Advances in the study of Siouan languages and linguistics

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To Bob, whose knowledge was matched only by his generosity.

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Historical linguistics and philology

Chapter 1

Regular sound shifts in the history of Siouan

Rory Larson

The contributors to the Comparative Siouan Dictionary (CSD) reconstructed a phonemic set for Proto-Siouan, together with the necessary reflexes to produce the actual speech sounds found in the various daughter languages. Until recently, this system was common knowledge within the Siouanist community, since the participants in the CSD project were active as the leaders of that community, and were available to explain the predicted sound shifts. With the passing, retirement, or disappearance of most of the CSD team, however, it seems that it might be useful to document the reconstructed system and its most important regular reflexes, as an aid to comparative studies. This paper will rely primarily on the CSD, edited until his passing by Dr. Robert Rankin, to summarize the regular sound shifts known to have occurred in Siouan. It will prioritize sound shifts in which separate phonemes or clusters have collapsed together to become indistinguishable in the daughter languages, since this is where interesting confusion is most likely to occur.

removed 'team of' for hyphnenation

1 Introduction

In 1984, a group of linguists studying Siouan languages began a project under NEH and NSF sponsorship to assemble a comparative dictionary of the Siouan language family. The principal investigator was David S. Rood. The team included Richard T. Carter, A. Wesley Jones and Robert L. Rankin as senior editors, along with Rood and John E. Koontz. Together with Willem de Reuse, Randolph Graczyk, Patricia A. Shaw and Paul Voorhis, the dictionary team began their project at the Comparative Siouan Workshop held at the University of Colorado in 1984. A number of other scholars, including Louanna Furbee, Jimm Goodtracks, Jill Hopkins Greer, Kenneth Miner, Carolyn Quintero, Kathleen Shea and Mark Swetland also contributed information.

Rory Larson

This undertaking was huge.[1] The present writer regrettably turned down an offer by Richard Carter in about 1997 of an advance copy of the dictionary manuscript, on the assurance that it would be published within a year. In fact, it was never completed to the editors' satisfaction or published in book form. Carter himself retired from active work in the Siouan field after around 2002, and Robert Rankin became the principal steward of the project. In 2006, Rankin distributed a .pdf file of the manuscript as it stood so far to interested members of the Siouanist community, on condition that any further requests be submitted to himself or David Rood. The file runs to nearly a thousand pages, and is full of working notes and comments about the various words and their relationships, mostly by Rankin.

Rankin, Carter, and their colleagues developed a sophisticated understanding of the phonological and phylogenetic relationships among the various groups of Siouan. Until recently, they formed a body of respected linguistic "elders" who freely shared this lore on request with more junior scholars. With the untimely passing of Robert Rankin in February of 2014, however, and the retirement, disappearance, or focus shift of most of the other leading members of the team, the framework they developed seems in danger of being forgotten by the Siouanist community. This paper is intended to address that concern. Drawing on working notes found throughout the CSD, as well as years of discussions on the Siouan List, it will attempt to summarize the model of Siouan phonology and its standard sound shifts built by Rankin and the CSD team, with occasional comments and additions from the writer. All references to the CSD are to the 2006 version. (In May 2015, after this paper was completed, the most recent version was made available online at csd.clld.org (Rankin et al. 2015) where most of the original notes and comments can now be found.)

2 The Siouan family tree

The CSD recognizes four major branches of Siouan. In the far northwest is Missouri Valley, or Crow-Hidatsa, consisting of the Crow and Hidatsa languages. Next is Mandan, an isolate within Siouan. Third is Mississippi Valley Siouan, or "MVS", which itself has three branches. Fourth is Southeastern, or Ohio Valley Siouan, at the southeastern end of the Siouan span.

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[1] For an enlightening and wryly humorous history of the project, see "The Comparative Siouan Dictionary Project" (Rood & Koontz 2002) written by two of its principal participants.

MVS branches into Dakotan, which includes the five "Sioux" dialects of Santee-Sisseton (Dakota), Yankton-Yanktonai, Teton (Lakota), Assiniboine and Stoney;[2] Winnebago-Chiwere, composed of Ho-Chunk and the Iowa, Oto and Missouria languages; and Dhegiha, comprising Omaha-Ponca, Kaw, Osage and Quapaw. Southeastern Siouan contains Biloxi and Ofo as one branch, and Tutelo and Saponi as another.

Catawba is the language most closely related to Siouan. Though sound-historical relationships are not very clear, Catawba examples are often included in an entry's word list. The language probably next most closely related is Yuchi (cf. Kasak 2016 (in this volume)), but few examples of Yuchi are given.

