Spokane

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Spokane and Kalispel (NpoqÈ åniscn, Qalispé), both located in eastern Washington State, and Montana Salish (Flathead), are nearly identical dialects of an Interior Salish language now spoken by only a handful of elders. Grammatical sketches are available for Spokane (Carlson 1972) and Kalispel (Vogt 1940). There is no modern grammar of Montana Salish; Black (1996) uses both Spokane and Montana Salish material in her doctoral dissertation. Thompson (1973) and Czaykowska-Higgins & Kinkade (1998) provide general Salish research summaries.

The data used in this study were provided by Alex Sherwood, a speaker of Kalispel from the Chewelah Indian Reservation, his wife, Margaret Sherwood (MS), and Pauline Flett (PF), both speakers of Spokane. All were in their late 60s or early 70s at the time they were recorded. Recordings date from 1969, 1972 (MS), and 1992 (PF). Spokane is the most conservative dialect, preserving a contrast between r's and l's that has been lost in the other two dialects. As well, pharyngeal consonants are less distinct in both Kalispel and Montana Salish. Montana Salish also typically shortens words by eliminating all phonological material following the stressed vowel. Writing, using a phonetically based system, began only in the last two decades. Pauline Flett is literate in the orthography.

Consonants

	Bilabial	Alveolar	Post-alveolar	Palatal	Labialized Velar	Uvular	Pharyngeal	Glottal
Plosive	p	t			k^w	q q^w		ʔ
Affricate		ts	tʃ					
Nasal	m	n						
Fricative		s	ʃ		x^w	χ $χ^w$		h
Lateral Fricative		ɬ						
Approximant		ɹ		j	w		ʕ $ʕ^w$	
Lateral Approximant		l						
Ejective Stop	p'	t'			k^w'	q' q^w'		
Ejective Affricate		ts'	tʃ'					
Ejective Lateral Affricate		tɬ'						

Additional glottalized consonants: $m^ʔ$, $n^ʔ$, $ɹ^ʔ$, $l^ʔ$, $j^ʔ$, $w^ʔ$, $ʕ^ʔ$, $ʕ^{w}{}^ʔ$

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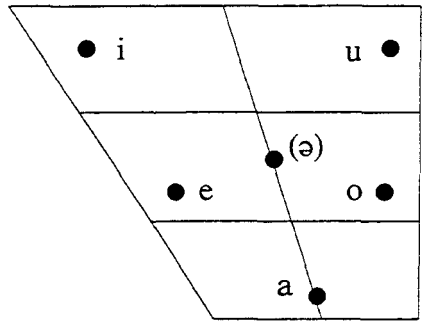
p	paχχ	'scratch'
p'	p'χʷp' 'χʷotʰ	'old'
t	pi-s'tem$^{?}$	'when'
t'	hi-'t'iʃ	'sweet'
m	mlq 'n-ups	'eagle'
m$^{?}$	'm$^{?}$om$^{?}$qʷ'-tsn$^{?}$	'swallow (bird)'
n	nanq-'tsin	'got enough to eat' (PF)
n$^{?}$	'n$^{?}$in$^{?}$tʃ'-m$^{?}$n$^{?}$	'knife'
s	'sisp'l$^{?}$	'seven'
ʃ	ʃn$^{?}$ʃ 'n$^{?}$-en$^{?}$e?	'box'
ɬ	s-'tiɬ-m	'boat'
ts	tsniɬts	'he'
tʃ	tʃelʃ	'hand'
ɹ	hi-'xʷeɹ	'it shakes' (MS)
l	tʃ 'l-ene?	'sucker (fish)'
j	ja'ja?	'grandmother'
w	witʃ-m	'see'
kʷ	kʷne-m	'carry in arms'
kʷ'	kʷ'e 'l$^{?}$-ule?	'butterfly'
q	ts'q'ts'iq	'perch (fish)'
q'	s-'laq'-ist	'sweathouse'
qʷ	'qʷats-qn	'hat'
qʷ'	qʷ'i 'qʷ'aj	'buffalo'
?	p?itʃ	'bear grass; skunk cabbage'
xʷ	'xʷixʷets-t	'short'
χ	s-χa?'χe?	'father-in-law' (MS)
χʷ	χʷel-m	'leave; a remainder'
h	hi-'ʕʷiɬ	'it's one piece' (PF)
tɬ'	tɬ' lil	'dead'
ts'	ts' 'qʷaqʷ	'cry'
tʃ'	hi-'tʃ'im$^{?}$	'dark'
ɹ$^{?}$	kʷkʷ 'ɹ$^{?}$i?t^{h}	'gold' (MS)
l$^{?}$	kʷ'ul$^{?}$l$^{?}$	'be born' (MS)
j$^{?}$	j$^{?}$l$^{?}$ 'j$^{?}$il$^{?}$-t	'dull'
w$^{?}$	'w$^{?}$u?-w$^{?}$u?	'snow goose'
ʕ	ʕaw-n	'call someone; name something' (MS)
ʕʷ	ʕʷos-n	'I lost it' (MS)
ʕ$^{?}$	tsa'ʕ$^{?}$aʕ$^{?}$	'crow' (MS)
ʕʷ$^{?}$	maʕʷ$^{?}$-t	'broken' (MS)

