A TUTELO VOCABULARY

BY EDWARD SAPIR

WHILE on Six Nations Reserve, Ontario, in August, 1911, I was told of a Cayuga Indian named Andrew Sprague who had had opportunity during his childhood to hear Tutelo spoken fluently and who was supposed to remember considerable of it. As Tutelo is an extinct language, I thought it imperative to rescue from oblivion what was still to be obtained and thus add, if only a mite, to what had already been put on record. As a matter of fact, it turned out that Andrew remembered only very little indeed of Tutelo, and what small amount of material could be obtained from him was extorted with some difficulty. No attempt will here be made to discuss the data. They are given for what they are worth in the hope that they may at some future time prove of use to the student of comparative Siouan linguistics. If in nothing else, perhaps the words listed are of value because they have been recorded with greater phonetic accuracy than is generally attained in mere vocabularies.

PERSONS

mih(i)sik' man nisk' child, children
wärëwa' woman kyk' grandfather
mangida' my cousin
ungida' his cousin

ANIMALS

mâp'ayenh' cow, ox, cattle ts'ungidé' horse (literally, "big
dog")
ts'unhk' dog ts'ungíwe' wolf (literally, "like a
dog")
mâsgòlo' pig
hëmõ frog
dalúsgík' cat
babòsgo' deer

OBJECTS

mâksâpâ' bread mâðë' knife

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matsiggyo salt
bèbèhèt pepper
wàdèwà sugar
wòhèt soup
wàsàksèt shorts in grinding corn
gàk’sagìnàgò silver armlet

yàhèt lacrosse stick
wàhòk’mèt false face
meni’ígàl’e’ògà kettle (evidently contains meni- “water”)
meni’ígëdòg jug, jar, glass, bottle

(kò’èmbài’ pipe
kò’èmbài non’ tobacco

Adverbs, Adjectives
dàbàdà’t down river
údàphà’út up river
bìwà good
nyàgùtsagàhèt dizzy woman
nìhèsagàhèt dizzy man

ma’ganjàga’a white
mìha ma’ganjàga’a white man
ma’ganjà’kasìt’ negro

Pronoun
henìgu I

Verbs
wàlùt màksàpà’a eat bread
wàgèsò’t to dance
hadìti’gilèda he’s gone home
wèt’gilèda let’s go home
gwà’gilèda I must go home
wàk’ntèndàbèwà I’m going to bed
bìthàhèt thank you!
hehè gidàya k’èk’yòk’arèwàya surely,
everything is all right

Numerals
1, bìpàs
2, nìpàs
3, nà
4, tì
5, bì
6, agàs
7, sakù
8, pelàk
9, sàk
10, bìtsàkà

Phonetic Note

Short vowels
a, as in German Mann
à, as in English hat
e, as in English met
ë, as in French ètè
i, as in English bit
ì, as in French fini
ø, as in French beau
u, as in English put

Long Vowels
à, as in German Kahn
ë, as in German See
i, as in German Sie
ð, as in German Sohn
ù, as in German gut
Nasalized vowels
- ɡ, as in French quand
- ɡ̃, as in French vin
- ɡ̃, nasalized open e (not as open as in French vin)
- ɡ̃, nasalized close o (o̞), not open as in French bon
- ʊ̃, nasalized open u
- ɑ̃, long ɡ
- ɔ̃, long ɡ

Diphthong
- ai, as in German mein

Stopped Consonants
- b, d, g, sonant stops as in English
- ｐ, ｔ, ｋ, ｔs, “intermediate” stops
- ｐ̃, ｔ̃, ｋ̃, ｔs̃, unaspirated surds
- ｐ'̃, ｔ'̃, ｋ'̃, ｔs'̃, aspirated surds
- ｔs', aspirated tʃ (midway between ts and tc of English church)

Continuants
- w, as in English
- y, as in English
- h, as in English
- s, as in English
- c, as in English she
- θ̌, interdental spirant, as in English thick
- l, (approximately) as in English
- r, trilled r (alveolar?). In k'ɛk'uk'ar'waya r sounded much like l
- m, as in English
- n, as in English
- η, as in English sing

Miscellaneous
- ', glottal stop
- -a" (and similarly for other vowels), broken vowel, second part of which is murmured (“echoed”)
- ', final breath release
- ' occurs once as glide vowel from e to e
- ', main stress
- ', secondary stress

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