver is Dr. Tiina Randoja. She is not actively working on it. Gillian Story has done some work on Beaver and has published on the phonemics.

### 3.2.3. References

Goddard, Pliny Earle (1917a) “Beaver Texts,” *Anthropological Papers of the American Museum of Natural History* 10.5.295-397.

Contains texts with interlinear translation.

Goddard, Pliny Earle (1917b) “Beaver Dialect,” *Anthropological Papers of the American Museum of Natural History* 10.5.399-546.

Discusses phonology and morphology. Contains many lists of words.

Randoja, Tiina (1989) *The Phonology and Morphology of Halfway River Beaver*. Unpublished Ph. D. dissertation, University of Ottawa.

## 3.3. Carrier

Carrier as referred to here excludes Babine and Witsuwit'en, which are sometimes treated as dialects of Carrier. Babine/Witsuwit'en is treated separately. Even Carrier in this narrow sense includes quite a few dialects, which differ extensively from each other both lexically and grammatically.

### 3.3.1. Documentation

The Nak'albun/Dzinghubun (Stuart/Trembleur Lake) dialect is fairly well documented. Morice (1932) is a vast but old-fashioned and in some ways inadequate grammar. There is a short grammar sketch (Walker 1974), and a substantially longer, but still fragmentary draft grammar (Poser 1998b). Morice (1932) is not really usable as a dictionary but contains extensive word-lists and lists of morphemes. Poser (1998a) is a fairly extensive draft dictionary (over 15,000 entries) but is still in need of expansion and additional analytic apparatus. Poser (1998c) is a still fragmentary textbook aimed at the first-year university level. There is extensive text in this dialect, ranging from the traditional stories in Morice (1932) to the entire New Testament, but even so, some genres are unrepresented, and much of the available text is not annotated.

For the other dialects documentation is much skimpier. There is a modest dictionary (7600 entries), with extensive analytic apparatus for the *Saik'uz* dialect (Poser 2000) and a small (2800 entries, undergoing expansion) dictionary (Poser 1999) for the *Lheidli* dialect. A draft dictionary of the Cheslatta dialect (over 5800 entries, with extensive analytic apparatus) exists but has not yet been released. There is very little text, no grammar, and no adult-level textbook for these dialects.



### 3.3.2. Linguists

William J. Poser is the only linguist who has been actively working on Carrier. However, two graduate students, Sonya Bird (University of Arizona) and Suzanne Gessner (University of British Columbia) have recently begun to work on the Lheidli dialect.

Dr. Eung-Do Cook (University of Calgary) worked on Carrier (primarily the Stuart/Trembleur Lake dialect) at one point and published a bit on the sound system, but is not actively working on documentation. Dr. Jean-François Prunet (Université de Montréal) studied Nak’alibun/Dzingshubun dialect Carrier when he was a postdoctoral fellow at UBC but has not carried on with this. Dick and Shirley Walker of the Summer Institute of Linguistics have learned Nak’azdli dialect and, in addition to their primary work on translating the New Testament, have been involved in literacy work, the creation of elementary school materials, and the creation of the 1974 Nak’azdli dictionary, but are not engaged in documentation work *per se*.

### 3.3.3. References

- Morice, Adrien-Gabriel (1932) *The Carrier Language*. Mödling bei Wien, St. Gabriel, Austria: Verlag der Internationalen Zeitschrift “Anthropos”.
- Poser, William J. (1998a) *Nak’alibun/Dzingshubun Whut’enne Bughuni* (Stuart/Trembleur Lake Carrier Lexicon). Vanderhoof, BC: Yinka Dene Language Institute. Second edition.
- Poser, William J. (1998b) *Sketch of the Grammar of Carrier*. ms. September 1998.
- Poser, William J. (1998c) *An Introduction to the Carrier Language: Stuart/Trembleur Lake Dialect*. Tache: Tl’azt’en Nation.
- Poser, William J. (1999) *Lheidli T’enneh Hubughunek* (Fort George Carrier Lexicon). Prince George, BC: Lheidli T’enneh. (May 1999)
- Poser, William J. (2000) *Saik’uz Whut’en Hubughunek* (Stoney Creek Carrier Lexicon). Vanderhoof, BC: Saik’uz First Nation. Fourth edition. (March 2000)
- Walker, Richard (1974) “Grammar Sketch,” in Antoine, Francesca, Bird, Catherine, Isaac, Agnes, Prince, Nellie, Sam, Sally, Walker, Richard, and David B. Wilkison *Central Carrier Bilingual Dictionary*. Fort Saint James, British Columbia: Carrier Linguistic Committee.

## 3.4. Chilcotin

### 3.4.1. Documentation

Chilcotin is very poorly documented. There is no dictionary, grammar, or adult-level textbook, nor any published collection of texts. The scholarly literature is devoted almost entirely to the sound system.

### 3.4.2. Linguists

Although there are a number of people with some acquaintance with Chilcotin, there is no linguist actively working on it. A missionary, Quindel King, is familiar with the language but has published only one brief paper. Dr. Eung-Do Cook (University of Calgary) did considerable research on Chilcotin over 20 years ago but has published only limited material, primarily on the phonology. Dr. Michael Krauss (University of Alaska) spent a few weeks on Chilcotin at the same time. He worked out the relationship between the sounds of Chilcotin and Proto-Athabaskan and contributed to the analysis of the sound system. Dr. Patricia Shaw (UBC) has done some work on the sound system of Chilcotin. Dr. Clifton Pye (University of Kansas) made recordings of children in the mid-1980's and did some fieldwork on adult language but has not continued to work on the language. Dr. Randy Radney (Trinity Western University and Summer Institute of Linguistics) worked on Chilcotin for several years but has not published anything. Dr. David Dinwoodie (University of New Mexico) is an anthropologist whose dissertation research was on Chilcotin discourse. He is not, strictly speaking, a linguist, but in the course of his research learned a fair amount about Chilcotin.

### 3.4.3. References

- Cook, Eung-Do (1976) *A Phonological Study of Chilcotin and Carrier. Report to the National Museum on Contract No. E10-75-8. Part II: Central Carrier Phonology.*
- Cook, Eung-Do (1989) "Chilcotin Tone and Verb Paradigms," in Eung-Do Cook and Keren Rice (eds.) *Athapaskan Linguistics: Current Perspectives on a Language Family.* pp. 145-198. Trends in Linguistics. State-of-the-Art Reports 15. Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter.

## 3.5. Kaska

### 3.5.1. Documentation

Kaska is poorly documented. There is no grammar. There is a noun dictionary (Kaska Tribal Council 1997) but no full dictionary. The only textbook is very elementary. There is a substantial collection of quality narrative texts (Moore 2000).

### 3.5.2. Linguists

Mr. Pat Moore knows Kaska well and is working with the Kaska Tribal Council and the Yukon Native Language Centre. Barbara Meek, a graduate student at the University of Arizona, is working on the language.

### 3.5.3. References

- Kaska Tribal Council (1997) *Guzāgi K'ūgé' — Our Language Book: Nouns. Kaska, Mountain Slavey and Sekani*. Whitehorse: Kaska Tribal Council. Two volumes. A dictionary of nouns in three languages, organized by topic, with an English index.
- Moore, Pat (ed.) (2000) *Dene Gudeji: Kaska Narratives*. Watson Lake: Kaska Tribal Council.

### 3.6. Nicola

The Nicola language, once spoken in the Nicola valley, is believed to have been extinct since around the turn of the century. The tiny amount recorded was published by Boas (1924).

- Boas, Franz (1924) “Vocabulary of an Athapascan Tribe of Nicola Valley, British Columbia,” *International Journal of American Linguistics* 3.1.36-38.

### 3.7. Sekani

#### 3.7.1. Documentation

Sekani is not very well documented, though substantial improvements have been made recently. Dr. Sharon Hargus prepared a small noun dictionary in the early 1980s, much of which was incorporated into the trilingual noun dictionary recently produced by the Kaska Tribal Council. There is a children’s dictionary (Alexis, Chingee and Prince 1996) containing about five hundred words. A substantial but not still less than comprehensive dictionary (Hargus 2000) has recently been produced. There is no comprehensive reference grammar. Hargus (1988) provides a good description of the phonology and morpho-phonology. Hargus (2000) is an extended grammatical sketch (91 pp.), containing sections on phonology, morphology, and syntax. There is no collection of text or textbook.

#### 3.7.2. Linguists

The only linguist with substantial knowledge of Sekani is Dr. Sharon Hargus (University of Washington). She did her dissertation research on Sekani in 1982-1983 and, after a long hiatus, has resumed active work on it.

#### 3.7.3. References

- Alexis, Theresa, Sam Chingee, and Florence Prince (1996) *Tsek'ehne Zaghe' Muk'eh Wujeh-i. Sekani Bilingual Elementary Dictionary*. McLeod Lake: McLeod Lake Band.

- Hargus, Sharon (1988) *The Lexical Phonology of Sekani*. New York: Garland Publishing.
- Hargus, Sharon (2000a) *Fort Ware (Kwadacha) Sekani Grammar Sketch*. ms., University of Washington.
- Hargus, Sharon (compiler) (2000b) *Fort Ware (Kwadacha) Sekani Dictionary. Sekani-English and English-Sekani*. Primary contributors: Mike Abou and Mary Charlie. ms. University of Washington.
- Lexware generated dictionary consisting of xii pp. (introduction) + 138 pp. (Sekani-English, organized by root) + 80 pp. (English-Sekani).
- Kaska Tribal Council (1997) *Guzāgi K'ūgé' — Our Language Book: Nouns. Kaska, Mountain Slavey and Sekani*. Whitehorse: Kaska Tribal Council. Two volumes.

