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A Grammar of Bella Coola. By Philip W. Davis and Ross Saunders.

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ing the chapter number before finding the relevant footnote and following the thread of thought. This is especially important given the high number of information-loaded footnotes.

In summary, this book is a must for researchers interested not only in Curtis but also in that era of American history. The vast amount of research is well documented and all brought together elegantly. The writing is clear and the evenhanded presentation is greatly appreciated.

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A Grammar of Bella Coola. By Philip W. Davis and Ross Saunders. University of Montana Occasional Papers in Linguistics, No. 13. Missoula, MT: University of Montana, 1997. 190 pages. $20.00 paper.

Bella Coola—also known as Nuxalk (nuXalk)—is a member of the complex Salishan family of the Northwest Coast. It is spoken in a narrow valley of the central coast of British Columbia, which opens on its western end to the North Bentinck Arm of the Burke Channel, approximately one hundred kilometers from the Pacific Ocean. The location makes Bella Coola the northernmost of the Salishan languages (there is an excellent map on the geographic distribution of the Salishan languages in an article by M. Dale Kinkade in *The International Encyclopedia of Linguistics*, ed. William Bright, 1992). This outlying status has resulted in the fact that Bella Coola is the only member of its subgroup within the Salishan family, though it shares characteristics with both the Central and Interior subgroups. It also exhibits evidence of considerable contact with the neighboring Athabaskan, Tsimshian, and, especially, Wakashan languages.

Davis and Saunders' volume is not a grammar of the traditional type, with sections on phonetics and phonology, morphology, and syntax, as is H. Nater's *The Bella Coola Language* (1984) and Laurence C. Thompson and M. Terry Thompson's *The Thompson Language* (1992), the latter in the same series as Davis and Saunders' volume. Though Bella Coola is best known for its seemingly limitless tolerance for groups of obstruents and vowelless words, neither phonology nor phonetics are raised save for a footnote that lists the phonemic inventory of the language. This is not a fault, for Davis and Saunders' concerns lie elsewhere, in the complex syntax of Bella Coola, which might best be described as discourse configurational. Their approach, therefore, is a functional one, and as they state on page 22, "A Functional Grammar of Bella Coola" would be a more accurate title.

Chapter 1 begins with a brief sketch of the Salishan family tree, other background information on Bella Coola, and early work on the language. The remainder of the chapter explains Davis and Saunders' main concern with meaning and how it is expressed. In order to orient the reader to the types of semantic and syntactic patterning they will be discussing, the authors employ the example of the usage of articles in English. During the course of this ori-

entation, important semantic notions are introduced (here set in small capitals, as in the volume). Here I mention only that the principal constituents of a PROPOSITION are the EVENT, which contains the activity, circumstance, or identification of the PROPOSITION, and the argument(s) involved in the EVENT, the PARTICIPANT(S). (The verbal-nominal distinction so familiar in human language is weakly, if at all, tangible in the Salishan languages; hence any lexical base may serve as either EVENT or PARTICIPANT.) PARTICIPANTS are cast in a variety of semantic ROLES, such as EXECUTOR, EXPERIENCER, AGENT, and IMPLEMENT. Another important facet of Bella Coola grammar is that it codes the shared experience of speaker and listener—whether a PARTICIPANT is KNOWN or UNKNOWN and whether the listener's experience makes it IDENTIFIABLE or UNIDENTIFIABLE.

Chapter 2 presents the major clausal configurations of the PROPOSITION and introduces a significant amount of inflexional and derivational verbal morphology. The PROPOSITION is organized according to the inherent semantics of the lexical base selected to function as the EVENT. Any ROLE(S) which is/are core to the EVENT will form the NUC(LEUS) of the PROP(OSITION) (and thereby be considered to be under FOCUS), while any non-core ROLES present will form a PER(IPHERY). The structure of the simple, active PROPOSITION, then, is:

(1) [PROP [NUC EVENT ROLE(S)] [PER ROLE(S)]].

