

Chapter 1 : Cree in English with contextual examples - MyMemory

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Introduction¹ Until recently, Algonquian linguistic research has not considered word order and phrase structure to be particularly important components of these languages. The decision to exclude phrase structure from discussion is based on the seemingly erratic distribution of constituents in an Algonquian utterance when the traditional Algonquianist categories of noun, verb, and particle i. VSO see-3, man, this dog-obv b. OSV The three Algonquianist categories of noun, verb, and particle i. Word order does not appear to affect the assignment of grammatical functions. Thus, in a strictly predicational sense, Algonquian languages have "free" word order. However, there is strong evidence to suggest that these word orders are not equivalent in the semantics. In particular, the position of a nominal within the sentence is related to its interpretation, and has distinct consequences both for the semantics and the syntax. This can be demonstrated by tracking the position of nominals in large contextual spans, followed up with carefully-structured elicitation. Because this particular area of Algonquian linguistics is so poorly-studied, there is a great deal of work to be done. To that end, this paper is intended to be the outline of a research program in the semantic consequences of nominal position, with special focus on Plains Cree. All mistakes are my own, and, as Al Gore once said of the Constitution, this paper is a living document. Given multiple constituents, many word orders can be made acceptable. Thus, if we are to begin a careful characterization of word order effects, a sharp line is needed between sentences produced by the linguist and those produced by the consultant. Linguists have used two different methods of testing sentence structure – texts and elicitation, with widely different results. This variation should not be surprising, since a text constitutes the uninterrupted discourse of a fluent speaker, whereas elicitation can involve linguists who do not necessarily understand the complete architecture of the language. Interestingly, freedom of word-order is not equally demonstrated by the linguist and the consultant. Although it is true that many word orders are deemed acceptable by speakers, the variety of word orders produced by the native speaker in a natural context shows a great deal less variation. Thus, for the purposes of this study, I will be preferential to sentences produced by native speakers without interference from linguists. Until we understand a great deal more about word order effects than we currently do, this can be the only reliable course of action. The description of phrase structure is rendered partly indeterminate by stylistic variations of various sorts. The constituents of a phrase often appear in other than the usual order, or separated by other words, or with pause intonation between them, or with two or all three of these. Thus some of the original major works on the western branch of Algonquian languages have nothing of use to say on the subject of word order. As Algonquian linguistics developed in the s, several scholars began to seriously consider issues of word order. Tomlin and Rhodes considered Ojibwa narratives, looking at the distribution of words, and determined that the neutral or "unmarked" order for Ojibwa was verb initial. Dahlstrom deals with topic and focus structure in Algonquian, determining that there is a topic position on the left edge of the verbal complex, followed by a modifier position. Finally, Wolfart comments on the intonational pauses in Plains Cree, and what they might mean for Plains Cree word order. Latin and Greek that are "pragmatically-conditioned" in their word order. In his work on Walpiri, Hale coined the term "non- configurational" to characterize languages whose word-order is free. Baker and Jelinek have sought to encode this characterization in modern syntactic theory by positing that these languages introduce their arguments as morphology on the verb head, and thus all other DPs are adjuncts. In , Hale refined his definition of "free" word order strictly to describe languages that do not have word order affect grammatical function. This is demonstrable in the work of several linguists, as well as my own fieldwork, and bears on the central concern of this paper – word-ordering of nominals – by showing that word-ordering touches many diverse areas of the grammar. The prenominal demonstrative creates a DP, while the postnominal demonstrative creates a predicational structure. Further, this construction is productive in clefting contexts. This predication structure can even be used to cleft larger constituents, in what Ahenakew calls a "factitive" use of the demonstrative.

These kinds of restrictions have also been discussed by Wolvengrey. Some other data that bears on this issue comes from contexts that use overt nominals and adverbs. Given a verb, a noun, and an adverb, a native speaker can accept most word orders, with an interesting exception from elicitation. Other phenomena that show syntactic word-ordering restrictions include relative clauses, clefting constructions, reason clauses, and construct-state possession. An account of Plains Cree that assumes syntactically free word-ordering could not account for any these phenomena, since the grammatical functions crucially depend on the ordering of the constituents. Thus, despite the generalization that word order is usually "free" with respect to syntax, we should be aware that this, like many generalizations in Plains Cree, is not entirely true.

