

the Chicasas in eastern America, and several others. But, in fact, so natural is this method of expressing the plural number that our only surprise is to find it not more common. The Count de Charencey, in his treatise on the „Chichimecan family“, well observes on this point: „One cannot deny that this procedure offers the mind something very logical, very satisfying. This repetition of the first syllable of the word has been, evidently, the result of the alteration of an older system, which consisted in repeating the word itself to form the plural. It is certainly more natural to resort to this method for indicating number than to employ it, as various Indo-European and Uralian idioms have done, to express the past tense of the verb.“

Another apparent resemblance is seen in the double form of the first person plural, which is found in the Polynesian tongues and in several of the American languages. These idioms make the well-known distinction between the „we“ which includes the person addressed and the „we“ which excludes him. Examples of these distinctive forms will be found in the annexed lists. It is hardly necessary to repeat that such a mere resemblance in form, where there is no similarity of words, and where the distinction of meaning indicated by the form is a natural one, likely to occur to the first framers of any language, cannot be deemed to afford any proof of relationship. Here, also, our surprise is rather to find this form of plural so rare, and that only two of the western American tongues, the Tshinuk in the north and the Quichua in the south, seem to possess it. Among the eastern American idioms it is more common.

The result of our inquiry is to show that no traces of affiliation between the languages of America and those of Polynesia have thus far been discovered. This, it may be added, is only what might have been expected, and that for a very plain reason. America was undoubtedly peopled long before Polynesia. However much any one may be inclined to question the claims of an immense antiquity which have been made for the earliest population of the western continent,