Of course, this structure can be modified to alter the semantics of the PROPOSITION; ROLES are organized within the NUCLEUS or PERIPHERY according to the structure of the PROPOSITION. The following PROPOSITION is active (2), passive (3), and antipassive (4) in structure (the last is employed to redistribute the focus of the PROPOSITION from two ROLES to one by moving the second to the PERIPHERY). Only the lexical bases are here glossed:

(2) [PROP [NUC kaw-is   ti-ʔlmk-tx   ti-yatn-tx]]
              bring- -man-   -rattle-
      "The man brought the rattle"

(3) [PROP [NUC kaw-im   ti-yatn-tx] [PER x-ti-ʔlmk-tx]]
              bring- -rattle-   - -man-
      "The rattle was brought by the man"

(4) [PROP [NUC kaw-a-   ti-ʔlmk-tx] [PER x-ti-yatn-tx]]
              bring- - -man-   - -rattle-
      "The man brought the rattle"

Davis and Saunders then go on to explain further functions of the distinction between NUCLEUS and PERIPHERY, and introduce a second degree of PERIPHERY. The chapter closes with a discussion of the important grammatical and semantic category of CONTROL—what degree of control does an EXECUTOR have over an EVENT—and defines a few other grammatical categories.

Chapter 3 treats the morphological affixes which may be attached to PARTICIPANTS in order to code semantic notions such as PARTICULAR versus DOMAIN and SPACE and TIME. Of particular importance is the usage of deictic prefixes

and suffixes, which depend upon the shared common geography of the speaker and listener. SPACE and TIME are so intimately connected that they are coded in a single set of suffixes which contains both categories equally. There can not, therefore, be any fixed translation of a Bella Coola PROPOSITION owing to the possible SPACE-TIME alternation of the deictic suffixes. Meaning is established by knowing the SPACE-TIME in which the utterance is made. Davis and Saunders also treat patterns of relativisation, which is accomplished by the affixation of a deictic prefix to an EVENT, possession, and the usage of deictic suffixes as PARTICIPANTS. This last matter is particularly complicated, and the authors are to be commended for their clear exposition of the syntactic rules which determine when the suffixes so employed can and can not surface phonetically. The chapter concludes with a useful summary of the possible morphological expressions of the PARTICIPANT, and Davis and Saunders note that, owing to the multifaceted usage of the deictic affixes, morphology alone can not distinguish between PARTICIPANT and PROPOSITION; discourse context must determine semantic content.

Chapter 4 treats complex clauses, which are formed by juxtaposition. In Bella Coola, the degree of semantic integration between PROPOSITIONS can be varied, three levels of peripherality being available. The construction of juxtaposed PROPOSITIONS, then, can be manipulated to indicate FOCUS, CONSEQUENCE, "cause" and "effect," CONTINGENCY, and so forth. Davis and Saunders complete the chapter with a description of the complex rules for the indication of co-reference, the syntax of negation, and the semantic force of a host of affixes and coordinating particles.

In a short review such as this, it is impossible to document fully the marvelous service which Davis and Saunders have provided in this volume. A careful reader will learn much more about the exquisite subtlety of Bella Coola syntactic and semantic structure than is normally possible in a traditional grammar, especially in the case of discourse configurational languages. I note, however, that it is somewhat inconvenient for the reader to be required to leaf frequently through the pages of a given chapter in order to compare cross-referenced examples; repetition of previously cited examples would not have cost significant space. There are a tolerable number of typographic errors, nearly all of which are self-correcting, and one or two cited references are missing from the appended bibliography. This is a very important work.

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The Hernando de Soto Expedition: History, Historiography, and "Discovery" in the Southeast. Edited by Patricia Galloway. Lincoln, Nebraska: University of Nebraska Press, 1997. 544 pages. $60.00 cloth.

The 1492 quincentennial celebration has inspired North American scholars to reexamine the earliest European contacts with the continental United States. In the Southeast, this has meant renewed interest in Hernando de Soto and other Spanish explorers. While such a reexamination was long overdue and coming