Micro-Syntax Before going in to an account of the semantics and syntax of nominal positioning, it is important to consider what components of Plains Cree grammar are potentially accessible to operations that could impact word order, such as scrambling, extraction, left-dislocation, raising, etc. There are essentially two domains in Algonquian languages that are relevant to a syntactic and semantic analysis. For the purposes of this study, I will tentatively term these two domains "Macro-Syntax" and "Micro-Syntax". The ordering of constituents within this domain is generally rigid, allowing only specific local reorderings see Cook on semantic and syntactic consequences of preverb ordering. In contrast to Macro-Syntax, these components are not able to be disconnected from one another. For example, when asking a question about an event in Plains Cree, the entire verbal complex must be fronted as a single constituent. The domain of Micro-Syntax encompasses all head-marking nominal and verbal morphology. For nominals, this includes pronominal marking, plural and obviation marking, non-verbal adjectives, and the possessor marker, as shown in 9. In these accounts, the focus has been on the specific syntactic functions that these morphemes have. For example, Hirose shows that there is a one-to-one correspondence between syntactic arguments and stem-internal verbal suffixes. Therefore these morphemes correlate with transitivity marking, which translates to a vP shell in a syntactic analysis like Kratzer. A noun, for example, moves through a series of spec positions and checks features off. These higher heads attach to the noun via phrasal encliticization, either as prefixes or suffixes. Note that some of the syntactic structure spelled-out in Plains Cree is also apparent in English, although it is morphologically covert. A verb such as "kick" is encoded for a certain transitivity and telicity, but is a single morphological component 6 where Plains Cree would have a minimum of three. These covert pieces of "kick" can be manipulated via modification e. Thus the difference between a language like English and a language like Plains Cree reduces, in some respects, to an issue of morphological span c. This means that the existence of Micro-Syntax is not an Algonquian-specific phenomenon, which would be apparent to anyone who has tried to determine the meaning of English words like "he", "the", "-ed", or even "kick" without presenting a speaker with a full, well-formed utterance. As for the difference in morphological span between Algonquian languages and other human languages, it is my opinion that this is related to the phonological structure of these languages e. Whether it is the phonology that causes the syntax or the other way around is well beyond my current understanding.

Micro-Syntax can not be. Since this paper is concerned with the word order effects of nominals, it is **Macro-Syntax** that will be central. If we assume that Plains Cree has a neutral word order for constituents, any deviation from this neutral order is an instance of Macro-Syntactic operations. This likely includes question formation 13a, topicalization 13b, dislocation 13c, and rhetorical strategies like chiasma 13d. TI-TI-3s, 3-child-poss-dim-imp-dir-3s 3-grandchild-poss-imp-dir-3s, "how they would have some peace of mind, children and grandchildren" JKN To do this, I will begin by looking at modifier positioning. This will give us some structure to begin measuring the position of nominals. When all occurrences of modifiers were assembled, the result was a surprisingly structured hierarchy. Their order is consistent throughout the text considered. Postverbal modifiers, on the other hand, are much less common, show limited ordering, and do not allow stacking. This would be consistent with a verb-fronting analysis, in which the verb raises to some position higher than one of the adverbial positions. Predicate modifiers occur internal to topic markers like clefts c. With the exception of structural cases Bittner and Hale, the verb and its functional heads license the 8 existence of DPs and other elements. Semantically, the verb provides the core content of the sentence, taking an individual and forming a function of individuals to truth conditions. This centrality gives us a good foothold on the word order of Plains Cree. If we look at nominals through the lens of their relation to the verb,

we can begin to make generalizations that are reasonably grounded in the semantics and syntax. This, combined with the previous work done on the ordering patterns of predicate modifiers, provides us with good motivation to choose preverbal nominals as the place to begin this description. To this end, I will begin with the leftmost positions in the preverbal domain and move inwards. This will help me in determining what the discourse is "about". With this in mind, Plains Cree seems to have what I will call an "inner" and an "outer" topic. These are differentiated by their position relative to the rest of the clause. Typically, outer topics are separated from the main clause with an intonation or pause, and refer to a familiar discourse referent. The use of left dislocation in all of these examples coincides with a shift in the topic under discussion. Specifically, the predicate remains notionally constant, but what it is about is. This is a kind of rhetorical parallelism, used to build a connection between ideas. In 15a, it is a shift from the traditional times of grandchildren being instructed by the proto-typical old woman to the obstinate grandchildren of those in the room. In 15b, it is a shift from the specific example of H. In all these instances, this new topic had already been under discussion previously, and thus left dislocation signals a return to an older topic. Inner topic is often used to introduce new discourse referents, who will be the subject of some span of discourse. Thus we see that inner topic has key differences from outer topic. In both instances, a topic shift is signalled, but that is where the similarities end. First, the topic shift in Inner Topic is not required to be a return to a previous topic of conversation. Second, Inner Topic does not continue the use of a predicate or indicate any parallelism. The difference in meaning between the two types of topics may correlate to a difference in Macro-Syntactic structure. I propose that the Outer Topic is base-generated in that position, since it is marked by a pause and is often followed by a pronoun within the lower clause. The Inner Topic, on the other hand, is base-generated in the lower clause, and is fronted from its base position via a Macro-Syntactic operation. This is in line with Chomsky, which posits that the difference between dislocation and topicalization is base-generation vs. This defines pronominal reference some local domain.

