

## CHASTA COSTA AND THE DENE LANGUAGES OF THE NORTH<sup>1</sup>

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*Notes on Chasta Costa Phonology and Morphology.* By EDWARD SAPIR. (University of Pennsylvania, The University Museum Anthropological Publications, Vol. 11, No. 2, pp. 265-340.) Philadelphia, 1914.

Dr E. Sapir achieved lately what the French could not help calling a veritable *tour de force*. Enlarging upon linguistic material incidentally derived from the Chasta Costa, mere bits of an aboriginal language which would not fill one ordinary sized page, he managed to write in explanation of the same more than sixty-seven pages of first-class philological literature.

*Notes on the Chasta Costa Phonology and Morphology*, are perfectly illuminating and betray not only a very keen ear but a quite creditable analytic acumen. After thirty-two-years' study of the Déné group of languages, to which his "Chasta Costa" belongs, I am tempted to pronounce Dr Sapir's essay one of the most satisfactory monographs of its kind ever issued on any of the southern Déné languages.

The work does not pretend to be more than mere notes, and so far as completeness is concerned it could not compare with more elaborate productions already published on the Hupa and Navajo dialects. Some might also object to the graphic signs the author has resorted to in transcribing his texts and disapprove of the strange appearance which sometimes results therefrom. His own language might furthermore have been simpler and less Hellenic or Latin in complexion. But I maintain that, with few unimportant exceptions, he has grasped and faithfully rendered not only the phonetics but the morphology of an idiom whose intricacies must be above the average, unless it be not Déné.

I note with special satisfaction in his paper those particular sounds, such as the aspirated *t*'s and *k*'s, as well as the lingual and glottal explosions, which I had always thought, and sometimes asserted, must exist in the southern Déné languages, in spite of the inability of former students to perceive them or of their carelessness in noting down their texts—a presumption for which I was even taken to task.

<sup>1</sup> A further discussion of *Notes on Chasta Costa Phonology and Morphology*, by Edward Sapir. See p. 347 above.