

Of the several vocabularies of this language heretofore published, the only reliable ones that I have seen are those of Mr. Hale in the Ethnography of the U. S. Exploring Expedition, giving 180 words of the Lower and 60 of the Upper Chinook (Watlaki), the former accompanied by grammatical notices. Into all the others many words have crept from the Chihalis and Klikatat; the first a tribe of the Solish family, the second of the Sahaptin, who immediately join the Chinooks on the north, as well as some from the Nootka, which forms one of the components of what is called the Chinook "Jargon," a mixed language in common use for trading purposes on the North West Coast, and often mistaken for the Chinook itself.

The vocabulary given by Dr. Seouler as "Chenook" is almost altogether Chihalis. His "Cathlascon," though very incorrect, is Chinook; but he has wrongly assigned the location of the Cathlascon tribe. They were the Indians of the Dalles of the Columbia, and not of the region below the falls; and though they speak a dialect of the Chinook, the vocabulary is of some other band lower down the river. It is easy to see that comparisons founded on such data lead only to error.

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The very difficult pronunciation and excessively complicated form of the Chinook has effectually prevented its acquisition, even by missionaries and fur traders. It abounds with gutturals and "clucking" sounds, almost as difficult to analyse as to utter. As is the case with all the surrounding tribes, the consonants *f*, *r*, and *v* are wanting, perhaps also *d* and *z*. In pronouncing English words, *f* is changed to *p*; *r* to *l*; *v* to *m*. *Th* never occurs, either as in *thin* or *thee*; these letters, where they appear below, being pronounced as in the French *thé*. The system of spelling used is as follows:—