

names (*i. e.*, names of objects introduced among the Indians since the arrival of the white race on this continent) for the purpose of illustrating the structure of an Indian language. As far as I can judge from such illustrations of polysynthesis in nouns, no such process occurs in the Siouan languages, nor can I recall any instance of it in the Athapascan languages of Oregon.

Dr. Brinton refers to "generic formatives," by which, I suppose, he means classifiers. These classifiers are found in the Athapascan and Siouan languages, and they perform several functions: sometimes they indicate to what classes objects belong (the sitting, standing, reclining, etc., of the Athapascan and Siouan; the earthy, mushy, watery, stony, etc., of other languages); sometimes they distinguish between the subject and the object of an action, etc. Numeral terminations, indicating the nature of the objects counted, are unknown in the Siouan languages; but in the Athapascan languages of Oregon there are two series of numerals, the human and the non-human.

We are told that polysynthesis is a characteristic which distinguishes American Indian languages from those of the old world. Is there nothing of the nature of so-called polysynthesis in the Aryan languages? In Greek, *δεισιδαίμων* is explained by *ὁ τοὺς δαίμονας δείσας*; *ἐπιχαίρεκακος* by *ὁ τοῖς κακοῖς ἐπιχαίρων*; *κακοδαίμων* by *ὁ κακὸν δαίμονα ἔχων*; *ἐνθεος* by *ὁ τὸν θεὸν ἐν ἑαυτῷ ἔχων* (Kühner, *Greek Gr.*, New York, 1864, p. 296). The Sanscrit was especially distinguished by its power of forming compounds of any length, and one of the greatest difficulties of the language lies in the finding out the exact relation of the different parts. Thus, a Hindu could speak of a man as being "tiger-king-hand-sword-killed" (a very moderate compound). This would mean "killed by a sword in the hand of a king who was like a tiger."*

On pages 16 and 17 of the article on polysynthesis and incorporation Dr. Brinton says:

"As the holophrastic method makes no provisions for the syntax of the sentence outside the expression of action (*i. e.*, the verbal and what it embraces), nouns and adjectives are not declined. The 'cases' which appear in many grammars of American languages are usually indications of space or direction or of possession and not case-endings in the sense of Aryan grammar."

* Peile, *Philology*, N. Y., 1877, pp. 77, 78.