### 3.8. Slave

Slave is spoken primarily in the Northwest Territories, but there are some Slave speakers in the Northeast corner of British Columbia, around Fort Nelson.

#### 3.8.1. Documentation

There is a dictionary of the verbs of South Slave (Howard 1990). The Kaska Tribal Council dictionary contains a fair number of Slave nouns. There is no full dictionary of Slave, but a project is underway in the Northwest Territories. There is an excellent, comprehensive reference grammar (Rice 1989). Moore and Wheelock is the only collection of texts.

#### 3.8.2. Linguists

There are several linguists knowledgeable about Slave, most prominently Dr. Keren Rice (University of Toronto). She has worked primarily in the Northwest Territories, but has done some work at Fort Nelson.

#### 3.8.3. References

- Howard, P. (1990) *A Dictionary of the Verb of South Slavey*. Yellowknife: Department of Culture and Communication, Government of the Northwest Territories.
- Kaska Tribal Council (1997) *Guzāgi K'ūgé' — Our Language Book: Nouns. Kaska, Mountain Slavey and Sekani*. Whitehorse: Kaska Tribal Council. Two volumes.
- Moore, Patrick and Angela Wheelock (eds.) (1990) *Wolverine Myths and Visions: Dene Traditions from Northern Alberta*. Compiled by the Dene Wodih Society. Edmonton: University of Alberta Press.
- Rice, Keren (1989) *A Grammar of Slave*. Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter.

## 3.9. Tahltan

### 3.9.1. Documentation

Tahltan is poorly documented. There is no extensive dictionary. There is an M.A. thesis on the phonology and morphology (Hardwick 1984) but no comprehensive grammar. There is no collection of texts. The only textbook (Carter et al. 1991) is very elementary. The only dictionary is a small children's dictionary.

### 3.9.2. Linguists

Dr. Geoff O'Grady (University of Victoria) and Dr. Kenneth Hale (MIT) collected basic material in the late 1950s. Their fieldnotes and tapes have been made available to other linguists. Neither has done further work on Tahltan.

Dr. Patricia Shaw (UBC) did some work on Tahltan phonology quite a few years ago and collected substantial fieldnotes. She has not continued to work on Tahltan. Ms. Margaret Hardwick wrote an M.A. thesis on Tahltan based in part on data obtained from Dr. Patricia Shaw. She has not continued to work on Tahltan. Dr. Eung-Do Cook (University of Calgary) did a few days fieldwork twenty years ago. He has not continued to work on Tahltan.

Dr. John Alderete (Swarthmore College) recently began fieldwork on Tahltan during a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of British Columbia. He plans to continue working on Tahltan in the long term.

Ms. Tanya Bob, a Tahltan woman but not a native speaker of the language, has completed an M.A. in Linguistics at UBC based primarily on Patricia Shaw's field notes and tapes. She has since begun to do fieldwork and is working on her doctorate.

Mr. Oscar Dennis, also Tahltan but not a native speaker of the language, began to try to learn Tahltan on his own, from his father and other speakers several years ago. He has done considerable fieldwork and has learned quite a lot, but has only done introductory work in linguistics and has not written up much yet.

### 3.9.3. References

- Carter, Colin, Patrick Carlick, Angela Dennis, Regina Louie, Susie Tashoots, Myra Blackburn (1991) *Basic Tahltan Conversation Lessons* Tahltan Tribal Council.
- Hardwick, Margaret F. (1984) *Tahltan Phonology and Morphology*. Unpublished MA thesis, University of Toronto.

## 3.10. Tlingit

### 3.10.1. Documentation

Tlingit is one of the best documented native languages. The noun dictionary (Naish, Story, Davis, and Leer 1976) and the verb dictionary (Story and Naish 1973) were published separately. Similarly, Story (1966) and Naish (1966) together make up a grammar of Tlingit, to which Leer (1991) is an important addition. Boas (1917) gave the first adequate description of Tlingit phonology and described much of the verbal morphology. Dauenhauer & Dauenhauer (1987, 1990) and Williams, Williams & Leer (1978) are extensive collections of texts. Dauenhauer & Dauenhauer (1991) is an introductory textbook for adults, complete with tapes for home study.

### 3.10.2. Linguists

There are a number of linguists knowledgeable about Tlingit. Ms. Constance Naish (Summer Institute of Linguistics) and Ms. Gillian Story (Summer Institute of Linguistics) wrote their M.A. theses on Tlingit. Both are still active as linguists, but neither is actively working on Tlingit. Dr. Jeff Leer (University of Alaska) is a linguist actively working on Tlingit. Mrs. Nora Marks Dauenhauer (Sealaska Foundation) is a native speaker of Tlingit. Together with her husband, Mr. Richard Dauenhauer (Sealaska Foundation), she has done considerable work, including an introductory course in Tlingit and extensive collections of texts.

### 3.10.3. References

- Boas, Franz (1917) *Grammatical Notes on the Language of the Tlingit Indians*. University of Pennsylvania Museum Anthropological Publications.
- Dauenhauer, Nora Marks & Richard Dauenhauer (1987) *Classics of Tlingit Oral Literature, Volume 1: Haa shuká, our ancestors: Tlingit oral narratives*. Seattle: University of Washington Press.
- Dauenhauer, Nora Marks & Richard Dauenhauer (1990) *Classics of Tlingit Oral Literature, Volume 2: Haa tuwunáagu yís, for healing our spirit: Tlingit oratory*. Seattle: University of Washington Press.
- Dauenhauer, Nora Marks & Richard Dauenhauer (1991) *Beginning Tlingit*. Juneau, Alaska: Sealaska Heritage Foundation Press. Third edition.
- Leer, Jeff (1991) *The Schetic Categories of the Tlingit Verb*. Ph.D. dissertation, University of Chicago.
- Naish, Constance M. (1966) *A Syntactic Study of Tlingit*. Unpublished M.A. thesis, School of Oriental and African Languages, University of London.
- Naish, Constance M., Story, Gillian L., Davis, Henry and Jeff Leer (1976) *Tlingit Noun Dictionary*. Fairbanks: Sheldon Jackson College.
- Story, Gillian L. (1966) *A Morphological Study of Tlingit*. Unpublished M.A. thesis, School of Oriental and African Languages, University of London.
- Story, Gillian L. and Constance M. Naish (1973) *Tlingit Verb Dictionary*. Fairbanks: Alaska Native Language Center.

Williams, Frank, Emma Williams and Jeff Leer (1978) *Tongass Texts*. Fairbanks: Alaska Native Language Center.

### 3.11. Tsetsaut

Boas and Goddard (1924) contains almost all of the known Tsetsaut material, recorded by Boas in 1894. The language is believed to have been extinct for decades but the exact date of extinction is not known. One speaker was still alive in 1927. A few words remembered by Gitanyow elders are mentioned in Sterritt et al. (1998).

Boas, Franz and Pliny Earle Goddard (1924) “Ts’ets’aut, an Athapascan language from Portland Canal, British Columbia,” *International Journal of American Linguistics* 3.1.1-35.

Sterritt, Neil J., Susan Marsden, Robert Galois, Peter R. Grant, and Richard Overstall (1998) *Tribal Boundaries in the Nass Watershed* Vancouver: University of British Columbia Press.

## 4. Algonquian

Algonquian languages are spoken primarily to the East of the Rockies and in the United States, but two of them, Cree and Saulteau, are represented in British Columbia.

### 4.1. Cree

Cree is spoken over a large part of Canada, from the West coast of James Bay to Northeastern BC. In addition to the Cree-speaking communities in the Treaty 8 area, substantial numbers of Cree speakers have moved into urban areas within the territory of other nations, such as Prince George and Vancouver.

There has been considerable work on Cree in other parts of Canada. To my knowledge there has been no research in the communities in British Columbia, but the dialect spoken in the Treaty 8 region of BC is said to be very similar to the Plains Cree spoken in northern Alberta.

#### 4.1.1. Documentation

LeClaire & Cardinal (1998) is a combined dictionary of Plains and Northern Cree. Wolfart & Ahenakew (1998) is a dictionary of the literary variety of Plains Cree. Both are useful, but neither is a comprehensive bilingual dictionary with full grammatical information and so forth. There is no reference grammar, but there are shorter sketches, including Ahenakew (1987), Wolfart (1973), Wolfart & Carroll (1981), and Wolfart (1996). There is also a first-year university-level textbook (Bellegarde & Ratt 1992a) with associated workbook (Bellegarde & Ratt 1992b).

Considerable text has been published, with translation and in many cases with annotation (Ahenakew 1989, Ahenakew & Wolfart 1992, 1998, Bloomfield 1930, 1934, Vandall & Douquette 1987, Whitecalf 1993). The entire Bible has long been available in Cree.

There is also a fair amount of work on more easterly varieties of Cree.

### 4.1.2. Linguists

There are a number of linguists who work on Plains and Northern Cree. These include Dr. H. Christoph Wolfart, Dr. Eleanor Blaine, and Freda Ahenakew, a native speaker of Cree, in Manitoba, and Dr. Charlotte Reinholz.

At the University of British Columbia Dr. Rose-Marie Déchaine has been working on Cree.

### 4.1.3. References

Ahenakew, Freda (1987) *Cree Language Structures: a Cree Approach*. Winnipeg: Pemmican Publications.

Ahenakew, Freda (editor and translator) (1989) *Kiskinahamawâkan-âcimowinisa / Student Stories*. Written by Cree-speaking students. Winnipeg, Manitoba: Department of Linguistics, University of Manitoba.

