

polysynthesis is not that of the Koriak-Tchuktchi of Siberia nor of the American Iroquois, which is the same, but of the Tungus.

I append a list of over 170 words, comprising different parts of speech in the two languages. For the Tungus, I am indebted almost entirely to Klaproth's Asia Polyglotta. The Déné I have taken from a great variety of sources, including vocabularies of tribes from the Eskimo border on the north, to Mexico in the South. These I have copied in good faith, though, it is quite possible, they may contain erroneous equivalents of the English terms. I regret the deficiency of my vocabularies in particles, especially postpositions. The numerals on comparison show strange discrepancy, either indicating that those of the Dénés belong to an archaic Siberian system, or that, prior to their advent to this continent, they had borrowed from the Kamtchadale Koriaks. It is strange that their 3 and 4 should be the same as the Tungus 4 and 5. Father Morice has questioned the native origin of Déné government by *toenaz-as*, notables or chiefs; but it is certain that the Tungus recognized the distinction between such and the common people, and the Tungusic forms for lord and master, such as *edshên*, *hunniu*, *ungiu*, *nyunga*, and even *turunbayo*, suggest the original of *toenezs*. He has also stated that pipes and tobacco were unknown to the Carriers and Tsé'kéhne before the arrival of Sir Alexander Mackenzie. It is, therefore, strange to find the Orotong Tungus word for tobacco-pipe, *tagon*, so near in form to the Déné *tekatsi*. There is little doubt that the pipe was originally a sacred instrument or incense burner, and as such is prehistoric in many lands, independent of tobacco.

A dialectic difference of the Déné as compared with the Tungusic forms of speech is the replacement of labials, including m, and of r, by other sounds. So far as labials are concerned, the same is true of the Iroquois dialects as compared with their Asiatic relatives. This evidence of phonetic decay marks an unliterary language in transition through changed circumstances, in which climate, no doubt, played a large part. There appears, also, that interchange of liquids which is so common a feature in northern Asiatic and American dialects, as in the Tungus *halgar* and *halgan*, foot; and even of less accountable variations, as in the forms for grass, *orokto*, *owokto*, *okokto*. A common Tungus term for the throat is *bilga*, but the Tshapogirs call it *nemgot*, both being derived from the same original root. Almost as great variations appear among Tungus words, as compared among the Asiatic dialects, as between them and those of the Déné forms of speech. It would be no matter for surprise to find the Déné *kliuthchu*, bread, in a comparative