3 The Reconstructed Proto-Siouan phoneme set

The CSD team recognizes eight vowels for Proto-Siouan, five oral and three nasal, which were distinguished also by length (Rankin, Carter & Jones 1998).

(1)   i   u   į   ų
         e   o
             a   ą

Basic stops are *p, *t, *k, and the glottal stop. Proto-Siouan had a series of alveolar, palatal and velar fricatives: *s, *š, and *x, as well as *h. It also had three resonants, *w, *r and *y. Minimally, its consonant structure was as follows:

Table 1: Consonants

	Labial	Alveolar	Palatal	Velar	Glottal
Stops	p	t		k	ʔ
Fricatives		s	š	x	h
Resonants	w	r	y		

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[2] Parks & DeMallie (1992) present the results of a major dialect survey undertaken to clarify the relations among the various Dakotan dialects, a field in which considerable confusion had prevailed in the literature prior to their work. The CSD itself is rather deficient in Dakotan material other than Lakota and Dakota, although it contains a few words from four other categories: Stoney, Assiniboine, Yankton, and "Sioux Valley". The latter presumably refers to the Sioux Valley reservation in southwestern Manitoba, which Parks & DeMallie classify along with the Minnesota "Dakota" within the broad Santee-Sisseton dialect group. The present paper will follow Parks & DeMallie in sub-classification of Dakotan.

Many of the consonants of Siouan have occurred in clusters, however, so the actual historical picture is more complex than this. Stops can be adjoined to other stops in almost any order, all non-glottal stops and fricatives can be glottalized, aspiration (h) can occur either before or after stops, and combinations can occur involving fricatives, stops and resonants. In particular, there exist two historical phonemes that manifest as either stops or resonants in the daughter languages, called "funny w" and "funny r". We symbolize these sounds as *W and *R. *R was found in Proto-Siouan, and *W in MVS only. Rankin believed that *R was originally a combination of *r with a laryngeal, either *h or the glottal stop.

Notably, Siouan had no distinct nasal consonant series. When *w or *r occurred in the environment of a nasal vowel, they usually manifested as |m| or |n|, respectively.

Accent in Proto-Siouan was normally on the second syllable of a word.

4 Historical Siouan sound shifts

One of the first sound shifts affecting Siouan was a process called "Carter's Law'. Wherever a simple stop, *p, *t or *k, occurred before the vowel of an accented syllable, the stop itself was more prominently "marked", either by lengthening it or by preaspirating it. In the CSD, these are considered to be preaspirated. Thus, *p, *t and *k become *hp, *ht and *hk before an accented syllable. Since accent normally was on the second syllable of a word, these preaspirated stops and their derivatives are usually found inside the word rather than at the beginning. When they are found at the beginning of a word, it may be an indication of a lost initial syllable.

(2)   Carter's Law: *pV́   >   *hpV́
                        *tV́   >   *htV́
                        *kV́   >   *hkV́

4.1 Missouri Valley (Crow-Hidatsa) reflexes

In Missouri Valley Siouan, loss of historical aspiration, loss of nasal vowels and the merger of *y with *r are the most sweeping transformations of the Proto-Siouan phonemic inventory. Several other changes also occur.

- As in Mandan, Proto-Siouan aspiration is lost.[3] This notably includes the preaspirate series produced by the operation of Carter's Law.

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[3] Rankin et al. 2006: 50, 85.

Loss of aspiration: *hp   >   *|p| <   *p
                     *ht   >   *|t| <   *t
                     *hk   >   *|k| <   *k

- Phonemic nasalization is completely lost. The three Proto-Siouan nasal vowels merge with their oral counterparts, and neither vowels nor consonants are distinguished by nasality.[4]

  Loss of nasal vowels: *ą   >   *|a| <   *a
                          *į   >   *|i| <   *i
                          *ų   >   *|u| <   *u

- As in Mandan and Hoocąk, Proto-Siouan *y merges with *r.

  *y/*r merger: *y   >   *|r| <   *r

- Between vowels at the end of a word, *h is lost .

  Loss of intervocalic *h: $*V_1hV_2$ > $*|V_1V_2|$

- Rightward vowel exchange, in which the first two vowels of a word are swapped.[5] Both Crow and Hidatsa show this feature, but not necessarily in the same words, which suggests that this change was spreading at the time Crow and Hidatsa separated.

  Rightward vowel exchange: $*CV_1CV_2$ > $|CV_2CV_1|$

4.1.1 Hidatsa reflexes

Few changes are specific to Hidatsa. There may be a few vowel shifts and cluster changes. Proto-Siouan *w generally manifests as |m|.