The phonetic system is rich, with many posterior consonants, an extensive range of ejectives and laterals, and full use of labialization with velars, uvulars and pharyngeals. Ejective stops and affricates occur commonly. Labialization partially masks the contrast between labialized velars and less strongly labialized uvulars /kʷ, qʷ/, /xʷ, χʷ/ and /kʷ', qʷ'/. Nasals and approximants occur in a fully parallel glottalized series. Morpheme boundaries are made explicit as forms tend to be complex.

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Vowels

i	tʃn-ʕa 'l-ip	'I lost at gambling' (MS)
e	loʕʷ-n't-en	'I fit/put it together' (MS)
a	tʃn-'tsaw-lʃ	'to wash' (MS)
o	mo'ʕʷ-op	'to flow (be a river)' (MS)
u	jʔe m lo'loʕʷ-s-nt-m ɬiɬuʔ 'lukʷ'	'here will fit-through the wood; they'll be put through' (MS)
[ə]	m(ə)'t'os	'kidney' (MS)



Vowels show only five contrasts. /e/ and /u/ are lowered to /a/ and /o/ preceding uvulars and pharyngeals and following pharyngeals; almost all examples of /a/ and /o/ are found in these environments. /i/ develops a centralizing offglide before uvulars and pharyngeals. Unstressed epenthetic vowels, all in the region of [ə], break up certain consonant clusters, as in [ts'əqʰ'ts'ɪᵊqʰ] 'perch (fish)'. Surrounding consonants determine the quality of the vowel. In [p'ɔχʷp'ɔ'χʷotʰ] 'old', [ɔ] appears before rounded uvulars; [ɪ] usually precedes alveolars or palatals. Sonorants are often preceded or followed by an epenthetic vowel as in [mə't'ɔ̣s] 'kidney', [ʔjɪl̥lɪ'jɪ̯ʔə̯ltʰ] 'dull'.

Stress

Words built on this inventory are based on typical CVC(C) roots with an extensive range of prefixes, suffixes and infixes. Four reduplication patterns, and a complex system of affixes with root-like meanings, combine to create polysynthetic words (Carlson 1989, 1990). Each word has one main stress, determined by a complex interrelationship between the phonology and the morphological stress-classes of constituent morphemes (Black 1996). Phonological processes delete unstressed vowels; consonant strings that result undergo further reductions (Carlson 1972).

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Conventions

Pulmonic stops and affricates are moderately aspirated, e.g. [ˈqʷʰɑtsqʰən] 'hat', sometimes more strongly in final position, and /kʷ, q, qʷ/ are often affricated, e.g. [nɐnˑqχ̝ˈtsʰin] 'finally got enough to eat'. Glottal stop is a distinct segmental phoneme which enters into reduplication patterns like any other consonantal phoneme and must occur in sequence with a vowel (usually [ə]) either before or following, e.g. [sχaʔəˈχɛʔə] 'father-in-law', but can also weaken to [h] finally. There are two morphemes that consist only of /ʔ/ (plural and inchoative). The glottalized consonants (Sapir 1938; Kinkade 1967) are produced with secondary, co-occurring glottal stop stricture (constriction of the pharyngeal/laryngeal sphincter mechanism). Glottalized consonants, especially when more than one occurs in a word, are often realized as creakiness (laryngealization) spreading across the entire form. This may also happen in the case of /ʔ/, but over a shorter range. /mʔ/ is realized with laryngealization (due to tightening of the sphincter) in [hiˈtʃʼimˈʔm̰] 'dark' and devoicing while still sphincterd; while for /m/ as in [kʷʰɪˈnɛˑmm̥] 'carry in arms' the laryngeal mechanism opens progressively in a breathy-voiced/ voiceless sequence (cf. Esling 1996, 1999a). Diminutive forms in the language are created by a reduplication pattern coupled with glottalization of all sonorants in the word, e.g.

