

REVIEWS

LUSHOOTSEED READER WITH INTERMEDIATE GRAMMAR. Vol. 2: FOUR STORIES FROM MARTHA LAMONT. By Thom Hess. University of Montana Occasional Papers in Linguistics, no. 14. Missoula: University of Montana, 1998. Pp. ix + 174, with accompanying cassette tape.

THE SALISH LANGUAGE FAMILY: RECONSTRUCTING SYNTAX. By Paul D. Kroeber. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1999. Pp. xxxi + 461.

Although the two books under review here are in many ways very different from each other, they nevertheless have one important thing in common: they are both examples of the best kind of work in their particular genre. Thom Hess's *Lushootseed Reader with Intermediate Grammar* is a pedagogical work whose aim is to provide the learner with enough advanced knowledge about Lushootseed grammar to be able to read four stories by the exceptional Lushootseed storyteller, Martha Lamont. *The Salish Language Family*, by Paul D. Kroeber, is a very learned and comprehensive study of a cluster of topics within Salish comparative syntax. Both books, in their own way, make significant contributions to the study of Salish languages and serve as excellent models for future work by researchers on Salish and other language families.

The *Lushootseed Reader with Intermediate Grammar* is the second volume of Hess's pedagogical grammar of the Coast Salish language, Lushootseed. The two volumes of the *Lushootseed Reader* were initially developed as textbooks for a popular and useful course on Lushootseed which Hess taught for many years, but they are set up in such a way that they can be used to teach oneself the language, or as texts for a course taught at the university level.¹

In both volumes, the grammar of Lushootseed is laid out in a series of short, very clearly presented chapters: each chapter has enough examples to make the relevant points without overwhelming students; in addition, each chapter has practical exercises that reinforce the main points. The second volume has eight lessons concentrating on aspects of Lushootseed grammar that have to do with derivational morphology—this is in contrast to the first volume, which focused on inflectional morphology and syntax. The topics covered in volume 2 include (not listed in the order found in the book) the forms and uses of Lushootseed reduplication, the types and functions of lexical suffixes found in Lushootseed, and the properties of various other specialized prefixes and suffixes, including (1) special stem-forming suffixes referred to as secondary suffixes, (2) a set of prefixes dx^w- ,

¹ See van Eijk (1996) for a review of *Lushootseed Reader with Introductory Grammar*, vol. 1.

dx^w -s-, and x^w - which all share a component of meaning, namely, 'inside', but which have different grammatical and semantic functions, (3) the prefix combination $?əs + bəs$ and the word $g^wīt$, both used to convey ownership and possession, (4) morphemes associated with forming desiderative constructions, (5) the partitive prefix, and (6) the suffix $-bid$, which is used to represent grammatical relations of various kinds.

The centerpiece of the volume is four stories told by Martha Lamont to Leon Metcalf during the 1950s or to Thom Hess during the 1960s. The volume is accompanied by a tape of the stories, which, as Hess points out, is understandably not of the best auditory quality given when the stories were recorded, but which nevertheless brings the stories alive for the reader/listener. In addition, there is a glossary of words found in the eight texts of volumes 1 and 2, and an appendix containing two very interesting and illuminating analytical essays by Toby C. S. Langen, which provide a discussion of Martha Lamont's stories and storytelling style.

Volume 2 of Hess's *Lushootseed Reader* clearly builds on, and assumes a knowledge of, the first volume, even though its focus is different from that of the first volume. Taken together, the two volumes provide a comprehensive and highly useful overview of the morphology and syntax of Lushootseed. There is little in this second volume on phonology (similarly to volume 1), and thus one cannot say that the two volumes provide a complete grammar of Lushootseed. But there is enough information about Lushootseed that those who work through the textbooks carefully can end up with the ability to translate and understand the four linguistically sophisticated traditional stories told by Martha Lamont. In addition, although the volumes are clearly pedagogical in intent, there is nevertheless a great deal in them to interest scholars of Salish syntax and morphology. In volume 2, for instance, in the chapter on lexical suffixes, Hess provides an excellent description of the different types of such suffixes found in Lushootseed and how words containing lexical suffixes are used in sentences. This chapter is of particular use to those interested in determining whether lexical suffixes—a set of suffixes which often have lexical content—are in fact incorporated nouns, whether they are classifier-like affixes, or whether they are bound-root-like elements which function as if they were members of compound words.

