

FOREWORD

These two volumes *Proto Algonkian¹ Roots* and *Proto Algonkian Word Formatives* are two interrelated works which present a complete breakdown of all the formative elements from over seven thousand lexical items of Fox, Cree, Menominee, and Ojibway, the four central languages which Bloomfield used for his classic *Algonquian* sketch, with evidence from other languages where needed. These materials were prepared from the same data set that was originally prepared for the *Computer-generated Dictionary of Proto-Algonquian* (Hewson 1993), a dictionary of over four thousand reconstructed vocabulary items, using a methodology that has been reported on in a variety of publications (the most recent of which are Hewson 2001 and 2010).

Among the words which had no obvious cognates in the rest of the data set were many which were manifestly constructed of common Algonkian word formatives, so that their etymology was quite transparent. A technique was developed of reconstructing these words in terms of their PA formatives, with hyphens between each formative, which is a simple extension of the familiar technique of internal reconstruction: although the word itself had no full cognate, each of its formatives had cognates elsewhere in the data set. In some cases this allowed us to find full cognates for haplological and other reshaped forms which had slipped through the net of the mechanical computer processes of cognate finding.

Not infrequently the internal structure of a word was transparent except perhaps for a single element. This led to extensive research on some of the rarer formatives, and the eventual establishment of an extensive list of PA formatives. The list of PA etymologies consequently became a vast catalogue of several thousand items, illustrative of some six hundred roots, and an equal number of internal formatives, including not only medials and finals but also post-initial, pre-final, and other elements.

In order to facilitate research upon the internal formatives a concordance was made of all items between hyphens. This concordance presents each of the internal formatives as a main heading, and lists all the etymologies in which this formative appears, showing not only which languages have preserved the element, but also all the allomorphs and the collocations with other formatives. When dealing with the internal formatives this kind of information is normally inaccessible in practical terms, because it does not show up in normal alphabetical listings.

This concordance, which we have entitled *Proto-Algonkian Word Formatives*, is a useful research tool for students of Algonkian languages in that it gives extensive information on a great variety of different formatives, which speakers of other Algonkian languages will recognise as having reflexes in their own languages. These reconstructions reveal the processes of word formation, and the possible collocations of different formatives. There is also valuable information

¹This is the spelling of Sapir, justified by the fact that the older form *Algonquian* was from a French spelling, that the traditional pronunciation had always been *-kian*, and that *Esquimau* had already been changed to *Eskimo*. Bloomfield, however, maintained the traditional spellings *Algonquin* (a dialect of Ojibway) and *Algonquian* (the whole family).

on the meaning of these elements, on the variations of meaning that may develop, and on the meanings that emerge from the collocations. A certain amount of information on morphological variation is also revealed.

The volume entitled *Proto-Algonkian Roots*, on the other hand, is not intended to be an exhaustive listing of PA initial elements; it is basically the alphabetical listing of the seven thousand etymologies on which the concordance was based, with semantic and morphological information on the initial elements of these etymologies: information that is not immediately available from the concordance itself. The Fox and Ojibway initial *na:š-*, for example, has been reconstructed as **la:l-*, on the evidence of Cree *ya:y-* “stroke, rub”. The Fox and Ojibway forms are to be expected before high front vowels, because these languages have generalised the **θ > *š* palatalisation that is found in this context to */*l/* as well, but in the case of this particular initial the palatalised form has become the only form in these two languages.

The alphabetical list of etymologies also has a further possible function: it can facilitate the search for cognates in other languages. Whenever a word from another Algonkian language is found to have the same etymology as an item from this list, it will necessarily be cognate, and the etymology will then become a new reconstruction, which will justify eliminating the hyphens and adding the full word to the vocabulary of Proto Algonkian.

John Hewson

References

Hewson, John. 1993. *A Computer-Generated Dictionary of Proto-Algonquian*. Ottawa: Canadian Museum of Civilization. Canadian Ethnology Service: Mercury Series Paper 125.

Hewson, John. 2001. “The comparative method applied to Amerindian: the reconstruction of Proto-Algonkian”. In *History of the Language Sciences*, eds. Sylvain Auroux, E.F.K. Koerner, Hans-Joseph Niederehe, & Kees Veersteegh: Vol. 2:1384-1391. Berlin & New York: Walter de Gruyter. (2001).

Hewson, John. 2010. “Sound change and the comparative method: the science of historical reconstruction”. In *The Continuum Companion to Historical Linguistics*. Ed. By Silvia Luraghi & Vit Bubenik, pp. 39-51. London & New York: Continuum.

INTRODUCTION

The following symbols have been used for grammatical categories:

TA	Transitive Animate Verb (with animate goal)
TI	Transitive Inanimate Verb (with inanimate goal)
AI	Animate Intransitive Verb (with animate subject)
II	Inanimate Intransitive Verb (with inanimate subject)
PT	Pseudo Transitive Verb (with inanimate goal)
NA	Animate Noun
NI	Inanimate Noun
XP	Particle, including locatives and personal pronouns

The following abbreviations have been used for language:

C Cree, D Delaware, F Fox, M Menomini, Mc Micmac, O Ojibwa, Sh Shawnee.

Some initial elements, where they are preceded by a preverb, and therefore in an internal position, have been listed in *PA Formatives*, and marked INIT.

Each of the formatives that has been reconstructed is illustrated in the listings that follow the main heading. Where these examples are inadequate to justify the reconstruction, reference has usually been made to a reconstruction in the *Computer Generated Dictionary of Proto-Algonkian*, by means of a reference number beginning with the letters MD, which is an acronym for *Multi Dictionary* where each reconstructed word is illustrated by more than one word from the daughter languages.

Where there is syncretism of two different formatives that affects only a small group of words, the two sets have been listed together, their meanings separated by a semi-colon. When the two sets are extensive, they have been separated under different numbered headings.

Since the palatalisation of **t* to **č* before high front vowels and glides is of such high occurrence in PA, the allomorphs containing this palatalisation have not been listed in the headings, which do however list the less common palatalisation of **θ* to **š*, and the lexically restricted irregular shift of **t* to **s*. Occasionally, when the formatives with the **č* palatalisation form a large set, they have been placed under a separate heading. Since the alphabetical ordering may place these different sets quite widely apart, cross references are used to connect them.

When the evidence from one language is notably out of line, an editorial comment has been added to the heading, indicating a reshaping of the formative in that particular language. Ordinary reshapings such as haplology, however, are not acknowledged. The reduplicated forms of the roots are likewise not added to the heading, but the examples of reduplication are listed at the end of each section, separated off by a one line space.