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Alice Shepherd

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Abstract

This volume represents a reconstruction of Proto-Wintun, the parent language of a group of California Indian languages. It includes a grammatical sketch of Proto-Wintun, cognate sets with reconstructions and an index to the reconstructions. The book fulfills a need for in-depth reconstructions of proto-languages for California Indian language families, both for theoretical purposes and deeper comparison with other proto- or pre-languages.

ABBREVIATIONS AND SOURCES

General Abbreviations

an. = animate
aux. = auxiliary
g. = generic aspect
gen. = genitive case
imp. = imperative
inan. = inanimate
intr. = intransitive
n. = noun
p. = particular aspect
pl. = plural
poss. = possessed
sg. = singular
tr. = transitive
voc. = vocative case

Proto-Wintun (PW)

V = unidentified vowel
C = unidentified consonant
Hyphens in PW forms indicate separately reconstructed morphemes.

Wintu (W)

W items unmarked as to source are from Pitkin 1984, 1985 and my own fieldnotes. Starred forms listed under W are pre-Wintu reconstructions from Pitkin 1985. E and O are morphophonemes representing the alternations e/i and o/u, respectively.

Other sources are indicated as follows:

C = Curtin 1898

DL = texts published in translation by Demetracopoulou [Lee] and Du Bois 1932 and Du Bois and Demetracopoulou [Lee] 1931 and microfilms of the Wintu versions of these texts housed at the Survey of California and Other Indian Languages, Department of Linguistics, University of California, Berkeley

M = Merriam 1903-1931

Nomlaki (N)

Sources are indicated following N as follows:

B = Barrett 1908

BP = Broadbent and Pitkin 1964

BW = Blankenship and Wenger 1978

C = Curtis 1924

DK = Dixon and Kroeber 1907

G = Goldsmith 1951

H = Hill 1971

Ha = Hale 1846

J = Johnson in Schoolcraft 1853/1860

K = Kroeber 1932

T-M = Merriam 1903-1931, "Upper Thoms Creek Nomlaki"

G-M = Merriam's materials entitled "Nom-lak'-ke Rancherias between Elder Creek and Grindstone Creek," and "Grindstone Creek field check list"

Noe-W = Whistler 1980, "Noema" Nomlaki

P = Powers 1877 (Chapter XXV, *The Wintun*)

PS = Pitkin and Shipley 1958

S = Swadesh ca. 1950

SS = Sawyer 1975

W = Whistler 1976c

Patwin (P)

Forms marked as P are common to all Patwin dialects. Dialects are indicated following the P as follows:

C = Cortina Hill Patwin

CC = Cache Creek Hill Patwin (aka Rumsey)

H = all Hill Patwin dialects or unspecified Hill Patwin dialect

K = Kabalmem Hill Patwin (aka Lodoga)

R = River Patwin

T = Lake County Hill Patwin (aka Tebti)

Forms unmarked as to source are from Whistler 1975-1979, unless otherwise marked as from a particular publication. Other sources are identified as follows:

B and U are from Bright and Ultan 1970, an alphabetized computer printout of lexical items collected in the field by Bright and Ultan. This printout uses the following unexplained abbreviations for dialects: A, H, L, R, T. My best guess is that these may represent: H = Hill, L = Lodoga (Whistler's K), R = River and T = Tebti. "A" may represent Cortina Hill Patwin, although I do not know why the letter A was chosen. It does not appear to stand for "all."

Forms marked M are from Merriam 1903-1936.

South Patwin (SP)

Forms marked SP are from Whistler 1976e or 1980 as indicated. Other forms are marked for source as follows:

A = Arroyo de la Cuesta 1821, using English glosses provided by Golla in a worksheet accompanying Golla 1996.

G = von Gerolt's retranscription of Arroyo (Gerolt 1830)

M = Merriam's South Patwin vocabulary schedule 1906, 1917

V = Vocabulary obtained by J. Alden Mason from Platon Vallejo (in Kroeber 1932), using English glosses provided in the worksheet accompanying Golla 1996.

Comparisons with Other Languages

Resemblances in other languages cited along with reconstructions by no means imply a suggestion of genetic relationship. It is up to the reader to decide if these forms are potentially genetically related, borrowed, diffused, onomatopoeic, or coincidence. No thorough search for resemblances has been conducted. The forms listed are those cited by others in comparative studies or noticed by the author in reading a variety of publications.

Alsea, Hanis, Siuslaw and Wasco comparisons are from Golla 1997 unless otherwise noted.

Uto-Aztecan and Proto-Uto-Aztecan (PUA) forms are from Miller 1967 unless otherwise indicated.

Proto-Mayan (PMY) forms and citations from Mayan daughter languages are from Brown 1990. In these forms, *t^y represents a palatized apical stop.