A great strength of Hess's *Lushootseed Reader* is that one of its central purposes is to teach those who work through it how to "read" Lushootseed, to have access to the recorded storytelling tradition of the Lushootseed people. This approach to teaching a language through its texts reminds me of the way I was taught Latin and Ancient Greek, and of the way modern languages are taught as well: the language is taught in the context of its literature and its culture, reminding us that it is a real entity, that it was and is used to record a meaning in and understanding of the world, that it is not simply or only a collection of structures. Unfortunately, Hess's *Lushootseed Reader* does not include a translation of the four stories of Martha Lamont; this of course was not a problem when he taught his course, but it reduces the usefulness of the text for those who do not have easy access to the stories in their English form. I hope that in future editions of the volume, these translations can be included. I also noticed, when attempting to look

for words in the glossary, that I was not always able to find them. It would have been helpful to have had some introduction on how the glossary is organized and how to use it. Overall, though, the *Lushootseed Reader with Intermediate Grammar* is, like its predecessor, an important and masterfully presented addition to the body of knowledge about Lushootseed and Salish languages, more generally.

In *The Salish Language Family: Reconstructing Syntax*, Paul D. Kroeber focuses on a number of syntactic structures in Salish languages which are interconnected by semantico-syntactic function and by form: subordinate complement and adverbial clauses, relative clauses, and cases of extraction. His book surveys and describes such constructions in languages from all branches of the Salish family, proposes historical reconstructions of the constructions, and considers how and why they have developed as they have in the different branches of the family. The scope of this work is thus very broad and very ambitious, considering as it does languages from the largest accepted language family in the northwest of North America (there are 23 languages in the family), and choosing as its focus some of the most complicated types of syntactic structures found in language generally. Kroeber nevertheless succeeds brilliantly in his book.

The book begins with a brief description of the sources of his data, and then proceeds, in chapter 1, to provide an excellent introduction to the Salish language family in general, and to those phonological, morphological, and syntactic characteristics of languages within the family which are relevant to understanding the types of constructions that are his focus in later chapters. This chapter, like all the others in the book, has a wealth of examples and is thus extremely useful to anyone who might wish to know more about the morphosyntactic properties of Salish languages. Chapters 2 and 3 focus on complement and adverbial clauses. Chapter 2 lays out the parameters of the forms of clauses which Kroeber considers to be relevant to understanding Salish, while chapter 3 considers the semantic types of clause linkage under investigation and then proceeds to survey the relationship of the semantic clause types to the parameters of form laid out in chapter 2. Chapters 4, 5, 6, and 7 deal with constructions which involve extraction or focusing of a single constituent. Chapter 4 sets out some preliminary definitions and morphosyntactic functions and properties common to such constructions throughout the Salish family. Chapter 5 considers relativization of direct arguments, chapter 6 considers relativization of oblique arguments, and chapter 7 examines clefts and other fronting constructions. Chapter 8 concludes the book by considering the properties of Salish syntactic structures in the context of areal influences.

There are several reasons Kroeber's book is as successful and interesting as it is. First, Kroeber attempts to describe and consider as many languages from the major branches of the Salish family as he has been able to find data for. In some cases this has meant combing through texts, some of them very difficult to use, to find examples; in other cases Kroeber has referred to his own field notes and those of other fieldworkers. Some languages and branches of the Salish family are less well represented than others: within the Interior branch of the family, for instance, Kroeber's discussions focus mainly on the three northern languages, with rather less information on the southern languages. Although it would have been ideal if all

languages from the family could have been included, the coverage is nevertheless impressive, and Kroeber has done his best to access the data which are available on particular languages. Kinkade (2001) suggests, in a review of Kroeber's book, that although the corpus of data used by Kroeber is indeed limited in several ways, this is not likely to have a major effect on the validity of Kroeber's typological and historical conclusions. My own sense is similar: Kroeber's corpus surveys enough languages from the different branches of the Salish family, and exhibits enough depth of coverage in terms of constructions, that it is sufficient to make his conclusions valid and important.

A second reason for the success of Kroeber's book is his meticulous attention to detail at all levels. His presentation and discussion of individual pieces of data are very careful. In addition, he is scrupulous in defining his terms and his task, so that the user of his book knows exactly what is not being attempted in the book, as well as what is, and what the terms of reference are. Finally, the sections within each chapter, as well as the data and points in each section, are laid out in a consistent and carefully organized way, making the book very easy to dip into for information about particular structures, as well as easy to read through from cover to cover.

A third reason for the success of Kroeber's book is his own vast knowledge and excellent scholarship: these are truly impressive in anyone, and particularly so in a younger scholar. His ability to draw together observations about different languages and different constructions, to make sense of and bring clarity to many details, to draw interesting and insightful conclusions about all kinds of data is a pleasure to see.

In short, *The Salish Language Family: Reconstructing Syntax* is a book that will stand the test of time. It is a seminal work in the field of Salish syntax and is also potentially of great interest to those studying more general typological issues, as well as historical syntax. Kroeber is to be congratulated on an important piece of work.

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