

In the present *phonetic* state of the Klamath language consonants predominate in number over vowels about in the same degree as in Latin, and the language is easily pronounceable to those who have mastered two peculiar sounds, not occurring in English, the *k* and the *χ*. The laws governing the phonetic changes produced by assimilation, dissimilation and reduplication show that these Indians possess a fine feeling for phonetic harmony. Every sound can stand at the beginning of a word, but quite a number of them cannot become final sounds. Consonantic clusters produced through elision of vowels are mainly found at the end of words. Every vowel and every consonant is, just as in other American languages, interchangeable with one or several others pronounced with the same mouth organ. The language lacks *f* and *r*, makes very limited use of *z*, *o* and *u*, while the sibilants *s*, *sh*, all gutturals, including *k* and *χ*, and the palatals *tch*, *dsh*, predominate over dentals and labials. The grammatical accent usually rests on the radical syllable, but is frequently removed from it by syntactic emphasis or by what is called the "secondary accent." Nasal sounds are rarely met with, and the diphthongs are of adulterine character.

*Morphologically* the Klamath tongue of southwestern Oregon is analytic in its relations of noun and verb to direct or indirect object, but synthetic in a considerable degree in its inflection; and still more so in its derivative forms. The parts of Klamath speech are more perfectly differentiated than in many other Indian languages, and although no true verb exists, only a noun-verb, it is made more distinct from the noun than this is done in Kalapuya, f.i. Its active form is identical with the passive, a large number of verbal prefixes and suffixes are common to the noun and this may be said also of the reduplicated form which indicates distribution and in many instances corresponds pretty closely with our plural. The possessive pronouns are not identical with the personal pronouns, though the majority of them are formed by the possessive cases of the latter. Substantive nouns can be formed from verbs by appending *sh*, though this same suffix also serves to form verbal nouns corresponding more or less to our infinitives and our participles in *ing*. Verb and noun undergo an inflection for tense, but in a quite different manner and with different suffixes. By prefixation and suffixation the Klamath verb forms medial, reciprocal, reflective, iterative, usitative, frequentative, causative, as well as many other forms, which we can only circumscribe by conjunctions or long sentences. Modes are partly expressed by suffixes, partly by separate particles, but no real incorporation of the subject-pronoun into the verbal basis is observed. This circumstance tends to make the acquisition of this upland idiom considerably easier than of many other Indian languages, in which a full conjugational system exists distinguishing the three persons through singular, plural and dual. On the other side a profound and unremitting study is required to comprehend the polysynthesis of the word-composing suffixes.