

a period of decay, and some have become altogether extinct. Modern German has extinguished Polabish and old Prussian. Latin has absorbed Oscan and Umbrian, the Galatians, Normans and Lombards lost their tongue, Cornish is no longer spoken, the Hochelagan and other native tongues of Canada have become extinct, and many of the American Indian forms of speech are doomed by the increasing power of English and the advance of a superior race. The beginnings of a tongue may arise from individuals in infancy possessed of a creative faculty, who are separated in age and intelligence from others, and compelled by association to hold communication with each other; words are formed only intelligible to themselves, which by modifications serve all the purposes of their life. Children have possessed this language-forming faculty and have made a language of their own, sufficient for their needs, which required only time, continued association, and such conditions as would preserve their speech from the dominant influence of a superior tongue, to give it a place in the world as a new language. The study of child-language reveals a faculty of sound-speech, vowel-sounds, expressions made up of consonants, meaningless in themselves, syllables which as nouns stand for several things, and by a change of accent become verbs, and finally an arrangement of the vocabulary into sentences. The growth of a tongue seems to depend upon individuals who unconsciously, yet by an act of the will, introduce syllables and various changes by their creative faculty, then by imitation and finally through habit. The origin and growth of languages by individuals seem to indicate a primitive stage of purity, strength and richness, which is not found in later stages, when the descendants of the first speakers are only imitators.

There are eleven stocks of languages and great divisions of the American race in Canada and Newfoundland as follows: Eskimo, Beothuk, Algonkin, Iroquois, Sioux, Athapaskan, Kootenay, Salish, Kwakiutl-Nootka, Tsimshian, and Haida. In British Columbia alone there are six linguistic stocks having twenty-nine dialects. The mental diversities of the native races, influenced by their environment, have contributed to the origin and growth of these languages. Political, social, literary and religious influences arrest languages in their growth, as seen in the formation of the three great families of speech, Turanian, Aryan, and Semitic, and in the Chinese, which is an example of a written language, arrested in an early period of its development, before the alphabet was reached. There are progressive and retrogressive movements evidencing growth and decay. There are evidences of corruption by loss of words, and replenishing from cognate dialects. Phonetic convenience works