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THE NUMERAL ADJECTIVE IN THE KLAMATH LANGUAGE OF SOUTHERN OREGON.

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In the large majority of Indian languages the numeral noun morphologically differs from the Indo-European and Semitic numeral. We distinguish with precision between the cardinal and the ordinal and adverbial numeral; the Indian, in many or most instances, neglects this distinction, but in counting uses two forms of the cardinal, a shorter and a longer one. A series of distributive numerals is a rarity in the old world, but on the Pacific coast of America it is sometimes met with. Classifying adjectives, participles, or particles, are not uncommon in America, as additions to the numerals, determining the shape of the objects counted or spoken of. In Indo-European languages the numerals are so much ground down in their forms on account of their high antiquity, that only lengthy and most erudite comparisons can teach us the fact, that the numeration system is the quinary one; but in most Indian tongues the numeral forms are so transparent and perspicuous, that we can determine without trouble whether the counting system is the binary, ternary, quaternary, quinary, decimal or duodecimal.

Of the language spoken by the Klamath or Mäklaks Indians of south western Oregon, I have given short descriptive articles in Vol. I, Nos. 2 and 3, of this quarterly, and from these it will be remembered that both dialects, the Modoc, or southern, and the Klamath Lake, or northern one, show some slight lexical differences.

In this upland language there are two modes of counting. In the longer the numerals are formed by the formative suffix *-ni*, a suffix usually appended to adjectives designating abstract qualities; the numerals in *-ni* are cardinals and adverbial numerals simultaneously, and if anything like ordinal numerals could enter into the mind of the Mäklaks Indians, they would answer for this series also.* The shorter form represents the nude stem of the numeral without the *-ni*, and stands for our cardinal only; it mostly serves for counting, rapid figuring, and for forming compound numerals above ten.

The numeral undergoes the same inflectional changes as the adjective. It is declined almost like the adjective; that is, it forms a series of cases by means of case-suffixes, or a kind of postpositions, which are not quite so numerous and multifiform as in the declension of the substantive noun. It also possesses

*In a circumscriptive manner the Shawano language forms its ordinals by prefixing *mawi-* to the cardinal and suffixing to it *-sene*, *-thene*. Thus, *nisuathui seven* forms *mawinisuatheene seventh*. The suffix can also be dropped, and then we have *mawinisuatui seventh*.