

The Hebrew, Arabic, and Assyrian in their most ancient forms had case-endings as well as prepositions, but the former soon fell into disuse. The ancient Egyptian employed prepositions, but knew no declension. The declension of Gaelic and Erse nouns, as seen in the noun itself, affords no countenance to any connection of inflection with postpositions; for the case changes are generally found as alterations of the medial vowels of the word, not as suffixes. The preposition combined with the article is the true mark of case, as in French. The Malay and Polynesian languages are prepositional in the same way generally as Gaelic and French, declension being marked by a prefixed article affected by a preposition. In some of them the article is invariable, the preposition thus appearing in all its integrity. We may say, therefore, that the Aryan, including Celtic, the Semitic, and the Malay-Polynesian languages are all prepositional, although exceptional cases of the employment of postpositions appear in some of them. But the tongues which are generally denominated Turanian are postpositional. Thus the Ural-Altaic family, comprising the Finnic languages of Europe and the Tartar, Mongol and Tungus of Asia, together with the Dravidian or Turanian Indian languages, employ postpositional particles. The same is the case with the Tibetan, and with the Japanese and cognate tongues. The Chinese, and many of the Indo-Chinese and Himalayic languages, generally known as Monosyllabic, employ prepositions.

Now what we call, and as students of comparative grammar wrongly call, a preposition is a term expressing relation of possession, attribution, instrumentality, &c. To employ such a term as a preposition proper is to set relation before existence, an abstract term before a concrete. Judging of the psychological value of such a

procedure by the peoples who employ prepositions, one naturally regards it as indicating a higher order of mind than that which gives prominence to existence and subordinates the relation as a postposition. Yet the preposing Malays are not regarded as a race possessing much intellectual power; and the Accadians of ancient Chaldæa, who were the virtual founders of Asiatic civilization, the inventors of letters, and the authors of Old World mythology, were a postposing people. Nor can we say that the postposition is the older, and the preposition the younger order for the expression of relation, because the Egyptian, one of the oldest of all languages, was prepositional. There would seem, therefore, to have been originally a radical distinction in men's ways of looking at things in their relations, as well as a subsequent modification of view, as exemplified in the history of those languages which have combined prepositions with case-endings or have discarded the latter for the former.

Turning now to this continent, we find that the phenomena of the Old World in this respect are reproduced in the New. Some of our American Indian languages are prepositional, but the greater number employ postpositional suffixes. The most important preposing languages are the Algonquin in North, the Maya-Quiché in Central, and the Mbaya-Abipone in South America. Of these the Algonquin family is largely Canadian. The Chippewa or Ojibbeway is perhaps better known than any other tribe of this family, but the Delaware, the Cree, the Ottawa, the Missisagua, the Nipissing, the Abenaki, the Micmac, are not unfamiliar. Captain John Smith found Algonquins in Virginia. The States of Massachusetts, Maine, and Illinois took their names from tribes of this stock. Mohicans, Narragansets, and other