[ˈʔmo̤pʼqʷʼtsʰɱ̥ʰ]	'swallow (bird)'	[ˈʔniˀntʃʼə̤mʔə̤n̥ʔn̥]	'knife'
[ʃənˀʃɪnˀˈnɛʔn̥ɛ̝h]	'box'	[kʷəkʷʊˈɹ̥ʔi̥ʔə̤tʰ]	'gold'

Pharyngeals / ʕ, ʕʷ, ʕʔ, ʕʷʔ/ all involve approximation of the pharyngeal/laryngeal sphincter. /ʕ, ʕʷ/ are always approximants. /ʕʔ, ʕʷʔ/ may be realized phonetically as approximation leading into a pharyngeal (epiglottal) stop or with creaky phonation together with [ʔ] or [ʕ], e.g. [tsʰaˈʕ̞ʔ̞ə̤] 'crow', [maːwʔə̤tːʰs̰] 'broken'. For phonological purposes (as in vowel retraction processes), /χ, χʷ/ parallel /ʕ, ʕʷ/, and /q, qʷ/ parallel /ʕʔ, ʕʷʔ/. Pharyngeal consonants and glottalized pharyngeals do not occur outside the root morpheme of a word.

Nasals can delete or undergo shifts to [i] or [j] under the influence of following sibilants, as in the first syllable of [pʰiˑsˈtɛpʔm̥] 'when' (Carlson 1997). Nasals do not assimilate to a following obstruent. /ɹ/ only occurs as the second consonant in a root; it is usually an approximant, e.g. [ˈjɛ̝ɹːtʃʰɪɱ̥ʔ] 'red gooseberry' (MS), but may involve labialization or friction.

Audio Data

Audio files of the words and phrases transcribed in this illustration are available on the web and may be downloaded from the following address:

http://web.uvic.ca/ling/resources/ipa/jipa/jipa-illustrations.htm

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Transcription of recorded passage

(broad phonemic)
łuʔ q'ˈsipi kʷent łuʔ sˈqelixʷ(u) hetstʃstˈʃałq łuʔ tʃˈetsmqʷˈˈmoqʷˈ
nsntʃłtsˈasˈqa u hets ˈxʷuʔj hets ˈʃɹuʔtm
łuʔ snqʷˈˈleʔwmis łuʔ ˈsiːːʔ tsˈms
kʷent łuʔ sˈʔiʔɬis łuʔ nsntʃłtsˈasˈqa u hetsˈqʷˈeʔłtm
netsˈmoqʷˈ χʷlʔ kʷˈnˈʃa qslˈʃeʔ qʷˈˈleʔwm
kʷent ne hoj qʷˈeʔtsˈs hetsˈjaʔ łuʔ nqʷˈˈleʔwmis
kʷent ʃejʔ u ełtsˈxʷuʔj

(narrow phonetic)
łuʔ q'ˈsipi ə̯ kʷent łu̯s ˈqʰelixʷɛtsʰ tʃstˈə ˈʃałqłuʔ tʃˈɛ̯tsmɵqʷˈˈmo̯qʷˈə̯
n̯ʔ nːɐ sntʃ łtsˈas ˈqʰaeʊɛ̯tsʰ ˈxʷu̯ˑ jɛ̯tsʰ ˈʃəɹu̯ˑ tʰəm
łuʔ sˑ snqʷˈˈlɛ̯ʊ̯ʔw̯mis ᵏłuh ˈsiː̯ːʔ tsˈms
kʷʰentłuʔ siʔˈi̯ʔitɬis ɬʊə̯nsntʃ łtsˈa̯s ˈqaʊëtsʰ (qʷˈɛ̯ts-) ˈqʷˈɛʔłtm
n̯ˑ nɛ̯tsʰəˈmoqʷˈə ᵏχʷl̯kʷˈɪnɪˈʃaːqχslˈʃɛ̯ʔɛ̯ qʷˈlɛ̯æəʊm
kʷʰɛnt nɛ̯ hojˑ qʷˈæ̯ʔtsˈsɛtsʰɪˈja̯ʔɪɬu̯n q̯ʷˈˈlëʊ̯ˑmis
kʷə(tʰɛ) ʃɛju̯ˈwɛłtsʰ ˈxʷuʔw̯ɪjʰ

Orthographic version

Huckleberrying (MS)

łuʔ q≤sípi kʷent łuʔ sqélixʷ u hesčstˇšáłqi łuʔ čˇecmq≤ʷmóq≤ʷ
a long time ago when art. people conj. went huckleberrying art. on the mountains
nsnčłc≤asqá u hecxʷúʔy hecšrúʔtm
on horseback conj. they went, they climbed the mountains
łuʔ snq≤ʷléʔwmis łuʔ sí...ʔc≤ms kʷent łuʔ sʔíʔɬis łuʔ nsnčłc≤asqá u
hecq≤ʷéʔłtms
their berry baskets their blankets and their food art. on the horses conj. they packed
necmóq≤ʷ x̱ʷl≤ kˇʷnšá qslšéʔ q≤ʷléʔwm
on the mountain for several days going to be there picking berries
kʷent ne hoy q≤ʷéʔc≤s hecyáʔ łuʔ nq≤ʷléʔwmis
then finally they fill all their berry baskets
kʷent šey≤ u ełcxʷúʔy
then that's it conj. they come back

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