PREFACE

….The origin of this Jargon, a conventional language similar to the Lingua Franca of the Mediterranean, the Negro-English-Dutch of Surinam, the Pigeon English of China, and several other mixed tongues, dates back to the fur droguers of the last century. Those mariners whose enterprise in the fifteen years preceding 1800, explored the intricacies of the northwest coast of America, picked up at their general rendezvous, Nootka Sound, various native words useful in barter, and thence transplanted them, with additions from the English, to the shores of Oregon. Even before their day, the coasting trade and warlike expeditions of the northern tribes, themselves a sea-faring race, had opened up a partial understanding of each other’s speech; for when, in 1792, Vancouver’s officers visited Gray’s Harbor, they found that the natives, though speaking a different language, understood many words of the Nootka.

On the arrival of Lewis and Clarke at the mouth of the Columbia, in 1806, the new language, from the sentences given by them, had evidently attained some form. It was with the arrival of Astor’s party, however, that the Jargon received its principal impulse. Many more words of English were then brought in, and for the first time the French, or rather the Canadian and Missouri patois of the French, was introduced. The principal seat of the company being at Astoria, not only a large addition of Chinook words was made, but a considerable number was taken from the Chihalis, who immediately bordered that tribe on the north, each owning a portion of Shoalwater Bay. The words adopted from the several languages were, naturally enough, those most easily uttered by all, except, of course, that objects new to the natives found their names in French or English, and such modifications were made in pronunciation as suited tongues accustomed to different sounds. …. Grammatical forms were reduced to their simplest expression, and variations in mood and tense conveyed only by adverbs or by the context. The language continued to receive additions, and assumed a more distinct and settled meaning, under the Northwest and Hudson’s Bay companies, who succeeded Astor’s party, as well as through the American settlers in Oregon. Its advantage was soon perceived by the Indians, and the Jargon became to some extent a means of communication between natives of different speech, as well as between them and the whites. It was even used as such between Americans and Canadians. It was at first most in vogue upon the lower Columbia and the Willamette, whence it spread to Puget Sound, and with the extension of trade, found its way far up the coast, as well as the Columbia and Fraser rivers; and there are now few tribes between the 42d and 57th parallels of latitude in which there are not to be found interpreters through its medium. Its prevalence and easy acquisition, while of vast convenience to traders and settlers, has tended greatly to hinder the
acquirement of the original Indian languages; so much so, that except by a few missionaries and pioneers, hardly one of them is spoken or understood by white men in all Oregon and Washington Territory. Notwithstanding its apparent poverty in number of words, and the absence of grammatical forms, it possesses much more flexibility and power of expression than might be imagined, and really serves almost every purpose of ordinary intercourse.

The number of words constituting the Jargon proper has been variously stated. Many formerly employed have become in great measure obsolete, while others have been locally introduced. Thus, at the Dalles of the Columbia, various terms are common which would not be intelligible at Astoria or on Puget Sound. In making the following selection, I have included all those which, on reference to a number of vocabularies, I have found current at any of these places, rejecting, on the other hand, such as individuals, partially acquainted with the native languages, have employed for their own convenience. The total number falls a little short of five hundred words. …

A DICTIONARY OF THE CHINOOK JARGON.

PART II. ENGLISH-CHINOOK

A

Above, ságh-a-lie
Absolve, mam’-ook stoh
Acorns, káh-na-way
Across, in ’a-ti
Afraid, kwass
After, Afterwards, kim’-ta
Again, weight
All, kon’-a-way
Alms, e’-la-han, or e-lann’
Also, weight
Although, kégh-tchie
Always, kwáh-ne-sum
American, Boston
Amusement, hee’-hee
And, pee
Anger, Angry, sol’-leks
Apple, le pome
Apron, kéh-su, or ki’-su
Arrive at, ko
Arrow, ka-li’-tan
As if, káh-kwa spose
At, ko’-pa
Aunt, kwal’h
Awl, shoes keep’-wot
Axe, la-hash’