Ahenakew, Freda & H. C. Wolfart (editors and translators) (1992) *Kôhkominawkak otâcimowiniwâwa: Our Grandmothers' Lives As Told In Their Own Words*. Stories by Glecia Bear et al., with English translation and extensive notes. Saskatoon, Saskatchewan: Fifth House Publishers.

Ahenakew, Freda & H. C. Wolfart (editors and translators) (1998) *Ana kê-pimwêwêhahk okakêskîhkêmwina: The Counselling Speeches of Jim Kâ-Nîpitêhtêw*. Winnipeg, Manitoba: University of Manitoba Press. Publications of the Algonquian Text Society, 5.

Bellegarde, Jean L. and Solomon Ratt (1992a) *Cree, Language of the Plains..* Regina: Saskatchewan Indian Federated College.

Bellegarde, Jean L. and Solomon Ratt (1992b) *Cree, Language of the Plains: Workbook*. Regina: Saskatchewan Indian Federated College.

Bloomfield, Leonard (1930) *Sacred Stories of the Sweet Grass Cree*. Canada. National Museum Bulletin 60, Anthropological Series 11. (Reprinted AMS Press, New York, 1976: Fifth House, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, 1993.)

Bloomfield, Leonard (1934) *Plains Cree Texts*. Publications of the American Ethnological Society 16. New York: G. E. Stechert & Co. (Reprinted AMS Press, New York, 1974.)

LeClaire, Sister Nancy and George Cardinal (1998) *The Alberta Elders' Cree Dictionary*. Edmonton: University of Alberta Press.



- Vandall, Peter & Joe Douquette (1987) *Wâskahikaniwiyiniw-âcimowina / Stories of the House People*. Edited and translated by Freda Ahenakew. Winnipeg: University of Manitoba Press.
- Whitecalf, Sarah (1993) *Kinêhiyâwiwininaw Nêhiyawêwin / The Cree Language is Our Identity: The La Ronge Lectures of Sarah Whitecalf*. Edited and translated by H. Christoph. Wolfart and Freda Ahenakew. Winnipeg, Manitoba: University of Manitoba Press.
- Wolfart, H. Christoph (1973) “Plains Cree: A Grammatical Study,” *Transactions of the American Philosophical Society* n.s. **63**.5.
- Wolfart, H. Christoph (1996) “Sketch of Cree, an Algonquian Language,” in Ives Goddard (ed.) *Handbook of North American Languages. Volume 17: Languages*. Washington, D.C.: Smithsonian Institution. pp. 390-439.
- Wolfart, H. Christoph & Ahenakew, Freda (1998) *The Student’s Dictionary of Literary Plains Cree: Based on Contemporary Literary Texts*. Winnipeg, Manitoba: Department of Linguistics, University of Manitoba. Memoir 15, Alonquian and Iroquoian Linguistics.
- Wolfart, H. Christoph & Janet F. Carroll (1981) *Meet Cree: Guide to the Cree Language*. Edmonton: University of Alberta Press.

## 4.2. Sauteau

Sauteau, one of the three major dialects of Ojibwe (the others are Anishnaabe and Odawa), is spoken primarily far to the East of BC, in Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and Ontario. A little over 100 years ago, the leader of one band of Sauteau had a vision that told him to head West. Over a period of several years, they did so, ultimately settling around Moberly. They have gradually merged with the Cree and Beaver people of this area and have shifted to speaking Cree. I am told that there are a few elders who can still speak Sauteau.

Ojibwe, including the Sauteau dialect as it is spoken farther East, is fairly well documented, but there is nothing on the variety of Sauteau spoken in BC. As this variety has apparently been separated from the rest of Sauteau for over a century, this is unfortunate.

## 5. Salishan

Salishan languages cover much of southern British Columbia, including parts of Vancouver Island. They extend into the Northwestern United States, in the states of Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and Montana.

### 5.1. Comox/Sliamon

Comox and Sliamon are dialects of a single un-named language.

### 5.1.1. Documentation

There are two grammars (Hagège 1981, Harris 1981) plus studies of particular aspects of the phonology and morphology (Blake 1992, Watanabe 1994) and syntax (Blake 1997). There is no full scale dictionary, but there is a stem list (Timmers 1978), and Blake (1992) contains a fairly substantial lexicon. There is no collection of texts or textbook.

### 5.1.2. Linguists

Dr. Claude Hagège published a grammar in 1981 but is no longer active. Dr. John H. Davis worked on the language for some time but is no longer active. Dr. H. Harris wrote a dissertation on Comox but is no longer active. Honoré Watanabe has also studied the language. Dr. Paul Kroeber has worked for quite a few years on aspects of the syntax. Susan Blake has been studying Sliamon since her M.A. thesis work and is currently writing a doctoral dissertation at UBC on Sliamon phonology and morphology. Dr. Patricia Shaw (UBC) has been working with the band on developing a language programme.

### 5.1.3. References

Blake, Susan J. (1992) *Two Aspects of Sliamon Phonology: Glide/Obstruent Alternations and Vowel Length*. M.A. thesis, Department of Linguistics, University of British Columbia.

Blake, Susan J. (1997) “Another Look at Passives in Sliammon (Salish),” *International Conference on Salishan and Neighboring Languages* **32**:86-143.

Hagège, Claude (1981) “Le comox lhaamen de Colombie Britannique: présentation d’une langue amérindienne,” *Amerindia: revue d’ethnolinguistique amérindienne*, numéro spécial 2. Paris.

Harris, H. (1981) *A Grammatical Sketch of Comox*. Ph.D. dissertation, University of Kansas.

Timmers, Jan (1978) *Comox Stem List*. Leiden: [no publisher].

Watanabe, Honoré (1994) “A Report on Sliammon (Mainland Comox) Phonology and Reduplication,” in Osahito Miyaoka (ed.) *Languages of the North Pacific Rim* (Sapporo: Hokkaido University Publications in Linguistics 5) pp. 217-262. Also in *International Conference on Salishan and Neighboring Languages* **29**.

## 5.2. Halkomelem

Halkomelem, spoken both on Vancouver Island and in the Fraser Valley, consists of three dialects: Upriver (including Sto:lo), Downriver (including Musqueam and Tsawassen), and Island (including Cowichan). The name *Halkomelem* is a hybrid of the native names of several of the dialects. Some people dislike it because it is not the name of their own dialect. However, it is the term used in the bulk of the

linguistic literature and is the only term in use as a cover term for the language as a whole.

### 5.2.1. Documentation

There is considerable work on the grammar of all three dialects (Galloway 1993, Gerdts 1988, Harris 1966, Leslie 1979). Dr. Wayne Suttles has had a draft grammar of Musqueam for many years which is expected to be published in the near future (Suttles in preparation).

There are two dictionaries of Island dialects, Hukari & Peter 1995 and Gerdts et al. (1997). Dr. Brent Galloway is engaged in the preparation of a dictionary for the Upriver dialect. A group led by Dr. Patricia Shaw has begun preparation of a dictionary for the Musqueam (Downriver) dialect.

No collection of texts has been published, but Dr. Donna Gerdts is working on a collection of texts in the Island dialect. Dr. Wayne Suttles is working on a collection of texts in the Musqueam dialect.

There is a secondary school textbook for the Island dialect (Gerdts 1996-97).

Teaching materials for Musqueam are being prepared by a joint project of the Musqueam Nation and the First Nations Languages Project at the University of British Columbia. A first year university-level textbook is almost complete.

### 5.2.2. Linguists

Dr. Donna Gerdts (SFU) has worked extensively on the language and continues to do so. Dr. Wayne Suttles, who has worked on the language for many years, is writing a grammar. Dr. Brent Galloway (Saskatchewan Indian Federated College) wrote his doctoral dissertation on the language and continues to be active. Dr. Tom Hukari (University of Victoria) has worked with the Cowichan preparing a dictionary and teaching materials. Ms. Violet Bianco wrote her M.A. thesis on Cowichan phonology. Dr. Patricia Shaw (UBC) has been working on the language for several years in the context of the collaboration on teaching Musqueam between the UBC First Nations Languages Programme and the Musqueam band. Dr. Strang Burton is working with the Sto:lo on teaching materials. A UBC graduate student, Martina Wiltschko, has been working on Halkomelem syntax.

### 5.2.3. References

- Bianco, Violet (1996) *The Role of Sonority in the Prosody of Cowichan*. M.A. thesis, University of Victoria.
- Galloway, Brent D. (1993) *A Grammar of Upriver Halkomelem*. (University of California Publications: Linguistics Vol. 96). Berkeley: University of California Press.
- Gerdts, Donna B. (1988) *Object and Absolutive in Halkomelem Salish*. New York: Garland.

Gerdts, Donna, Brian Compton, Leonard Edwards, and Charles Ulrich. (1997) *Hul'q'umin'um' Words: An English-to-Hul'q'umin'um' and Hul'q'umin'um -to-English Dictionary*. Prepared for the Chemainus, Nanaimo, and Nanoose First Nations and Nanaimo School District No. 68, December 1997.

A 210 page dictionary containing approximately 4500 entries, including scientific identifications of flora and fauna.

Gerdts, Donna (1996-97) *'i'he' xwulmuxwqun* (Let's Speak Our First Nations Language). A secondary school textbook prepared for the Chemainus, Nanaimo, and Nanoose First Nations and Nanaimo School District No. 68. *tu nucam'at pookw*. (Book One) Self-study Edition, 1996, (220 pp.) with four accompanying audio cassettes, Student's Edition, 2nd edition, 1995, (220 pp.) and Teacher's Edition, 2nd edition, 1995 (230 pp.) *tu yusal'um'at pookw* (Book 2). November 1997. Self-study Edition (147 pp.). Students' Edition (147 pp.) with six accompanying audio cassettes.

