

The Micmac glories in being able to express an idea in several different ways; thus one may use feminine expressions or man-talk, he may speak vulgarly or refined,—he may even be classical! Ask a Micmac his word for 'head' and he will give you *munootc*; but head in composition is invariably *wótp*, as *sēsipā-wótp*, a bird's head; while if I wish to inform you that I have a large head I say *mag-ótpī*, and for "my head is cold" I say *kāootcótpāootc*, retaining the same root idea throughout. The word for snow is *wástāoo*, but *pāsák* means 'it snows'; the wind is *ootcusun*; but if someone remarks that the wind blows, he uses the word *wejoosuk*, while if another asks, 'which way is the wind?' his query is '*tāme weluk*?' Examples might be multiplied ad infinitum, until you are ready to admit the Micmac's exultant boast: "Always everything two ways me speakum!"

It is to be remembered that one word may be used with various shades of meaning, and that no two men will wholly agree about either the exact use, or correct translation of many words and idiomatic phrases; Rand's attempt at grammatical arrangement included only the noun, pronoun and part of the verb; many statements, too, made in earlier pages of his manuscripts were contradicted, but not cancelled, after further study, as the manuscripts were necessarily left behind when he went about his work; hence the compiler has often had to discard and forget whole sections upon which he had spent hours of toil.

Many words were compared, of which a few only can be given: *taboo* is two, L. *duo*, Fr. *deux*, *kalabai*, I go down under water, cf. Gr. *καταβαίνω*; *ait*, he says cf. L. 'ait'; *espum*, I hear it, Gr. *επισώ*; *abe*, Gr. *απω*; *temsum*, I cut it, Gr. *τεμνω*; *kalosit* pretty, good, Gr. *καλός*; *aleā*, I go, is almost identical with the French *aler*; *astoo*, in the sunshine, cf. L. 'aestu'; *obdoon*, a rod, cf. Gr. *ραβδον*, *nēkokā*, a spear, cf. Gr. *ακωκη*; *kōmā*, a harbour, cf. Gr. *κωμη*, a village, and note that villages and harbours are often associated. At least fifty as striking resemblances, though excluding onomatopoeic words, are noted by Dr. Rand, and he was evidently of the opinion that both the Micmac language and mythology are related in no small degree to those of the Indo-European family.