B

Bad, me-sáh-chie; pe-shuk’
Bag, le sak
Ball, le bal
Bargain, máh-kook; húy-húy
Bark, s’ick-skin
Barrel, ta-mo’-litsh

Basket, o’-pe-kwan
Beads, ka-mo’-suk
Bear (black), chet’-woot; its’woot; (grizzly), si-am’
Beat, to, kok’-shut
Beaver, ee’-na
Because, kéh-wa
Become, to, cháh-ko
Bed, bed
Before, e’-lip, or el’-ip
Behind, kim’-ta
Bell, tin’-tin
Belly, ya-kwáh-tin
Below, kee’-kwil-lie
Belt, la san-jel’
Berries, o’-lil-lie; o’-lal-lie
Best, e’-lip closhe
Bird, kal-lak’-a-la
Biscuit, le bis’-kwee
Bitter, klihl
Black, klale
Blackberries, klik’-a-muks
Blanket, pa-see’-sie
Blind, ha’-lo se-âh-host
Blood, pil-pil
Blow out, mam’-ook poh
Blue (light), spo’-oh
Blue (dark), klale
Blunder, to, tsee’-pie
Board, la plash
Boat, boat
Bob-tailed; a bob-tailed horse, sis’-ki-you
Boil, to, lip’-lip
Bone, stone
Borrow, to, a-yáh-whul
Both, kun’-a-moxt
Bottle, la-boo-ti’
Bow, o’-pitl-kegh
Bowl, oos’-kan
Box, la ca-sett’
Bracelet, klik’-wal-lie
Brave, skoo’-kum tum’-tum
Bread, le pan
Break, to, kok’-shut
Breech clout, o’-poots sill
Bridle, la bleed
Bright, to-wagh
Broad, kluk-ulh’
Broom, bloom
Brother, kâhp-ho, if elder than the
speaker; ow, if younger. Male cousins
the same
Brother-in-law, ek’-keh
Bucket, ta-mo’-litsh
Buffalo, moos’-moos
Bullet, le bal; ka-ly’-tan
Bundle, kow
But, pe
Butter, to-toosh’ la-kles’
Buttons, tsil’-tsil
Buy, to, máh-kook
By-and-by, win’-a-pie

C
Candle, la shan-del’
Carrot, la ca-lat’
Carry, to, lo’ lo
Cart, tsik’-tsik; chik’-chik
Cascade, tum’ wa-ter
Cat, puss’-puss
Cataract, tum’ wa-ter
Cattle, moos’-moos
Certainly, na-wit’-ka
Chain, la shen; chik’-a-min lope
Chair, la shase
Cheat, to, la-lâh
Chicken, la pool
Chief, ty-ee’
Child, ten’-as
Clams, o’-na; luk’-ut-chee; la-kwit’-chee
Clams, the large kind, smet-ocks
Clear up, to, châh-ko klah
Cloth (cotton), sail
Clouds, smoke
Coat, ca-po’
Coffee, kau’-py
Cold, cole; tshis
Comb, comb

Comb, to, mam’-ook comb
Come, to, châh-ko
Confess, to, yi’-em
Conjuring, ta-mâh-no-us
Cook, to, mam’-ook pi’-ah
Copper, pil chik’-a-min
Cord, ten’-as lope
Corn, e-salt’h’, or ye-salt’h’
Corral, kul-lâgh
Cotton goods, sail
Cough, hoh’-hoh
Count, to, mam’-ook kwun’-nun
Cousin, see brother and sister
Coyote, tal’-a-pus
Crab apple, pow’-itsh
Cranberry, so’-le-mie
Crazy, pel’-ton
Cream colored, le clem
Crooked, ki’-wa
Cross, la clo-a’
Crow, kâh-kah
Cry, to, cly
Cup, oos’-kan
Curly, hunl’-kih
Cut, to, tl’ko’-pe