Harris, Jimmy G. (1966) *The Phonology of Chilliwack Halkomelem*. Unpublished M.A. thesis, University of Washington.

Hukari, Thomas E., editor, and Ruby Peter, associate editor. (1995) *Hul'qumi'n'um' Dictionary*. Cowichan Tribes.

A 375 page dictionary, including an introduction to the grammar.

Leslie, Adrian R. (1979) *A Grammar of the Cowichan Dialect of Halkomelem Salish*. Unpublished Ph.D. dissertation, University of Victoria.

Suttles, Wayne (in preparation). *A Reference Grammar of the Musqueam Dialect of the Halkomelem Language*. Vancouver: University of British Columbia Press.

An essentially completed but as yet unpublished comprehensive grammar.

### 5.3. Lilloet (St'at'imx)

The language known in English as Lilloet is spoken not only around the town of Lilloet but in other communities including Mount Currie and Pavillion.

#### 5.3.1. Documentation

There is a good grammar (van Eijk 1997), whose relatively cursory treatment of syntax is supplemented by ongoing studies by Henry Davis and several UBC graduate students. No dictionary has been published, but there is a good draft dictionary in manuscript (van Eijk 1987). Some texts have been published (Swoboda 1971, van Eijk and Williams 1981, Davis & Robertson 2000). There is a terse textbook covering material roughly equivalent to a first year university course (van Eijk 1981). Henry Davis has completed the draft of a pedagogical grammar.

#### 5.3.2. Linguists

Dr. Jan van Eijk (Saskatchewan Indian Federated College) worked on Lilloet for 18 years. He is still interested in the language but is no longer focussed on

it. Dr. Patricia Shaw (UBC) has worked on Lilloet phonology. Dr. Henry Davis (UBC) has worked extensively on Lilloet syntax and continues to do so. Dr. Lisa Matthewson (UBC) worked on Lilloet syntax as a graduate student and continues to do so. Taylor Roberts wrote his UBC M.A. thesis on the language. UBC graduate student Hamida Demirdache has been working on the language since 1993.

### 5.3.3. References

van Eijk, Jan (1981) *Cuystwí Malh Ucwalmícwts: Teach Yourself Lillooet*. Mount Currie: Ts'zil Publishing House.

van Eijk, Jan (1987) *Dictionary of the Lilloet Language*. Unpublished manuscript. A fairly extensive dictionary with some example sentences and lists of affixes. Lilloet to English only.

van Eijk, Jan (1997) *The Lillooet Language*. Vancouver: UBC Press.

van Eijk, Jan & Lorna Williams (eds.) (1981) *Cuystwí malh Ucwalmícwts: Lillooet Legends and Stories*. Mount Currie, B.C.: Ts'zil Publishers.

Matthewson, Lisa (1998) *Determiner Systems and Quantificational Strategies: Evidence from Salish*. The Hague: Holland Academic Graphics.

Roberts, Taylor (1994) *Subject and Topic in St'at'imcets (Lillooet Salish)*. M. A. thesis, University of British Columbia.

Swoboda, Leo (1971) *Lillooet Phonology, Texts, and Dictionary*. M.A. thesis, University of British Columbia.

## 5.4. Nuxalk

Nuxalk is usually referred to in English as Bella Coola, the name of the village in which the principal reserve is located.

### 5.4.1. Documentation

There is a reasonably good Nuxalk-English dictionary (Nater 1990), but it could use expansion. There are also a grammar (Nater 1983), a theoretically-oriented treatment of the morphosyntax (Davis & Saunders 1997) and an extensive collection of texts (Davis & Saunders 1980). There is no textbook.

### 5.4.2. Linguists

Dr. Hank Nater (unaffiliated) has worked extensively on Nuxalk but is no longer active. Dr. Ross Saunders (SFU) and Dr. Philip Davis (Rice University) have worked extensively on the language and continue to work on it. Dr. David Beck (University of Alberta) has analyzed published data but has not yet carried out fieldwork himself.

### 5.4.3. References

- Davis, Philip W. and Ross Saunders (1980) *Bella Coola Texts*. Victoria: British Columbia Provincial Museum. (Heritage Record No. 10).
- Davis, Philip W. and Ross Saunders (1997) *A Grammar of Bella Coola*. Missoula, Montana: University of Montana. (Occasional Papers in Linguistics, 13).
- Nater, Hank F. (1983) *The Bella Coola Language*. Hull, Quebec: Canadian Museum of Civilization. (Canadian Ethnology Service, Mercury Series Paper No. 92)
- Nater, Hank F. (1990) *A Concise Nuxalk English Dictionary*. Hull, Quebec: Canadian Museum of Civilization. (Canadian Ethnology Service, Mercury Series Paper No. 115)

## 5.5. Okanagan

Okanagan is the same language as the language known as Colville in the United States.

### 5.5.1. Documentation

There are a dictionary (Mattina 1987), a grammar (Mattina 1973), a dissertation on aspects of the syntax (Hébert 1982) and a lengthy, annotated text (Mattina 1985). There is no textbook.

### 5.5.2. Linguists

Dr. Anthony Mattina (University of Montana) has worked extensively on Colville-Okanagan for many years. Dr. Nancy Mattina (University of Montana) did her graduate work on the language and is also active. Quite a few other scholars have worked on the language in the past but are no longer very active: Gary Arrowsmith, Michael Darnell, Ivy Doak, Yvonne M. Hébert, Lois Pattison, J. B. Somday, Donald Watkins, Philip Young.

### 5.5.3. References

- Hébert, Yvonne M. (1982) *Transitivity in (Nicola Lake) Okanagan*. Ph. D. dissertation, University of British Columbia.
- Mattina, Anthony (1973) “Colville Grammatical Structure,” *University of Hawaii Working Papers in Linguistics* 5.4.
- Mattina, Anthony (1985) *The Golden Woman: the Colville Narrative of Peter J. Seymour*. Translated by Anthony Mattina and Madeline deSautel. Tucson: University of Arizona Press.
- Mattina, Anthony (1987) *Colville-Okanagan Dictionary*. Missoula, Montana: Linguistics Laboratory, University of Montana. (University of Montana Occasional Papers in Linguistics, No. 5).

## 5.6. Pentlatch

Pentlatch is extinct and is poorly documented. There is no substantial published literature. However, many years ago Franz Boas collected texts and substantial vocabulary, which are available in the archives of the American Philosophical Society.

## 5.7. Sechelt

### 5.7.1. Documentation

There is no real dictionary. Timmers (1977) is a classified English-to-Sechelt word list. Timmers (1978) is a stem list. There is no reference grammar. There is an introductory textbook (Beaumont 1985). Hill-Tout (1904) and Beaumont (1985) contain some texts.

### 5.7.2. Linguists

Ron Beaumont and Jan Timmers have worked on the language. Beaumont is engaged in compiling a dictionary.

### 5.7.3. References

Beaumont, Ron (1985) *She Shashishalhem, the Sechelt Language: Language, stories, and sayings of the Sechelt Indian people of British Columbia*. Penticton, B.C.: Theytus Books.

Hill-Tout, Charles (1904) “Report on the Ethnology of the Siciatl of British Columbia, a Coast Division of the Salish Stock,” *Journal of the American Institute of Great Britain* **34**.20-91.

Timmers, Jan (1977) *A classified English-Sechelt word-list*. Lisse, The Netherlands: Peter de Ridder Press.

Timmers, Jan (1978) *A Sechelt Stem List*. Leiden: [no publisher].

## 5.8. Shuswap (Secwepmectsin)

### 5.8.1. Documentation

There is a grammar (Kuipers 1974), which also contains a collection of annotated texts and a lexicon. Gibson (1973) is a shorter grammar. Kuipers (1983) is a more extensive Shuswap-English dictionary. There is a short adult-level textbook (Dixon & Kuipers 1974).

Overall, Shuswap is fairly well documented, but the dictionary needs to be expanded and more work is needed on the dialectology.

## 5.8.2. Linguists

Dr. Aert Kuipers (University of Leiden) did the basic work on Shuswap. He is still alive but no longer working actively on Shuswap. James A. Gibson worked on Shuswap but is no longer active. Dr. Lisa Matthewson (University of Massachusetts at Amherst) has done some work on Shuswap syntax. Dr. Mercedes Hinkson (Western Washington University) did some work on Shuswap as part of her graduate work. Ms. Sondra Lai did a Master's thesis on the Shuswap pronominal system and its acquisition by a child. Dr. Dwight Gardner has worked on Shuswap for over a decade. He is the only linguist presently engaged in long term work.

## 5.8.3. References

- Dixon, May and A. H. Kuipers (1974) *A Shuswap Course*. Leiden: privately published. Second edition (1990).
- Gibson, James A. (1973) *Shuswap Grammatical Structure*. University of Hawaii Working Papers in Linguistics, 5. Honolulu: Department of Linguistics, University of Hawaii.
- Kuipers, Aert H. (1974) *The Shuswap Language: Grammar, Texts, Dictionary*. The Hague: Mouton.
- Kuipers, Aert H. (1983) *Shuswap-English Dictionary*. Leuven: Peeters.

## 5.9. Squamish

### 5.9.1. Documentation

Kuipers (1967) is a grammar with an associated lexicon and annotated texts. Kuipers (1969) supplements the lexicon. Walker (1973) is an English-Squamish dictionary based on Kuipers' Squamish-English lexica. The basic documentation for the language therefore exists, but an expanded dictionary would be desirable. There is no textbook.

