

Wolf among one tribe of the Salish is *tattciolmiq* = "people-of-the-woods"; other tribes express it by different syntheses. "Salt" among the Haida is known under the term *tañgagaya* = "dry-sea." "Island" among the Tsimshian is called *leksda* = "sitting-alone." "Beaver" in one tribe of the Déné alone is known under four different names according to its age. There is the generic term *tsa*, but when the creature is under two years it is called *tsa-tsel*; later it is known by the term *khog*, each of which is descriptive of some quality or characteristic; and when it reaches three years its name is changed again to *oetqol'il* which signifies that it is of mating-age. Among the Algonkin in one tribe the beaver is called by a term which means "feller-of-trees," in another "he-that-pops his-head-out-of-the-water," signifying thereby that he is an air-breathing, water animal.

The following will serve for examples of the predicative class: "Plough" in Déné is thus rendered *pe-yoen-oelqoel*, which literally means "with-earth-one-cleaves." "Seat" is *u-kwoet-tsoezta* = "it-on-one-sits." Horse is known to some tribes as "the-beast-whose-hoofs-are-solid," to others as "the-dog-that-carries," to a third as "the-beast-that-carries-a-living-burden-on-its-back"; others know it again under the descriptive forms of "the-wonderful-domestic-animal," the "elk-dog," "the domestic elk," and so forth. Some of the Algonkin say for "bed" *niba-gau* = "used-for-sleeping"; and a "hand-saw" they call *kishkibo-jigan* = "used-for-cutting-crosswise." An extreme instance of these compound forms is seen in the following which was recorded by the Rev. E. Mayhew, preacher for some time among the Indians on Martha's Vineyard: "*Nup-pahk-nuh-to-pe-pe-nau-wut-chut-chuh-quo-ka-neh-cha-e niu-nu-mun-no nok*" and which means in English "Our-well-skilled mirror-makers."

It is unnecessary to multiply these examples; sufficient have been given to make it very clear that words formed on this principle must necessarily give rise to an indefinite number of dissimilar forms and soon bring about wide lexicographical differentiation in the speech of the different divisions of a stock, particularly when the fancy of the speaker is allowed such free play as in the formation of some of the examples given above. In a language that has to describe an object in order to name it there is scope enough to effect two-thirds at least of all the dissimilarities found to-day in the vocabularies of our 160 stocks, which I venture to predict will be reduced to less than half that number when comparisons are instituted on the lines herein suggested.

But there is yet another source of lexical difference to mention which has perhaps played as important a part in the differentiation of dialects if not of stocks as those already noted. In languages like the American where incorporation gives rise to words of from two to twenty or more syllables speech would soon become impossible if fusion and contraction were not perforce resorted to. Syncope steps in and reduces these pon-