D
Dance, to, tanse
Dark, darkness, po’-lak-lie
Day, sun
Dead, mem’-a-loost,
Deaf, ik-poo’-ie kwil-lan
Dear, hy’-as máh-kook
Deep, klip
Deer, mow’-itsh
Demon, skoo’-kum
Devil, di-aub’; yaub; le-jaub’
Different, hul-o’-i-ma
Difficult, kull
Dig, to, mam’-ook il’-la-hie
Dime, bit, or mit
Do, to, mam’-ook
Doctor, doc’-tin
Dog, kam’-ooks
Dollar, dol’-la, or tâh-la
Door, la po’te
Down stream, mi’-mie
Drink, to, muck’-a-muck
Drive, to, kish’-kish
Drunk, pâht-lum
Dry, de-ly’
Duck (Mallard), kwêh-kweh; hâht-haht
Dust, po’-lal-lie
### E

| Eagle, chak’-chak | Fly, to, ka-wak’ |
| Eagle, chak’-chak | Fog, smoke |
| Ear, kwo-lann’ | Food, muck’-a-muck |
| Early, ten’-as sun | Fool, pel’-ton |
| Earn, to, to -lo | Foolish, pel’-ton |
| Earth, il’-la-hie | Foot, le-pee’ |
| Eat, to, muck’-a-muck | Forever, kwah-ne-sum |
| Egg, le sap’; le zep’ | Forget, to, máh-lie |
| Eight, sto’-te-kin | Fork, la poo-shet’ |
| Elk, moo’-lock | Formerly, áhn-kut-te, or áhn-kot-tie |
| Enclosure, kul-lágh | Four, lak’-it, or lok’-it |
| English, king chaush | Fowl, la pool |
| Englishman, king chaush | French, Frenchman, pa-si’-ooks |
| Enough, hi-yu’; ko-pet’ | Friend, sikhs, or shikhs |
| Entreiils, ki-yágh | Frog, shwah-kuk |
| Evening, ten’-as po’-lak-lie | Fry, to, mam’-ook la po-el’ |
| Every, kon’-a-way | Frying-pan, la po-el’ |
| Exchange, hiy-huy | Full, pahtl |
| Eyes, se-áh-host | Fundament, o’-poots |

### F

| Face, se-áh-host | Gallop, to, kwa-lal’-kwa-lal’ |
| Faded, spo’-oh | Gather, to, ho’-ku-melh |
| Falsehood, klim-in’-a-whit | Get, to, is’-kum |
| Far, si-åh | Get out, mahsh |
| Fast (quick), hy-ak’ | Get up, get-up’, -or ket-op’ |
| Fast (tight), kwutl | Ghost, skoo’-kum |
| Fasten, to, kow | Gift, cul’-tus pot’-latch |
| Fat, glease | Give, to, pot’-latch |
| Father, pa’-pa | Glad, kwann |
| Fathom, it’-lan | Go, to, klat’-a-wa |
| Fear, kwass | God, ságh-a-lie ty-ee’ |
| Fell, to (as a tree), mam’-ook whim | Gold, pil chik’-a-min |
| Fence, kul-lágh | Good, klose, or kloshe |
| Fetch, to, mam’-ook cháp-ko | Good-bye, kla-how’-ya |
| Fever, waum stick | Goods, ik’-tah |
| Few, ten’-as | Goose, whuy’-whuy; kal-ak-a-láh-ma |
| Fight, to, mam’-ook sol’-leks | Grandfather, chope |
| Fight, with fists, mam’-ook puk’-puk | Grandmother, chitsh |
| Figured (as calico), tzum | Grease, la-kles’; glease |
| File, la leem | Green, pe-chugh’ |
| Fill, to, mam’-ook pahtl | Grey: a grey horse, le glely |
| Find, to, klap | Grizzly bear, si-am’ |
| Fingers, le doo | Ground, il’-la-hie |
| Fire, pi’-ah; o-la-pits’-ki | Gun; musket, suk’-wa-lal |
| First, e’-lip, or el’-ip | |
| Fish, pish | |
| Fish-hook, ik’-kik | |
| Five, kwin’-num | H |
| Flea, so’-pen e’-na-poo; cho’-tub | Hair, yak’-so |
| Flesh, it’-wil-lie | Half, sit’-kum |
| Flint, kil-it’-sut | Hammer, le máh-to |
| Flour, sap’-o-lill | Hand, le máh |
| | Hand (game of), it’-lo-kum |
| | Handkerchief, hak’-at-shum |
Mind, the, **tum**'-tum
Miss, to, **tsee**'-pie
Mistake, to, **tsee**'-pie
Moccasins, skin-shoes
Molasses, mel-ass'
Money, chik'-a-min
Month, moon
Moon, moon
More, weight
Mosquito, mel'-a-kwa
Mother, mama; na'-ah
Mountain, la mon'-ti
Mouse, hool'-hool
Mouth, la boos
Much, hy-iu'
Mule, le mel
Musical Instrument, **tin**'-tin
Musket, musket
Mussels, to'-luks
My, mine, ni'-ka

