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tionalism allowed them to successfully avoid transplantation west of the Mississippi River for so many years.

Despite these weaknesses, McLoughlin provides a careful rendering of the political facts of Cherokee and American interaction prior to the removal period. His detailed reconstruction of political dynamics between the representatives of various Cherokee communities and the United States government are a valuable contribution to current understanding. The richness of McLoughlin's documentation and his skillful telling of the Cherokee story will make *Cherokee Renaissance* useful to researchers and lay audiences for many years to come.

James M. McClurken
Michigan State University

Cree Language Structures: A Cree Approach. By Freda Ahenakew. Winnipeg: Pemmican Publications, 1987. 170 pp. \$14.95 Paper.

Cree Language Structures is a grammatical sketch addressed to teachers of Cree. The author, herself a native speaker of the language, points out that native fluency alone is not sufficient preparation for a good language teacher; a conscious understanding of the fundamental structure of the language is necessary for effective lesson preparation and teaching. The sketch is designed to equip teachers with that expertise.

From the very first page, this book is a pleasure to read. The style is highly appealing: it is lively and devoid of empty jargon and tangled syntax. Important technical terms are introduced so clearly that readers can assimilate them with relatively little conscious effort. The organization and layout are also exceptional. Chapter headings and subheadings are simple, logical, and informative. Examples are set off from the text, with the Cree material in boldface, and paradigms are boxed in clear tables. The author has gracefully achieved a delicate balance. The presentation should be accessible and informative to audiences from a variety of backgrounds.

At the outset, several issues of critical importance to language teachers are discussed. The nature of dialect differences is explained with illustrations of some phonological, grammatical, and semantic features distinguishing Plains and Eastern Cree. The

notion of stylistic level is introduced, and 'normal,' 'special purpose,' and 'elevated' styles are contrasted.

In accordance with its goals, the sketch differs from conventional pedagogical and reference grammars in several ways. It is not a set of lessons for use in the language classroom. There is no phonological description, since the intended audience consists of native speakers who will teach sounds primarily by example rather than explanation. The bulk of the sketch is devoted to noun and verb inflection, just those areas of the grammar that students must learn systematically in order to speak, and that teachers must understand in order to construct coherent lessons. Several syntactic particles are introduced, including adverbials, question words, and demonstratives. The concept of derivation is presented, but the rich derivational morphology of Cree is not discussed in detail, an appropriate decision since students will generally learn derivationally complex stems as individual lexical items rather than trying to create them themselves.

Perhaps the most important aspect of the sketch is its textual basis. Grammatical discussions are illustrated largely by examples drawn from actual spontaneous connected speech. This avoids not only the artificiality of many teaching grammars, but also the temptation to structure language lessons according to translations of Indo-European structures. Cree structures are presented in their own terms.

Cree Language Structures will provide an essential resource to anyone teaching Cree, and a useful tool to others simply interested in the language. Teachers should find it indispensable as they prepare lessons and attempt to explain the workings of the language to their students. It will also prepare them for further exploration of the Algonquian linguistic literature, by introducing them to basic linguistic concepts as well as the standard technical terms used by Algonquianists, such as proximate/obviative, transitive/intransitive, independent/conjunct, direct/inverse, etc. It is a welcome addition to the North American linguistic literature.

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