### 5.9.2. Linguists

Dr. Aert Kuipers (University of Leiden) worked on Squamish in the 1960s and published the principal documentation for the language. He is now retired. Elizabeth Currie and Toshihide Nakayama both did some work on the language. Dr. Michael Darnell wrote his doctoral dissertation on Squamish. Dr. Suzanne Urbanczyk (University of Calgary) has worked on Squamish phonology. Dr. Strang Burton is working on Squamish. Leora Bar-El, a UBC graduate student, wrote her M.A. thesis on Squamish and continues to work on the language. Peter Jacobs, a Squamish band member, has completed an M.A. in Linguistics and is working on documentation and teaching materials.



### 5.9.3. References

- Bar-el, Leora (1998) *Verbal Plurality and Adverbial Quantification: A Case Study of Skwú7mesh (Squamish)* M.A. thesis, University of British Columbia.
- Currie, Elizabeth (1996) “Five Sqwuxwu7mish Futures,” *Proceedings of the International Conference on Salishan and Neighboring Languages* **31**.23-28.
- Darnell, Michael (1997) *A Functional Analysis of Voice in Squamish*. Ph.D. dissertation, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.
- Jacobs, Peter (1992) *Subordinate Clauses in Squamish: a Coast Salish Language*. M.A. thesis, University of Oregon.
- Kuipers, Aert H. (1967) *The Squamish Language*. The Hague: Mouton.
- Kuipers, Aert H. (1969) *The Squamish Language. Part II*. The Hague: Mouton.
- Nakayama, Toshihide (1991) “On the Position of the Nominalizer in Squamish,” *Proceedings of the International Conference on Salishan and Neighboring Languages* **18**.293-300.
- Walker, Carl I. (1973) *An English Squamish Dictionary*. Unpublished ms.

## 5.10. Straits Salish

Straits Salish is a single language consisting of a number of dialects. Ts’ooke, Semiahmoo, and Songish are extinct. Lummi, spoken in Washington State, Saanich and Samish still have a few speakers.

### 5.10.1. Documentation

There is a dictionary of Songish (Mitchell 1968) and a classified word list of Saanich (Montler 1991). Though there are treatments of portions of the grammar of several dialects (Efrat 1969, Galloway 1990, Pidgeon 1970, Raffo 1972), there is no comprehensive reference grammar for any dialect. There is no text collection. Charles, Demers, and Bowman (1978) is an introductory textbook of Lummi.

### 5.10.2. Linguists

Dr. Timothy R. Montler (University of North Texas) is actively working on Saanich. Dr. Richard Demers and Dr. Eloise Jellinek (University of Arizona) have worked for many years on Lummi. Dr. Brent Galloway, Dr. Barbara Efrat, M.R. Mitchell, M. Pidgeon and Y. A. Raffo have worked on the language but are no longer active.

### 5.10.3. References

- Charles, Al, Richard Demers and Elizabeth Bowman (1978) *Introduction to the Lummi Language*. Tucson, Arizona: Department of Linguistics.
- Efrat, Barbara S. (1969) *A Grammar of Non-particles in Sooke, a Dialect of Straits Salish*. Ph.D. dissertation, University of Pennsylvania.
- Galloway, Brent (1990) *A Phonology, Morphology, and Classified Word List for the Samish Dialect of Straits Salish*. Hull, Québec: Canadian Museum of Civilization. Canadian Ethnological Service. (Mercury Series Paper 116.)
- Mitchell, M. R. (1968) *A Dictionary of Songish, a Dialect of Straits Salish*. M.A. thesis, University of Victoria.
- Montler, Timothy R. (1991) *Saanich, North Straits Salish. Classified Word List*. Hull, Québec: Canadian Museum of Civilization. (Canadian Ethnology Service, Mercury Series Paper No. 119)
- Pidgeon, M. (1970) *Lexical suffixes in Saanich, A dialect of Straits Coast Salish*. M.A. thesis, University of Victoria.
- Raffo, Y. A. (1972) *A Phonology and Morphology of Songish: A Dialect of Straits Salish*. Ph.D. dissertation, University of Kansas.

## 5.11. Thompson

### 5.11.1. Documentation

Thompson is unusually well documented. There is a comprehensive reference grammar (Thompson & Thompson 1992), a grammar sketch (Thompson, Thompson & Egesdal 1996), and a comprehensive dictionary (Thompson & Thompson 1996). There has also been additional research on particular topics, including an M.A. thesis on aspects of the morphology by a native speaker (Jimmie 1994) and a paper by Kroeber (1997). There is no collection of texts or textbook.

### 5.11.2. Linguists

Dr. Laurence Thompson and Dr. M. Terry Thompson have worked on Thompson for many years and have published the main documentation for it. They are now retired. Ms. Mandy Jimmie (Nicola Valley Tribal Council), a native speaker of Thompson, with a Master's degree in linguistics, has been working on teaching materials for her language. Dr. Paul Kroeber has done some work on the language. Catherine Howett wrote her M.A. thesis on the language.

### 5.11.3. References

- Howett, Catherine (1993) *On the Classification of Predicates in Nleʔkəpmx*. M.A. thesis, University of British Columbia.
- Jimmie, Mandy (1994) *Prosodic Morphology in Nlaʔkapmxcin*. M.A. thesis, Department of Linguistics, University of British Columbia.
- Kroeber, Paul D. (1997) “Relativization in Thompson River Salish,” *Anthropological Linguistics* **39**.3.376-422.
- Thompson, Laurence C. and M. Terry Thompson (1992) *The Thompson Language*. Missoula, Montana: Linguistics Laboratory, University of Montana. (University of Montana Occasional Papers in Linguistics, No. 9).
- Thompson, Laurence C. and M. Terry Thompson (1996) *Thompson River Salish Dictionary*. Missoula, Montana: Linguistics Laboratory, University of Montana. (University of Montana Occasional Papers in Linguistics, No. 12).
- Thompson, Laurence C., Thompson, M. Terry and Steven M. Egesdal (1996) “Sketch of Thompson, a Salishan Language,” in Ives Goddard (ed.) *Handbook of North American Languages. Volume 17: Languages*. Washington, D.C.: Smithsonian Institution. pp. 609-643.

## 6. Wakashan

### 6.1. Ditidat

Ditidat is more commonly known as Nitinat.

#### 6.1.1. Documentation

There is a first-year textbook (Thomas & Hess 1984). There is no fully adequate text collection, but there are some published texts (Swadesh & Haas 1932, Touchie 1977). There is no grammar or dictionary.

#### 6.1.2. Linguists

Dr. Thom Hess (University of Victoria) has worked extensively on this language. Dr. Barry F. Carlson (University of Victoria), Dr. Terry J. Klokeid, and Ms. Bernice N. Touchie have also worked on the language but are not active. A native speaker of the language, Mr. John Tl'ishal Thomas, has collaborated with several of the linguists working on the language.

### 6.1.3. References

- Swadesh, Morris and Mary Haas (1932) “A visit to the other world, a Nitinat text,” *IJAL* 7.195-208.
- Thomas, John Tl’ishal & Thom Hess (1981) *An Introduction to Nitinaht Language and Culture*. Victoria, B.C.: University of Victoria.
- Touchie, Bernice N. (1977) “Nitinaht, Northwest Coast texts,” *International Journal of American Linguistics – Native American Text Series* 2/3.69-97.

## 6.2. Haisla

### 6.2.1. Documentation

There is a published dictionary (Lincoln & Rath 1986), an unpublished dictionary (Vink 1980) and another (Bach n.d.) in progress. A non-technical book containing some grammatical material is in preparation, but there is no reference grammar. One text has been published (Lincoln et al. 1990); there are additional texts as yet unpublished (Legaic, n.d., Robertson n.d.). Some basic teaching materials exist but there is as yet no full-scale university-level textbook.

### 6.2.2. Linguists

Dr. Neville Lincoln (SFU) has worked extensively on Haisla. He is no longer very active.

Dr. Emmon Bach (University of Massachusetts and UNBC) has worked for some years on the language and continues to do so in his retirement. He has been involved in the preparation of university-level teaching materials.

### 6.2.3. References

- Bach, Emmon (n.d.) *Haisla-English and English-Haisla Dictionary*.  
Dictionary in progress.
- Bach, Emmon. (n.d.). *A Haisla Book*.  
Draft in process of being revised, to be submitted to UBC press. Non-technical chapters on Haisla phonology, orthography, and grammar, together with appendices containing vocabularies, conversational materials, and lists of roots, inflections and suffixes.
- Bach, Emmon, Dora Robinson, and Rose Robinson (n.d.) *Wisenis haislakwala* [Let’s talk Haisla]  
10 lessons for beginning Haisla (UNBC FNST 135).

Legaic, Jeffrey L. (n.d.) *Ninuyems aiwisli: Haisla Texts and Stories*. Transcribed, edited, and translated by Emmon Bach and others.

Includes Haisla and English texts by Legaic. Tapes also exist.

Lincoln, Neville J. and John C. Rath (1986) *Phonology, Dictionary, and Listing of Roots and Lexical Derivates of the Haisla Language of Kitlope and Kitimaat, B.C.* Ottawa: National Museum of Man. (Canadian Ethnology Service, Mercury Series Paper No. 103).

Lincoln, Neville J., John C. Rath, Evelyn Windsor (1990) *Baxbakalanusiwa. Un récit Haisla/ a Haisla story. raconté par/ as told by Gordon Robertson. Amérindia.* No. 14. Supplément 3.

Robertson, Gordon (n.d.) *Ninuyems hesduaklai: Stories and Texts from the Kitlope*. Transcribed, edited, and translated by Emmon Bach and Gordon Robertson.