N
Nails, le cloo
Name, nem; yah-hul
Near, wake si-áh
Neck, le cou
Needle, keep'-wot
New, chee
Night, po'-lak-lie
Nine, kwaist, or kweest
No, not, wake
Noise, la tlah
None, ha'-lo
Nonsense, cul'-tus wau'-wau
Noon, sit-kum sun
Nose, nose
Notwithstanding, kégh-tchie
Now, al'-ta
Numerals—
  1, ikt
  2, mokst
  3, klone
  4, lakit
  5, kwinnun
  6, taghum
  7, sinnamokst
  8, stotekin
  9, kwaist
 10, tahtlelum
11, tahtlelum pe ikt
20, mokst tahtlelum
100, ikt takarnonuk
Nuts, tuk'-wil-la

O
Oak, kull stick
Oar, la lahm; la lum
Oats, la wen
Off, klak
Off shore, máht-lin-nie
Oil, glease
Old, o'-le-man
Old man, o'-le-man
Old woman, lam'-mi-eh
One, ikt
One-eyed, ikt se-áh-host
Open, háh-lakl
Opposite to, in '-a-ti
Or, pe
Order, to, mahsh tum'-tum
Other, hul-o'-i-ma
Otter (land), ne-mam'-ooks
Our, ne-si'-ka
Out doors, klágh-a-nie
Ox, moos'-moos
Oyster, chet'-lo, or jet'-lo; klógh-klogh

P
Paddle, a, is'-ick
Paddle, to, mam'-ook is'-ick
Paint, pent
Paint, to, mam'-ook pent
Paper, péh-pah
Peas, le pwau
People, til'-i-kum
Perhaps, klo-nas'
Petticoat, kal-a-kwah'-tie
Piebald, le kye
Pin, kwek'-wi-ens
Pipe, la peep
Pitch, la gome
Plate, la si-et'
Pleased, youtl
Plough, le shal-loo'
Plough, to, klugh il'-la-hie
Pole, la pehsh
Poor, kla-how'-yum; ha'-lo ik'-ta
Pork, co'-sho
Posterior, o'-poots
Potato, wap'-pa-too
Pour, to, wagh
Powder, po'-lal-lie
Prairie wolf, tal'-a-pus
Presently, al'-kie; win'-a-pie
Pretty, to'ke-tie
Priest, le plet
Proud, youtl; kwetl'h
Provided that, spose
Pull, haul

Q
Quarter, ten 'as sit 'kum
Quarter (of a dollar), kwah-ta
Quick, hy-ak'
Quills, te-péh

R
Rabbit, kwit 'shad-ie
Rain, snass
Rattle, shugh
Rattlesnake, shugho 'pools
Razor fish, o 'na
Reach, ko
Red, pil
Relate, to, yi 'em
Return, to, kel 'i-pi
Ribbon, le lo 'ba
Rice, lice
Rifle, cal 'li-peen
Ring, a, kwéo-kwéo
Ripe, pi 'ah
River, chuck
Road, way 'hut
Roan colored, san 'de-lie
Roast, mam 'ook la pel-lah'
Rock, stone
Rope, lope
Rotten, poo 'lie
Round, lo 'lo
Rudder, boat o 'pooots
Rum, lum

