

TRIBAL HISTORY

"JARGON"

It may not, at first, be easy to understand how a language composed of so few words could have been used so widely as the sole medium of communication among many thousands of individuals. However, a thorough knowledge of a few dozen basic words of the Jargon will give one sufficient material with which, after a little practice, to carry on actual conversations. The unique faculty of the Jargon for combining and compounding simple words and sounds makes it capable of almost unlimited expression.

There are no hard and fast rules for the spelling of words in the Chinook Jargon, and everyone, in writing Chinook, follows the dictates of his own judgment in the fabrication of phonetic equivalents, which are at best only approximations. The Chinook Jargon is essentially a spoken and not a written tongue... it is very much alive.

The Chinook Jargon is absolutely inflexible. It never changes its form for mood, tense, or anything else. The same form is used generally for both singular and plural, though occasionally an "s" is added to indicate the plural.

Intensity of meaning or duration of time may also be indicated by prolongation of the sounding of the word, thus; Laly (time) would be pronounced la-a-a-aly to suggest a long time. This is based upon an instinctive principle common to all tongues, just as we in English phonetically indicate prolongation of time or extension in space or intensity of feeling by means of prolonging "a long time" into "a lo-o-o-ng time."

The personal pronouns become possessive by prefixing them to nouns, like "nika nem," my name; "mika kuitan," your horse; "nesika illahee," our land.

Sometimes "s" is added to the personal pronouns in the possessive case. This mode is used only when the pronoun is the last word in the sentence, thus: "okoke kuitan nesikas," that horse is ours.

CONVERSATIONAL PHRASES

ENGLISH

JARGON

Good morning.	Klahowya.
Good evening.	""
Good day.	" "
Good-by.	""
Good morning, friend	Klahowya, sikhs.
Come here.	Chako yukwa.
How are you?	Kahta mika?
Are you hungry?	Olo na mika?
What's the matter?	Ikta mamook?
Would you like something to eat?	Mika ticky muckamuck?
Do you want work?	Mika ticky mamook?
What do you want to do?	Ikta mika mamook?

The Siletz POW-WOW dates have been set for September 11, 12 and 13th.