Texts mostly in Haisla/Henaaksiala, some English. Tapes also exist.

Vink, Hein [Henry]. (n.d.) *A first course in Haisla*. Unpublished manuscript.

Vink, Hein [Henry]. (n.d.) *An advanced course in Haisla*. Unpublished manuscript.

Vink, Henry [Hein]. (1980) *Dictionary of Haisla*. Unpublished manuscript.

### **6.3. Heiltsuk/Oweekyala**

Heiltsuk (Bella Bella) and Oweekyala (Oweekeno) are dialects of a single language that has no name.

#### **6.3.1. Documentation**

Rath (1981) is an extensive Heiltsuk-English dictionary together with a lengthy grammar sketch. Boas (1928, 1932) published collections of traditional stories. The only documentation for Oweekyala are a collection of texts by Chief Simon Walkus (Windsor 1982) and Darrin Howe's doctoral dissertation. There is no textbook for either dialect.

#### **6.3.2. Linguists**

Dr. John C. Rath has worked extensively on Heiltsuk but is no longer active. Dr. Darrin Howe recently completed a doctoral dissertation at UBC on Oweekyala.

#### **6.3.3. References**

Boas, Franz (1928) *Bella Bella Texts*. (Columbia University Contributions to Anthropology 5).

Boas, Franz (1932) *Bella Bella Tales*. (Memoirs of the American Folklore Society 25).

Rath, John C. (1981) *A Practical Heiltsuk-English Dictionary*. Ottawa: National Museum of Man. (Canadian Ethnology Service, Mercury Series Paper No. 75).

Windsor, Evelyn Walkus (1982) *Oowekeeno Oral Traditions as Told by the Late Chief Simon Walkus, Sr.* edited by Susanne Hilton and John Rath. Ottawa: National Museum of Man. Mercury Series 84.

## 6.4. Kwakw'ala

Kwakw'ala has often been referred to in English as Kwakiutl, which is actually a rendition of the name of the people rather than their language.

### 6.4.1. Documentation

There are an old-fashioned but extensive grammar (Boas 1947) and a small dictionary (Grubb 1977). George Hunt, a native speaker of the language, collaborated with anthropologist/linguist Franz Boas to produce an enormous amount of text (Boas & Hunt 1902-1905, 1906). There is no textbook.

### 6.4.2. Linguists

Dr. Neville Lincoln of Simon Fraser University is engaged in the compilation of a comprehensive dictionary, based both on his own fieldnotes and on the other available sources. He is not currently engaged in new fieldwork. Several linguists, including Stephen Anderson, David Grubb, Robert Levine, and Peter Wilson, have worked on the language but are not actively doing so.

### 6.4.3. References

Boas, Franz (1947) "Kwakiutl Grammar with a Glossary of the Suffixes," *Transactions of the American Philosophical Society* **37.3**.201-377. (Posthumous publication, edited by Helen Boas Yampolsky and Zellig S. Harris.)

Boas, Franz & George Hunt (1902-1905) "Kwakutl Texts," *Publications of the Jesup North Pacific Expedition* **3.1-3**; *Memoirs of the American Museum of Natural History* **5.1-3**. New York. (Reprinted AMS Press, New York, 1975.)

Boas, Franz & George Hunt (1906) "Kwakutl Texts (Second Series)," *Publications of the Jesup North Pacific Expedition* **10.1**; *Memoirs of the American Museum of Natural History* **14.1.1-269**. New York. (Reprinted AMS Press, New York, 1975.)

Grubb, David McC. (1977) *A Practical Writing System and Short Dictionary of Kwakw'ala (Kwakiutl)*. Ottawa: National Museum of Man. (Canadian Ethnology Service, Mercury Series Paper No. 34).

## 6.5. Nuuchanulth

### 6.5.1. Documentation

There is a grammar of one dialect (Rose 1981), a grammar sketch (Nakayama 1999) and a topical dictionary (Powell 1991). There is also a detailed discussion of the sound system of one dialect (Stonham 1999). There is a collection of texts (Sapir & Swadesh 1939). There is no textbook.

### 6.5.2. Linguists

Dr. Jay Powell (UBC) has worked extensively on the language. Dr. William Jacobsen (University of Nevada) has worked on-and-off on the language. Dr. Suzanne Rose and Dr. John Stonham are no longer active. Dr. Toshihide Nakayama continues to work on the language. Graduate students Eun-Sook Kim and Ruth Wojdak are working on the language.

### 6.5.3. References

- Nakayama, Toshihide (1999) *Nuu-chah-nulth (Nootka)*. Munich: LINCOM EUROPA.
- Powell, James V. (1991) *Our World — Our Ways: T'aat'aaqsapa Cultural Dictionary*. Nuuchahnulth Tribal Council.
- Rose, Suzanne Maria (1981) *Kyuquot Grammar*. Ph.D. dissertation, University of Victoria.
- Sapir, Edward & Morris Swadesh (1939) *Nootka Texts: Tales and Ethnological Narratives with Grammatical Rules and Lexical Materials*. Philadelphia: Linguistic Society of America.
- Stonham, John (1999) *Aspects of Tsishaath Nootka Phonetics and Phonology*. Munich: LINCOM EUROPA.

## 7. Tsimshianic

The Tsimshianic<sup>2</sup> languages are spoken on the NW Coast and adjacent areas of the interior along the Nass and Skeena Rivers. The Tsimshianic family has been proposed to belong to the larger Penutian family, but this proposal is generally considered unproven at this time.

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<sup>2</sup> Nisga'a and Gitksan people do not like this term for the language family as it seems to give precedence to Coast Tsimshian over their own languages, but this is the name in general use and no alternative has won wide acceptance.

## 7.1. Coast Tsimshian

### 7.1.1. Documentation

There are a modest dictionary (Dunn 1978, 1995), a rather dated and less-than-adequate joint grammar of Coast Tsimshian and Nisga'a (Boas 1911), and a more modern but nonetheless rather basic grammar (Dunn 1979, 1995), as well as a book on aspects of the syntax (Mulder 1994). There is a large collection of mythological texts (Boas 1912), though these are pre-phonemically transcribed, as well as a fair number of unpublished modern texts. Boas' translations have recently been criticized by Maud (2000). A series of stories (Hayward 1980-1983) have been published in Alaska. There is no textbook.

### 7.1.2. Linguists

Dr. John Dunn (University of Oklahoma) has been working on Coast Tsimshian for many years. Dr. Jean Mulder is no longer active. Fumiko Sasama, a graduate student at the University of Hokkaido, wrote her M.A. thesis on Coast Tsimshian and continues to work on it.

### 7.1.3. References

- Boas, Franz (1911) "Tsimshian," *Handbook of American Indian Languages* Bulletin No. 40, part I. pp. 287-422.
- Boas, Franz (1912) *Tsimshian Texts*. Publications in American Ethnography Series. 3.283-422.
- Dunn, John Asher (1978) *A Practical Dictionary of the Coast Tsimshian Language*. Ottawa: National Museum of Man. (Canadian Ethnology Service, Mercury Series Paper No. 42).
- Dunn, John Asher (1979) *A Reference Grammar for the Coast Tsimshian Language*. Ottawa: National Museum of Man. (Canadian Ethnology Service, Mercury Series Paper No. 55).
- Dunn, John Asher (1995) *Sm'algyax: A Reference Dictionary and Grammar for the Coast Tsimshian Language*. Washington, D.C.: University of Washington Press and Sealaska Heritage Foundation. [Single volume reprint of Dunn (1978) and Dunn (1979).]
- Hayward, Russel (1980) *Tsimshian Stories 1*. Metlakatla, AK: Metlakatla Indian Corporation.
- Hayward, Russel (1982) *Tsimshian Stories 2*. Metlakatla, AK: Metlakatla Indian Corporation.
- Hayward, Russel (1983) *Tsimshian Stories 3*. Metlakatla, AK: Metlakatla Indian Corporation.



- Hayward, Russel (1983) *Tsimshian Stories 4*. Metlakatla, AK: Metlakatla Indian Corporation.
- Hayward, Russel (1983) *Tsimshian Stories 5*. Metlakatla, AK: Metlakatla Indian Corporation.
- Maud, Ralph (2000) *Transmission Difficulties: Franz Boas and Tsimshian Mythology*. Burnaby, British Columbia: Talon Books.
- Mulder, Jean Gail (1994) *Ergativity in Coast Tsimshian (Sm'alyax)*. Berkeley: University of California Press. University of California Publications in Linguistics 124.
- Sasama, Fumiko (1995) *Coast Tsimshian Plural Formation with Phonological Introduction*. M.A. thesis, Hokkaido University.

## 7.2. Gitksan

### 7.2.1. Documentation

There is only a small dictionary (Hindle & Rigsby 1973). An extensive grammar exists but has yet to be published (Rigsby 1986). There is also a dissertation (Hunt 1993) on aspects of the syntax. There is no collection of texts or textbook.

### 7.2.2. Linguists

Dr. Bruce Rigsby (University of New South Wales, Australia) has worked extensively on Gitksan and is still active. Ronald Wickstrom wrote an M.A. thesis on Gitksan but is no longer active. Dr. Katharine Hunt did her dissertation research on Gitksan but is no longer active.

### 7.2.3. References

- Hindle, Lonnie and Bruce Rigsby (1973) "A short practical dictionary of the Gitksan language," *Northwest Anthropological Research Notes* 7.1.1-60.
- Hunt, Katharine (1993) *Clause Structure, Agreement, and Case in Gitksan*. Unpublished Ph.D. dissertation, University of British Columbia.
- Rigsby, Bruce (1986) *Gitksan Grammar*. Unpublished manuscript, University of Queensland, Australia.
- Wickstrom, Ronald (1974) *A Phonology of Gitksan, With Emphasis on Glottalization*. M.A. thesis, University of Victoria.