Maidun, Miwok, Costanoan and Yokuts forms are from Callaghan 2001 unless otherwise indicated. Callaghan uses the following abbreviations:

Ceb = Northern Costanoan: East Bay (Chochen)

Csf = Northern Costanoan: San Francisco

Csjb = Southern Costanoan: Mutsun

Cscr = Northern Costanoan: Santa Cruz

PCo = Proto-Costanoan

PCos = Proto-Southern-Costanoan

Mie = Eastern Miwok
 Mil = Lake Miwok
 Mim = Marin Miwok
 Mins = Northern Sierra Miwok
 Mip = Plains Miwok
 Mis = Sierra Miwok
 PMi = Proto-Miwok
 PMie = Proto-Eastern-Miwok
 PMis = Proto-Sierra-Miwok
 PMiw = Proto-Western-Miwok

PU = Proto-Utian

PY = Proto-Yokuts
 PYgen = Proto-General-Yokuts
 PYn = Proto-Northern-Yokuts
 PYnim = Proto-Nim-Yokuts
 PYnv = Proto-Northern-Valley-Yokuts
 PYbv = Proto-Buena-Vista-Yokuts
 Ykr = Kings River Yokuts
 Yn = Northern Yokuts
 Yv = Valley Yokuts
 Mk = Konkaw
 Mm = Maidu
 Mn = Nisenan
 PM = Proto-Maidun

Symbols Used by Other Sources

C. Hart Merriam uses English spelling with some modifying diacritics for vowels; e.g., ā = [e·], ah = [a] or [a·], oo = [u] or [u·], ĭ = [i]. An apostrophe indicates stress or glottalization depending on placement.

Nomlaki

Barrett 1908

ī, ē, ū, ō represent the corresponding short or long vowels

The exclamation point represents glottalization

t· = t or t^h

t·c = č

L = ɭ

c = s (Barrett describes his symbol “c” as representing an “open pre-palatal surd ... similar to English sh” (1908: 52). As there is no [š] in Wintun, the symbol is taken to refer to the alveolar fricative [s].

Blankenship and Wenger 1978

c = č

kL = q', ł

tl, L = ł

The symbol "3" used in this source to represent short [a] has been replaced with a.

Curtis 1924

â = o or a

ch = č

ch! = č'

hl = ł

ě = e (short)

p· = p

k = k or q

k· = q

tl = λ'

Dixon & Kroeber 1907

L = ł

Goldschmidt 1951

tc = č or č'

tc' = č'

tl = ł or λ'

ê = i· ?

't = t' ?

ê = e

khl = ł

ó = o

ū = u·

õ = o

î = i·

J = Johnson in Schoolcraft 1853/1860

ch = č

aw = o

ee = i·

Kroeber 1932

L = ł

South Patwin

Arroyo de la Cuesta 1821

j = h

hu = w
ch = č
gl = ħ
c = s

Arroyo/Gerolt 1830

tsch = č

Mason/Vallejo

tc = č
v = u or o ?

100. THE WINTUN LANGUAGE FAMILY

The Wintun language family consists of four languages, Wintu, Nomlaki, Patwin and South Patwin, whose speakers occupied the west side of the Sacramento River Valley in Northern California and much of the upper Trinity River drainage on the west side of the North Coast Range crest. The long contiguous territory extended from the delta of the Sacramento-San Joaquin river system north of San Francisco Bay to just south of Mt. Shasta. The family's divergence is similar to that of the Romance languages, with a time depth of perhaps 2000-2500 years (for additional discussion, see Whistler 1980: 17).

Wintu, the language of the northernmost group, was originally spoken in Shasta, Trinity, and parts of Siskiyou Counties, along the drainage systems of the upper Sacramento, upper Trinity, and Pit-McCloud rivers. The territory extended from about Cottonwood Creek in the south and the South Fork of the Trinity River in the southwest almost as far as Mt. Shasta in the north and the Trinity Alps in the northwest. The eastern boundary ran close to Cow Creek in the south and farther north extended east almost as far as the present town of Big Bend. The Nomlaki occupied much of present-day Tehama County and part of Glenn County, reaching from the Wintu border in the north approximately as far south as the present town of Princeton. To the south of the Nomlaki, in the southern portion of the Sacramento River Valley, lived the Patwin who occupied present-day Colusa and Yolo Counties, reaching south about as far as Putah Creek and east to approximately the Sutter Buttes area. To their south, in present-day Yolo and Solano Counties, were the South Patwin, also called Suisun, whose territory reached south to the San Pablo Bay and Suisun Bay area. For a detailed discussion of Wintun territorial boundaries, including subgroups, see Whistler 1980: 46-53.

Based on an analysis of animal and plant nomenclature borrowed by the Patwin from the Miwok, Whistler (1977a: 166) concluded that Proto-Wintun must have been spoken in a non-Californian environment, and, based on reconstructible plant and animal nomenclature, proposed that Proto-Wintun was spoken by a people living in interior Northwest California or Southwest Oregon, most likely in the drainage of the upper Rogue River, or possibly in the middle Klamath or South