

**DICTIONARY OF THE
CHINOOK JARGON:
WITH EXAMPLES OF
USE IN CONVERSATION**

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Dictionary of the chinook jargon: with examples of use in conversation by John Kaye Gill

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JOHN KAYE GILL

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DICIONARY

OF THE

CHINOOK JARGON

WITH EXAMPLES OF

USE IN CONVERSATION.

[Compiled from all vocabularies, and greatly improved by the addition of necessary words never before published.]

ELEVENTH EDITION.

1887.

PORTLAND, OREGON:
PUBLISHED BY J. K. GILL & CO.,
BOOKSELLERS AND STATIONERS.

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MAR 12 1962

Richard B. Harrison,
San Francisco.



EXPLANATORY SUGGESTIONS.

Tribes from different regions of country made slightly different use of the Chinook and varied its pronunciation slightly.

The phonetic spelling, accents, etc., of this edition give the most generally accepted form of Chinook as used by old pioneers and the Indians themselves.

The examples of conversation given in the appendix will show that the "grammar" of the jargon was very deficient.

The pronunciation of the Chinook can only be thoroughly learned by conversation with the Indians, whose deep gutturals and long-drawn vowels are beyond the power of our alphabet to represent. Most of their words are unaccented, the stress of voice falling upon the emphatic word of a sentence rather than upon particular syllables. As far as possible the present edition represents by accents and marked vowels the exact sounds.

A final, as in wa-wa, klat-awa, and similar words, has usually the sound of *aw*. *Ah* is pronounced either as *ah* or as *a* in *not*, the pronunciation varying slightly among different tribes. *E* long and the short sound of *I* are nearly identical in Chinook, except final *e* or *ee*, which have the same value as in English.

O and *u* are pronounced as in similar English syllables, except where marked otherwise.

K is the most difficult sound to represent and pronounce in the Indian vocabulary. The nearest representation of the sound is in the *ph* or *ch* in the words *loch*, as used in Scotland, and the German *ick*. *-tch-* comes nearer.

A brief use of the Dictionary, with the aid of any person who has a reasonable knowledge of the jargon will render any student of the Chinook all necessary aid to a proper understanding and fluent use of the language.

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PREFACE.

The first attempt at publication of the trappers' and traders' Indian Jargon in use among the coast and interior tribes of the Northwest, was made in 1825, by a sailor who was captured from the ship *Boston*, which was surprised by Indians at Nootka Sound, her captain and crew murdered, the sailor who issued his adventures under the title, "The Captive in Nootka" and later the "Traders' Dictionary," being the only survivor.

Several little books, mostly for traders' use, have been printed in this jargon. A worthy missionary published quite a number of hymns translated from English, in Chinook, which has been the only use of the language in the field of *bettes-lettres*.

The language of the native Indians is seldom heard. The progressive English is forcing its way even into the lodges of the most savage tribes, and many of the original Indian dialects of the coast, of which Chinook was the most important, have disappeared entirely, with the nations that spoke them.

Of the ancient language of the Chinooks about three hundred words are given in the present Dictionary, the remainder being words from other coast tribes, Yakimas, Wascos, Nez Percés and other tongues.

It is a remarkable fact that the Indian tribes, occupying very small territory, and compelled to traffic, travel, make war and carry on such intercourse as their nomadic life required, spoke languages as different as the modern Spanish is from the English. These languages were almost as numerous as the tribes themselves. In the strip of territory from the mouth of the Willamette to the ocean, at least five distinct languages were spoken, the Wahkiakum, Cowlitz, Multnomah, and other tribes using among themselves only their own tribal language; but in voyages along the rivers or in hunting parties in the mountains, the Wasco Indian who happened to meet the Clatsop—one from the mouth of

the Columbia and the other from central Oregon, made himself perfectly understood in this accommodating jargon, which was in use from the Rocky Mountains to the Pacific as a *trading* language. A similar need exists among the great civilized nations of to-day, and it is a far greater necessity than the barbarous tribes of the northwest could ever have experienced.

With the coming of the white man, making known to the Indian the weapons, the luxuries and the vices of civilization, came the need of extending the Chinook to cover these new conditions. He could not say 'carbine' so the word became 'calipeén.' The Canadians called the hand 'la main,' and the Indian came at last to use nearly the same sound. Thus English and French words were grafted upon the Chinook jargon, the present edition has been made as nearly perfect as possible by comparison with all existing authorities, and the addition of very many words never before published in any Chinook Dictionary, though in common use. The vocabulary was entirely revised and corrected by a gentleman familiar with Chinook and many Indian languages from boyhood, and the publishers, who have sold thousands of previous editions, confidently recommend this little book as the *no plus ultra* of Chinook dictionaries.

Portland, Oregon, Jan. 1, 1887.



ENGLISH—CHINOOK.

A

Above.	Sáh-a-lě.	And.	Pee.
Abdomen.	Yah-wáh-tin.	Amass.	Is'-kum.
Abscend.	Káp-swal-la klát-a-wa.	Angel.	Ta-máh-na-wis.
Absolve.	Mam-ook stōh.	Angry.	Sol-leks.
Acorn.	Kah-náh-way.	Apple.	Lě-póme.
Across.	In-a-ti.	Apron.	Kis-su.
Afraid.	Kwass.	Arithmetic.	Mam-ook tzúm
After.	Kim-tah.	Arbutus.	Lahh.
Again.	Weght.	Arrest.	Mam-ook haul.
Ague.	Cole-sick.	Arm.	Le-máh.
Ah! (Admiration.)	Wah!	Arise.	Mit-wit.
Ah. (In pain.)	A-náh.	Arrive (at.)	Ko.
Alike.	Káh-kwa.	Arrow.	Stick klí-a-tan.
All.	Kón-a-way.	As if.	Káh-kwa spose.
Almighty, (the).	Sáh-a-lě ty-eé.	Ascend.	Klát-a-wa sáh-a-le.
Almost.	Wake si-áh.	Ask.	Wá-wa.
Alms. (To give.)	Mam-ook klä-hów-iam.	Assistance.	E'-la-ban.
Alone.	Ko-pet ikt.	At.	Kó-pa.
Always.	Kwón-e-sum.	Aunt.	Kwal'b.
Although.	Kegh-t-chie.	Autumn.	Tén-as cole ill-a-he.
American.	Boston man.	Avaunt.	Klát-a-wa.
Amusement.	He-he.	Awl.	Shoe-keep-woot.
		Axe.	Lă-hásh.