

Spokane Dictionary. *Barry F. Carlson and Pauline Flett*, comps. University of Montana Occasional Papers in Linguistics, No. 6. Missoula: Linguistics Laboratory, Department of Anthropology, University of Montana, 1989. 318 pp. \$15.00 (paper).

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This is the first dictionary ever published on Spokane, a Salishan language spoken in northeastern Washington. Earlier materials are available on its sister dialects (a Kalispel-English grammar, texts, and glossary from 1940 [Vogt, *The Kalispel Language*], and a large Flathead dictionary from 1877–79 [Giorda, *A Dictionary of the Kalispel or Flathead Indian Language*]), making this now a fairly well documented language. This dictionary is quite comprehensive but is billed as only a prelimi-

nary edition, suggesting that additions and corrections are under way. It was produced with the cooperation of the Spokane tribal administration, and several native speakers (including co-compiler Flett) assisted in the collection and transcription of data. The orthography of the Spokane is in familiar Americanist linguistic symbols, the writing system preferred by the Spokanes themselves.

We are given both Spokane-English and English-Spokane; the latter section is almost 50 pages longer than the former, and in fact contains more material. The Spokane entries are organized by root, with over 1,000 roots and 57 lexical suffixes listed; numerous derived and inflected forms accompany roots. The English side has some 3,000 entries, including variant glosses for the Spokane forms. What all this means is that not all Spokane words found on the English side are included in the Spokane side (for example I am unable to find the form for "yesterday" in the Spokane side); this was apparently deliberate on the assumption that most users of the dictionary would begin with English. Occasionally, however, the reverse also happens; I find no entry for "mourning dove," although the word can be found on page 26 in the Spokane side.

Ethnobotanical information is particularly well represented, thanks to efforts by local experts and ethnobotanist Nancy Turner of Victoria, British Columbia. Plants are identified precisely, Latin names are given, and Latin identifications are alphabetized into the English-Spokane portion. (Sometimes the English equivalent is left out here, making it difficult to know what plant is meant. It may also be difficult to sort through Spokane morphophonemics to get at the root to look up the item in Spokane. For example, on page 203 we find the entry "Hordeum vulgare ?o-pop = qín." To find that all this means "barley" one must know that the root is *wup* 'hairy', with vowel deletion, automatic change of *w* to *o*, and insertion of a glottal stop before the resulting initial vowel.)

The dictionary is unusually replete with imitative words. Three whole pages of them are given under "sound," and others occur sporadically. These pages make entertaining reading by themselves.

Numerous technical errors occur throughout the dictionary, apparently through inadequate proofreading. Missing or misplaced font change commands leave mysterious letters scattered about (*z* represents a hyphen, *I* represents *í*, *é* represents *E*). The format itself is sometimes a little confusing and would have been helped by using different type styles and

sizes, more varied punctuation, and numbered subentries (although the first of these is impractical without more elaborate production facilities than were available at the Montana Linguistics Laboratory).

In terms of the dictionary as a whole, these shortcomings are minor and should not interfere with its use. It is more comprehensive than Vogt's 1940 Kalispel grammar and dictionary (which lacks an English-Kalispel section) and much more up-to-date than Gior-

da's 1877-79 Flathead dictionary. Anyone interested in Salishan languages will certainly welcome this addition to the literature. It is perfectly usable, contains a wealth of data, and the transcriptions are quite reliable. We should be grateful to the producers of this UMOPL series; it should be better known for its production of materials on Salishan languages (and at a low price) that would otherwise go unpublished.