- Short *o is raised to |u|:[6]   *o > |u|

- *xk becomes |hk|:[7]   *xk > |hk|

- *w becomes |m|:   *w > |m|

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[4] Rankin et al. 2006: 109.
[5] Rankin et al. 2006: 193, 788.
[6] Rankin et al. 2006: 137, 922.
[7] Rankin et al. 2006: 193.

4.1.2 Crow reflexes

Crow is more innovative. The biggest change is complete loss of glottals, usually with lengthening of the following vowel. Proto-Siouan *x manifests as |xš|. Proto-Siouan *t becomes |s|.

- Glottalization is lost, but is reflected in the lengthening of the following vowel, usually with rising pitch.[8]

  Loss of glottals: *(C)ʔV > |(C)VV́|

- *x becomes |xš|:[9] *x > |xš|

- *t becomes |s|: *t > |s|

4.2 Mandan reflexes

In Mandan, loss of historical aspiration[10] and the merger of *y with *r are the most notable sound shifts, as well as a peculiar reversal of sibilants.[11]

- As in Crow and Hidatsa, historical aspiration is lost, including the preaspirate series.

Loss of aspiration:	*hp	>	|p|	<	*p
	*ht	>	|t|	<	*t
	*hk	>	|k|	<	*k

- As in Crow, Hidatsa, and Hoocąk, Proto-Siouan *y merges with *r.

  *y/*r merger: *y > |r| < *r

- Proto-Siouan *s and *š swap phonetic value. *s becomes |š| and *š becomes |s|.

*s/*š reversal:	*s	>	|š|
	*š	>	|s|

- The cluster *sp metathesizes to become |ps|. More generally, there seems to be a usual, but not quite complete, constraint against having |p| as the second element of a cluster.[12]

  *sp metathesis: *sp > |ps|

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[8] Rankin et al. 2006: 232.
[9] Rankin et al. 2006: 124.
[10] Rankin et al. 2006: 50.
[11] Rankin et al. 2006: 126.
[12] Rankin et al. 2006: 275.

- Before a consonant, the absolutizing or generalizing *wa- prefix loses its vowel through syncopation, and the *w becomes |p|.[13]

    *wa- syncopation: *waC   > |pC|

4.3 MVS reflexes

In Mississippi Valley Siouan (MVS), the fricatives are divided between a voiceless series and a voiced series. This is also the only branch of Siouan in which the preaspirates are clearly distinguishable. Another major transformation is the loss of short, unaccented vowels in the initial syllable,[14] and the production of clusters that result from this syncopation. This frequently involves the absolutizing or generalizing *wa- prefix, as well as the first person subject pronoun *wa[1]- prefix. Also, the *hr cluster becomes *ht,[15] merging with the original preaspirate *ht. For this group, we may restate the basic consonant set as follows:

Table 2: Basic consonant set

		Labial	Alveolar	Palatal	Velar	Glottal
Stops:						
	Simple:	p	t		k	ʔ
	Preaspirate:	hp	ht		hk	
	Postaspirate:	ph	th		kh	
	Glottalized:	p^ʔ	t^ʔ		k^ʔ	
Fricatives:						
	Voiceless:		s	š	x	h
	Voiced:		z	ž	ɣ	
	Glottalized:		s^ʔ	š^ʔ	x^ʔ	
Resonants:						
	Normal:	w	r	y		
	"Funny":	W	R			

- The Proto-Siouan fricatives are divided between a voiced and a voiceless set, possibly according to phonological conditions.

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[13] Rankin et al. 2006: 793.

[14] Rankin et al. 2006: 10.

[15] Rankin et al. 2006: 199.

Voiced/voiceless fricative split: $\quad$ *s $\quad > \quad$ *|s| and *|z|

$\qquad\qquad\qquad\qquad\qquad\qquad\quad$ *š $\quad > \quad$ *|š| and *|ž|

$\qquad\qquad\qquad\qquad\qquad\qquad\quad$ *x $\quad > \quad$ *|x| and *|ɣ|

- Proto-Siouan *pr merges with syncopated *w-r to become MVS *br.

