

deal with the same episodes. This arrangement readily offers means for an immediate comparison of the various forms in which a common tale is told.

"The work is to be taken largely as an attempt to get at the religious ideas of a people from their own point of view. As this point of view can be expressed only in terms of their own language, naturally the linguistic method had to be employed in the investigation. A speaker's own words were put down in text; and, since the object was not to find how well a narrative could be told, never was a version repeated a second time by the one who gave it. The form of the story in the text is that which the speaker told but once, at the first dictation.

Simplicity is a characteristic mark of the narratives throughout: they run along with such an even, quiet pace, that they leave an impression of dull monotony. They are told off in a matter-of-fact way, and conscious effort at rhetorical effect is feeble. The rare use of figures of speech, and the sudden turning of phrases for springing surprise, are suggestive facts, especially from the point of view of the form and construction of a narrative. Repetition is frequent, not only of an idea, but of an expression: stereotyped phrases constantly recur, verbs of saying, quotatives, and introductive adverbs being especially common. Quotatives have been in some cases difficult to handle, and equally as much trouble was given by introductive adverbs.

"The language of most of the material is conversational; the periods are short; sentences colloquial, seldom sustained, and often loose and incoherent. Vagueness of reference is common. The unconscious assumption on the part of the narrator that one is familiar with the background of a narrative, is one cause why so many of the statements, when taken as they stand, are unintelligible. This vague-