S
Sack, le sak
Saddle, la sell
Saddle housings, le pish 'e-mo
Sail, sail
Sailor, ship 'man
Salmon, salmon
Salt, salt
Sand, po 'lal-lie
Sash, la san-jel'
Saw, la gwin; la scie
Say, to, wau 'wau
Scissors, le see 'zo
Sea, salt-chuck
Seal, ol 'hi-yu si 'wash co 'sho
See, to, nan 'ish
Sell, to, máh-kook
Seven, sin 'a-moxt
Sew, to, mam 'ook tip 'shin
Shake, to, to-to; hul 'lel
Shame, shem
Sharp, yáh-kis-ilt'h
Sharpen, to, mam 'ook tsish
She, her, yah-ka
Sheep, le moo 'to
Shell money, (the small size), coop-coop; (the large), hy-kwa
Shingle, le-báh-do
Shining, to-wágh
Ship, ship
Shirt, shut
Shoes, shoes
Shoot, to, mam 'ook poo
Short, yútes-kut
Shot, shot; ten 'as le bal
Shot pouch, ka-li-tan le-sac'; tshe 'pat
Shout, to, hy 'as wau 'wau
Shovel, la pell
Shut, to, ik-poo 'ie
Sick, sick
Sift, to, to-to
Silk, la sway
Silver, t 'kope chik 'a-min
Similar, káh-kwa
Since, kim-ta
Sing, to, shan 'tie
Sister, káhp-ho, if older than the speaker; ats, if younger
Sit, to, mit 'lite
Six, tógh-un
Skin, skin
Skunk, hum o 'pooots; piu 'piu; skub 'e-you
Sky, koo 'sagh
Slave, e-li 'te; mist 'shi-mus
Sleep, moo 'sum
Slowly, kláh-wa
Small, ten 'as
Smell, a, humm
Smoke, smoke
Snake, o 'luk
Snow, snow; cole snass
Soap, soap
Soft, klim 'min
Sorrel colored, a sorrel horse, le blau
Sorry, sick tum 'tum
Sour, kwates
Spade, la pell
Speak, to, wau 'wau
Spill, to, wagh
Spirits, lum
Split, tsugh
Vomit, to, wagh

W

Wagon, tsik'-tsik; chik'-chik
Wander, to, tso'-lo
Want, to, tik-égh
Warm, waum
Wash, to, mam'-ook wash
Watch, a, tik'-tik
Water, chuck
Waterfall, tum'-water
We, ne-si'-ka
Weigh, to, mam'-ook till
Wet, pahlt chuck
Whale, eh'-ko-lie; kwáh-nice, kwad'-dis
What, ik'-tah
Wheat, sap'-o-lill
Wheel, tsik'-tsik; chik'-chik
When, kan'-sih; kun-juk
Where, kah
Whip, le whet
White, t'kope
Who, klak'-sta
Whole, lo'-lo
Why, káh-ta
Wicked, me-sáh-chie
Wide, kluk-uhl'
Wild, le mo'-lo
Will, the, tum'-tum

Willow, ee'-na stick
Win, to, to'-lo
Wind, wind
Winter, cole il'-la-hie
Wipe, to, klak'-wun
Wire, chik'-a-min lope
Wish, to, tik-égh
With, ko'-pa
Without, ha'-lo
Wolf, le-loo'
Woman, klootsh'-man
Woman (old), lam'-mi-eh
Wood, wooden, stick
Work, to, mam'-ook
Worn out, o'-le-man
Worthless, cul'-tus
Wound, to, klem'-a-hun
Write, to, mam'-ook péh-pah; mam'-ook zum
Writing, zum

Year, ikt cole
Yellow, kaw'-ka-wak
Yes, áh-ha; e-éh
Yes indeed, na-wit'-ka
Yesterday, táhl-kie; táhl-kie sun
You, your, yours, me-si'-ka
Young, ten'-as