## 7.3. Nisga'a

### 7.3.1. Documentation

Boas (1911) is a rather dated and less-than-adequate joint grammar of Nisga'a and Coast Tsimshian. This is supplanted by the modern grammar of Tarpent (1989). Tarpent (1986) contains a great deal of information but is not a dictionary of the usual sort, which remains to be written. The only published collection of texts is Boas (1902), which is not very well transcribed or translated. There is no adequate adult-level textbook, though materials are in preparation.

### 7.3.2. Linguists

Dr. Marie-Lucie Tarpent (Mount Saint Vincent University) was employed by the Bilingual/Bicultural Programme of School District 92 (Nisgaha) for eight years to prepare pedagogical materials and has continued to work on it since taking up a university position. Robert Belvin worked on the syntax for his M.A. thesis but is no longer active.

### 7.3.3. References

Belvin, Robert (1984) *Nisgaha Syntax and the Ergativity Hypothesis*. Unpublished M.A. thesis, University of British Columbia.

Boas, Franz (1902) *Tsimshian Texts*.<sup>3</sup> Washington: Bureau of American Ethnology. Bulletin 27.

Boas, Franz (1911) "Tsimshian," *Handbook of American Indian Languages* Bulletin No. 40, part I. pp. 287-422.

Tarpent, Marie-Lucie (ed.) (1986) *Ha'iiimagoon'isgum Algaxhl Nisga'a [Nisgaha Phrase Dictionary]*. New Aiyansh, British Columbia: School District 92.

Tarpent, Marie-Lucie (1989) *A Grammar of the Nisgaha Language*. Unpublished Ph.D. dissertation, University of Victoria.

## 7.4. South Tsimshian (Klemtu)

### 7.4.1. Documentation

South Tsimshian is nearly extinct. A small amount of material has been published, but there is no dictionary, grammar, collection of texts, or textbook.

### 7.4.2. Linguists

South Tsimshian was recognized as a distinct language by Dr. John Dunn (University of Oklahoma). He is no longer actively working on it. Dr. Marie-Lucie Tarpent (Mount Saint Vincent University) has been working on South Tsimshian.

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<sup>3</sup> Boas lumped Coast Tsimshian, Nisga'a, and Gitskan together under the name *Tsimshian*, so the volume to which he gave the title *Tsimshian Texts* does indeed contain texts in Nisga'a.

### 7.4.3. References

Dunn, John Asher (1979a) “Tsimshian internal relations reconsidered: Southern Tsimshian,” in Barbara S. Efrat (ed.) *The Victoria Conference on Northwestern Languages (Nov. 4-5, 1976)* (Victoria: British Columbia Provincial Museum) pp. 62-82.

Dunn, John Asher (1979b) “Tsimshian connectives,” *International Journal of American Linguistics* 45.2.131-140.

## 8. Isolates

Two languages, Haida and Kootenai, are not demonstrably related to any other language.

### 8.1. Haida

#### 8.1.1. Documentation

Lawrence (1990) is a Haida to English dictionary with an English to Haida index. It is based on the Kaigani (Alaskan) dialect, which is very close to the Masset dialect spoken in BC. There is no dictionary of the Skidegate dialect. There is an old grammar by Keen (1906). Levine (1977) is a grammar of the Skidegate dialect. Lawrence (1990) contains a grammar sketch. Enrico (1991) is a detailed description of the phonology and aspects of the morphology of the Masset dialect. A comprehensive modern grammar has not yet been published, but Enrico (2003) is a massive study of the syntax. There are extensive collections of texts (Swanton 1905, 1908, 1912) and an extensive collection of songs (Enrico & Stuart 1996). There is no textbook.

#### 8.1.2. Linguists

Dr. John Enrico, an unaffiliated linguist, has worked on the language for many years. Dr. Robert Levine (University of Ohio) worked on Haida as a graduate student and then as a staff member of the Royal British Columbia Museum. Although still active as a linguist, he is no longer working on Haida. Various other scholars have done small amounts of work on Haida.

#### 8.1.3. References

Enrico, John (1991) *The Lexical Phonology of Masset Haida*. Fairbanks: Alaska Native Language Center.

- Enrico, John & Wendy Bross Stuart (1996) *Northern Haida Songs*. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press.
- Enrico, John (2003) *Haida Syntax*. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press. 2 volumes.
- Keen, J. H. (1906) *A Grammar of the Haida Language*. London.
- Lawrence, Erma (1990) *Haida Dictionary*. Fairbanks: Society for the Preservation of Haida Language and Literature and Alaska Native Language Center.
- Levine, Robert D. (1977) *The Skidegate Dialect of Haida*. Ph.D. dissertation, Columbia University.
- Swanton, J. R. (1905) “Haida texts and myths: Skidegate dialect,” *Bulletin of the Bureau of American Ethnology* **29**.
- Swanton, J. R. (1908) “Haida texts: Masset dialect,” *Memoirs of the American Museum of Natural History* **10**.273-803.
- Swanton, J. R. (1912) “Haida songs,” *Proceedings of the American Ethnological Society* **3**.1-63.

## 8.2. Kootenai

The name of this language is variously spelled Kootenai, Kutenai, and Kootenay. In British Columbia Kootenai people usually refer to it as Ktunaxa.

### 8.2.1. Documentation

There is an old-fashioned missionary grammar, in Latin, (Canastrelli 1894) a series of papers on various topics by Paul Garvin, and a dissertation by Lawrence Morgan (1991). There is a collection of narrative texts (Boas & Chamberlain 1918), some other short texts (Garvin 1953) and a small amount of conversational text (Garvin 1954). There is no dictionary or textbook.

### 8.2.2. Linguists

Dr. Lawrence Morgan has worked on the language extensively. He is no longer actively engaged in fieldwork. Dr. Matthew Dryer (State University of New York) has done some work on Kutenai syntax. Ms. Dorothy Berney, a graduate student at the University of Pittsburgh, has been working for some years on Montana Kootenai under the auspices of the Kootenai Culture Committee of the Confederated Salish/Kootenai Tribes. She has compiled a small, draft dictionary.

### 8.2.3. References

- Boas, Franz and Alexander F. Chamberlain (1918) “Kutenai Tales.” *Bureau of American Ethnology Bulletin* 59. Washington, D.C.

- Canastrelli, Filippo (1894) *Linguae Ksanka Elementa Grammaticae*. Santa Clara, California: N. H. Downing. [Reprinted in *International Journal of American Linguistics* 4.1.1-84 (1938), with notes by Franz Boas at pp. 85-104.]
- Garvin, Paul L. (1947) “Christian Names in Kutenai,” *International Journal of American Linguistics* 13.2.69-77.
- Garvin, Paul L. (1948) “Kutenai lexical innovations,” *Word* 4.120-126.
- Garvin, Paul L. (1947) *Kutenai Grammar*. Ph.D. dissertation, Indian University.
- Garvin, Paul L. (1948) “Kutenai I: Phonemics,” *International Journal of American Linguistics* 14.37-42.
- Garvin, Paul L. (1948) “Kutenai II: Morpheme Variation,” *International Journal of American Linguistics* 14.87-90.
- Garvin, Paul L. (1948) “Kutenai III: Morpheme distributions (prefix, theme, suffix),” *International Journal of American Linguistics* 14.171-178.
- Garvin, Paul L. (1951) “Kutenai IV: Word Classes,” *International Journal of American Linguistics* 17.2.84-97.
- Garvin, Paul L. (1953) “Short Kutenai Texts,” *International Journal of American Linguistics* 19.4.305-311.
- Garvin, Paul L. (1954) “Colloquial Kutenai Text: Conversation II,” *International Journal of American Linguistics* 20.4.316-334.
- Morgan, Larry (1991) *A Description of the Kutenai Language*. Unpublished Ph.D. dissertation, University of California at Berkeley.

## 9. Summary

The following chart summarizes the above information.

The “Grammar”, “Dictionary”, “Texts”, and “Textbook” columns describe the status of each type of documentation. The “linguists” column provides two pieces of information, separated by a slash. The first is the number of living linguists reasonably familiar with the language. (The degree of familiarity ranges from relatively brief fieldwork to extensive knowledge and the ability to speak the language.) The second number is the number of linguists actively engaged in documentation. The notation “3/1” for Thompson, for example, means that there are three linguists familiar with the language, of whom one is active. These figures include only people with sufficient linguistic training to do serious documentation work. People learning or teaching a language but not engaged in documentation work are not included, nor are people doing work peripheral to language, such as ethnobotany or oral history. Notice that it is possible for someone to be counted as “active” but not as “knowledgable”, if he or she has only recently begun to study the language. <sup>4</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> The figures given for the number of linguists actively working on Saulteau and Straits Salish are the number working on dialects spoken in British Columbia. If the linguists working on

Even so, the numbers of linguists give only an approximation to the amount of activity and expertise. A person may be considered “active”, in the sense that he or she continues to work on the language, but may only be working on it sporadically. A graduate student who is actively working on the language but has just begun does not have the same level of expertise as a scholar who has worked on the language for many years. In some cases, a person has done extensive work on a very narrow topic. While this is often valuable for our general scientific knowledge, and it is certainly worthwhile understanding details of a language, this does not make the same contribution to documentation, for purposes of language maintenance, as does broader work on, e.g., a dictionary or grammar.