Chapter 2 : Cree - English to English Translation

V. 1 Cree-English -- v. 2. English-Cree. Skip to main content. Search the history of over billion web pages on the Internet.

Is this translation helpful? Synonyms of the word "Cree": Crees The definition of word "Cree": Algonquian language spoken by the Cree 4. One of the major Algonquian-speaking Indian peoples of Canada living mainly in Saskatchewan and Alberta. The Cree formerly occupied an immense area from western Quebec to eastern Alberta. They acquired firearms and engaged in the fur trade with Europeans beginning in the 17th century. There were two major divisions: Social organization in both groups was based on local bands. Among the Woodland Cree, rituals and taboos relating to the spirits of game animals were pervasive, as was fear of witchcraft. Among the more militant Plains Cree, rites intended to foster success in warfare and the bison hunt were common. Some , Canadians claim some portion of Cree ancestry and about 2, individuals claimed sole Cree descent in the United States census. Originally inhabiting a smaller nucleus of this area, they expanded rapidly in the 17th and 18th centuries after acquiring firearms and beginning their fur trade with the Europeans, but wars with the Dakota and Blackfeet and severe smallpox epidemics, notably in and , reduced their numbers. There remain today only scattered groups, totaling about , in the late 20th century according to official Canadian classifications. The Cree assumed the living patterns of those with whom they came into contact, so that there were two major divisions: The Woodland Cree preferred hunting caribou, moose, bear and beaver but relied chiefly on hare because of the scarcity of the other animals; the periodic scarcity of hare too, however, caused famine, leading to occasional cannibalism reported in tribal tales as well as by Europeans. Various kinds of fowl were also sought. Social organization was based on bands of related families, though large groups allied for warfare. Fear of witchcraft and respect for all variety of taboos and customs relating to the spirits of game animals pervaded Cree culture; shamans and conjurers wielded great power. The Plains Cree, after acquiring horses and firearms, were more militant than the Woodlands Cree, raiding and warring against many other Plains tribes. Though reportedly divided into 12 bands, each with its own chief, the Plains Cree had but one integrated military society. Religion and ceremony were highly valued, seemingly as means of fostering success in war and the bison hunt. The Assiniboin were the traditional allies of both the Plains and Woodland Cree. Please rate the definition of "Cree" which is the most useful for you.

Chapter 3 : English-Ojibwe translation :: Cree :: Dictionary

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A Cree word can be very long, and express something that takes a series of words in English. Written Cree Cree dialects, except for those spoken in eastern Quebec and Labrador , are traditionally written using Cree syllabics , a variant of Canadian Aboriginal syllabics , but can be written with the Roman alphabet as well. The easternmost dialects are written using the Roman alphabet exclusively. Cree dialects for the James Bay Cree are written using Cree syllabics. Contact languages Cree was also a component language in two contact languages unique to Western Canada. Michif is a mixed language combining Cree and French. Bungee is a dialect of English with substrate influences from Cree and Scottish Gaelic. Michif is still spoken in central Canada and in North Dakota. Many Cree words also became the basis for words in the Chinook Jargon trade language used until some point after contact with Europeans. Cree is one of the eleven official languages of the Northwest Territories , but is only spoken by a small number of people there in the area around the town of Fort Smith. In other areas, its use has declined dramatically. Cree is one of the least endangered aboriginal languages in North America, but is nonetheless at risk since it possesses little institutional support in most areas. Memoir 15, Algonquian and Iroquoian Linguistics, Canadian Plains Research Center, 15 October Outstanding dissertations in linguistics. University of Alberta Press, Waugh, and Emily Hunter. Origins of predicates evidence from Plains Cree. Plains Cree A Grammatical Study. Transactions of the American Philosophical Society, new ser. American Philosophical Society,

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Chapter 7 : Cree- Free definitions by Babylon

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Cree-English Lexicon (Language and Literature Series, Native American Linguistics, II) F.V. Contributions to the ethnography and philology of the Indian.

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Cree / Ęˆ k r iĘ• / (also known as Cree-Montagnais-Naskapi) is a dialect continuum of Algonquian languages spoken by approximately , people across Canada, from the Northwest Territories to Alberta to Labrador.