Note that even when this chart describes the information for a language as good or better it may be the case that this is true only for one dialect. For Carrier, for example, the Stuart/Trembleur Lake dialect is relatively well documented, while there is very little for the other dialects. Similarly, for Haida the available documentation is primarily for the Masset dialect and the closely related Kaigani (Alaskan) dialect. The other major dialect, Skidegate, is not as well documented.

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Lummi, spoken in Washington State are counted for Straits Salish, the number rises to 3. The figures given for Cree and Slave include linguists working outside of British Columbia since the varieties of these languages spoken in British Columbia are believed not to differ significantly from varieties spoken elsewhere.

Language	Grammar	Dictionary	Texts	Textbook	Linguists
Babine-Witsuwit'en	morpho-phonology	in progress	fair	1st semester	3/2
Beaver	phonology	modest nouns	none	none	2/0
Carrier	fair	fair	good	drafty 1st year	5/3
Chilcotin	none	none	none	none	4/0
Coast Tsimshian	fair	fair	fair	none	3/2
Comox/Sliamon	good	fair	none	none	7/3
Cree	sketches	good	good	1st year	3+/3+
Ditidat	none	none	modest	1st year	4/1
Gitksan	excellent	modest	none	none	3/1
Haida	good	good	good	none	2/1
Haisla	none	good	fair	1st year draft	2/1
Halkomelem	good	good	in progress	in progress	8/8
Heiltsuk	lengthy sketch	good	fair	none	2/1
Kaska	none	nouns	good	none	2/2
Kootenai	good	none	good	none	3/1
Kwakw'ala	good	small	excellent	none	5+/0
Lilloet	good	fair	limited	1st year	6/4
Nicola	none	none	none	none	0/0
Nisga'a	good	fair	none	draft	2/1
Nuuchanulth	good	topical	good	none	7/5
Nuxalk	good	modest	very good	none	4/2
Okanagan	good	good	good	none	10/2
Pentlatch	none	none	none	none	0/0
Saulteau	none	none	none	none	0/0
Sechelt	limited	none	limited	modest	2/1
Sekani	lengthy sketch	fair	none	none	1/1
Shuswap	good	good	good	modest	4/1
Slave	excellent	fair	fair	none	3+/3+
South Tsimshian	none	none	none	none	2/1
Squamish	good	modest	good	none	8/3
Straits	none	none	none	modest	8/1
Tahltan	none	minimal	none	none	7/2
Thompson	excellent	excellent	none	none	5/1
Tlingit	good	good	very good	elementary	5/3
Tsetsaut	none	none	none	none	0/0

The following chart gives an estimate of the number of speakers of each language, together with the number of children who speak the language. (In cases where a language is also spoken outside of British Columbia, the total number of speakers is given, including those outside British Columbia.) This serves as a rough indicator of the degree of endangerment of the language. This in turn is an indicator of the urgency of documentation work; other things being equal, there is likely to be less opportunity for further work on a language with only a few speakers than on a language with many.

The speaker numbers cited here are in most cases fairly crude approximations, not accurate counts. Most of the estimates are dated; since almost all of the languages are in decline, the numbers given should in general be interpreted as likely to be over-estimates. The figures for children are even less certain; although very few languages have any substantial number of child speakers, isolated cases are easily overlooked.

<b>Language</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Under 15</b>
Nicola	0	0
Pentlatch	0	0
Tsetsaut	0	0
South Tsimshian	1	0
Tagish	2	0
Squamish	15	0
Nuxalk	20	0
Straits	20	0
Ditidat	30	0
Tahltan	35	0
Sechelt	40	0
Haida	50	0
Sekani	50	0
Kootenai	50	0
Kwakw'ala	190	0
Halkomelem	200	0
Lillooet	200	0
Nuuchanulth	200	0
Haisla	250	0
Beaver	300	0
Comox/Sliamon	400	0
Kaska	400	0
Heiltsuk/Oweekyala	450	0
Babine-Witsuwit'en	500	5
Okanagan	500	0
Shuswap	500	40
Thompson	500	0
Tlingit	575	0
Nisga'a	700	0
Coast Tsimshian	800	0
Carrier	1000	6
Gitksan	1000	30
Chilcotin	1200	15
Slave	3900	?
Saulteau	35000	?
Cree	35000	?

## Numbers of Speakers of BC First Nations Languages

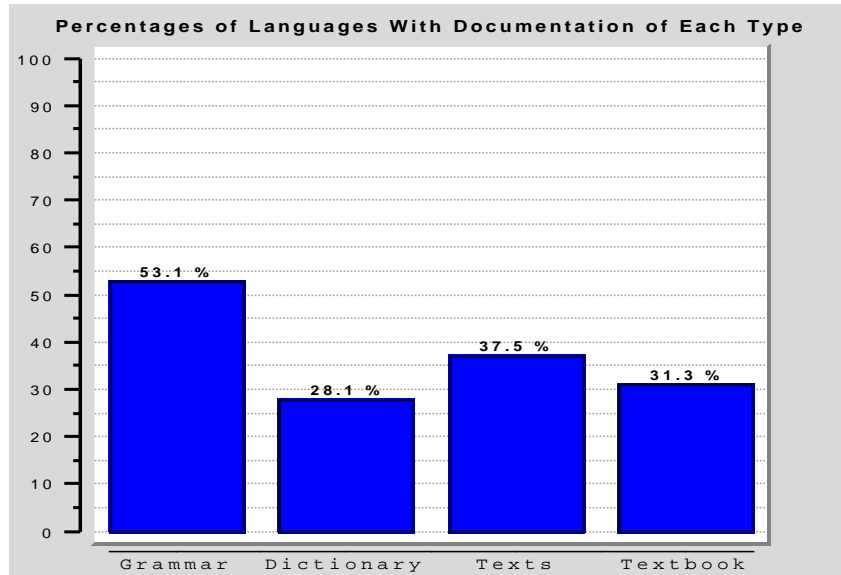
Note: Many estimates are of questionable accuracy, especially those for children. Where a language is spoken both in BC and elsewhere, the total number of speakers is given. BVLVD stands for “Bulkley Valley/Lakes District Language”.

More up-to-date and detailed information may be found on the Yinka Dene Language Institute pages mentioned in footnote 1. From the main YDLI index, select



*British Columbia and Other Native Languages*. On this page, in the section entitled *The Native Languages of British Columbia*, select *The Status of the First Nations Languages of BC*. This provides information on language status that is being continually updated as better information becomes available. It also distinguishes between the number of speakers in British Columbia and the total number of speakers.

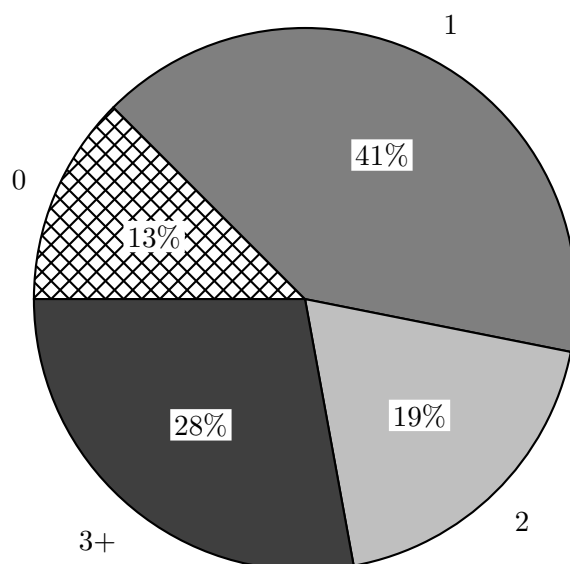
The following bar graph summarizes the status of documentation. The figures represent the percentage of languages for which documentation of each type rated “good” or better is available. Textbooks are not shown since there is no language for which there is an adequate university-level textbook beyond the first year level.



### Percentage of Languages With Documentation Rated “Good” or Better

There are hardly any languages that can be considered well documented. Only one-quarter of the languages have both a reasonably good dictionary and grammar. Even where one or two components are of good quality, others are missing. Roughly half the languages have no decent grammar. Less than a third have a good dictionary; only slightly more than a third have a good text collection. There is no university-level textbook for any language beyond the first-year, and even this exists only for a minority of the languages. Generally speaking, the languages are better documented in the South and along the coast. The Athabaskan languages of the northern interior are in general poorly documented.

The amount of research activity does not bode well for remedying this situation. The following chart shows the percentage of the extant languages on which different numbers of linguists are actively engaged in documentation work.



### Percentage of Languages Being Studied by N Linguists

For more than half of the languages, there is at most one linguist active. Less than a third have three or more, and four of these (Cree, Sauteau, Slave, and Tlingit) are languages spoken primarily outside of BC. There are several languages on which no linguist is actively working: Beaver, Chilcotin, Kwakw'ala, Sauteau (BC variety).<sup>5</sup> These languages are by no means well documented; indeed, Beaver and Chilcotin are rather poorly documented, and the BC variety of Sauteau has never been studied.

There is clearly a burning need for further documentation of the native languages of British Columbia. One way to facilitate this is for the universities to encourage their faculty and students to work on the native languages and for them to increase their staffing in linguistics. Another, which has been too long neglected, is for native people, to be trained to carry out documentation work themselves, and to be given assistance and encouragement in documentation projects. While some research requires advanced training in linguistics, a great deal of work, especially lexicography, can be accomplished by people with relatively modest linguistic training. Since few native people are in a position to attend linguistics classes at the universities in the south, this training must be made available in native communities. Programmes that provide such training do not presently exist; creating them should be a high priority.

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<sup>5</sup> It goes without saying that no one is doing fieldwork on the extinct languages Nicola, Pentlatch, and Tsetsaut.