  *pr/*w-r syncopation: $\qquad$ *w-r $\quad > \quad$ *|br| $\quad < \quad$ *pr

- Syncopated Proto-Siouan *w-w usually becomes MVS *W.[16]

  *w-w syncopation: $\qquad$ *w-w $\quad > \quad$ *W

- Syncopated Proto-Siouan *wa^1- used as the first person affixed pronoun 'I', however, becomes MVS *m when it precedes *w or the glottal stop.[17]

  I-*wa^1-w syncopation: $\qquad$ *wa^1-w $\quad > \quad$ *m $\quad < \quad$ *wa^1-ʔ

- Syncopated Proto-Siouan *w-C, where C is a voiceless contoid, becomes MVS *pC.[18]

  *w-C syncopation: $\qquad$ *w-h $\quad > \quad$ *ph

  $\qquad\qquad\qquad\qquad\qquad\quad$ *w-t $\quad > \quad$ *pt

- Proto-Siouan *hr merges with preaspirate *ht to become *|ht|.[19]

  *hr/ht merger: $\qquad$ *hr $\quad > \quad$ *|ht| $\quad < \quad$ *ht

4.3.1 Dakotan reflexes

In Dakotan, vowel length is lost. Proto-Siouan *y manifests as aspirated |čh|. So too do cases in which *r is preceded by *i. Many inalienably owned nouns beginning with |čh| in Dakotan are explained as *r-initial stems preceded by the *i- of inalienable possession. When *r stands alone without an adjacent consonant, it manifests as |y|. When *k is preceded by a front vowel, it palatalizes to |č| in Dakotan. Otherwise, the main sound shifts involve clusters. In particular, Proto-Siouan or MVS preaspirates become postaspirates, merging with that series.[20] The cluster *rh, which is important in a few words, becomes plain |h|.[21] In Dakotan, clusters of two stops are frequent, and the cluster *wR becomes *|br|,

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[16] Rankin et al. 2006: 164, 193, 213

[17] Rankin et al. 2006: 10.

[18] Rankin et al. 2006: 793.

[19] Rankin et al. 2006: 199.

[20] Rankin et al. 2006: 199, 269, 818.

[21] Rankin et al. 2006: 165.

merging this with the MVS *br series. In all Dakotan languages, *br manifests as |mn| before a nasal vowel. Stoney and Assiniboine manifest *br and *kr the same regardless of environment, but these sounds alternate in the other three dialects according to whether the following vowel is oral or nasal.

- vowel length is lost: *VV > |V| < *V

- *y- and *ir- merge as |čh-|: *y- > |čh-| < *ir-

- *rV becomes |yV|: *rV > |yV|

- *k after front vowel becomes |č|: *ik > |ič|

  *ek > |eč|

- ates merge with postaspirates:

  *hp > |ph| < *ph
  *ht > |th| < *th
  *hk > |kh| < *kh

- *rh becomes |h|: *rh > |h| < *h

- *wR merges with MVS *br: *wR > *|br| < *br

- Dakotan *br then manifests as |mn| before a nasal vowel: *brV̨ > *|mnV̨|

4.3.1.1 Santee-Sisseton reflexes

- *br alternates by nasality: *brV > |md| or |bd|[22]

  *brV̨ > |mn|

- *kr alternates by nasality: *krV > |hd|

  *krV̨ > |hn|

- *R manifests as |d|: *R > |d|

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[22] In the CSD, "Sioux Valley" seems to agree with "Dakota" in practically everything except that the one case recorded of a Sioux Valley word with a *br reflex before an oral vowel shows this as |bd|, rather than the usual |md| for Dakota.

4.3.1.2 Yankton-Yanktonai reflexes

- *br alternates by nasality: *brV > |bd| or |md|

  *brV̨ > |mn|

- *kr alternates by nasality: *krV > |kd| or |gd|

  *krV̨ > |kn| or |gn|

- *R manifests as |d|:   *R > |d|[23]

4.3.1.3 Teton (Lakota) reflexes

- *br alternates by nasality: *brV > |bl|

  *brV̨ > |mn|

- *kr alternates by nasality: *krV > |gl|

  *krV̨ > |gn|

- *R manifests as |l|:   *R > |l|

- *tp becomes |kp|:[24]   *tp > |kp| < *kp

4.3.1.4 Assiniboine reflexes

- *br always manifests as |mn|:   *br > |mn|[25]

- *kr always manifests as |kn|:   *kr > |kn|

- *R manifests as |n|:   *R > |n|

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[23] The CSD records very few words of Yankton, none of which are useful here. Parks & De-Mallie (1992) stress that the long-repeated claim that Yankton-Yanktonai is "Nakota", is false; their self-designation, when not misled by confused linguists, is "Dakota", which means that *R manifests as |d|, not |n|, in their dialect. The true "Nakotas" are the Assiniboines and the Stoneys. The authors clearly illustrate the *kr clusters for this group on pages 245-6, but do not include any *br clusters. Words listed on the Yankton Reservation pedagogical website, http://www.nativeshop.org/learn-dakota.html, show that *br before an oral vowel normally manifests as |bd|, or perhaps sometimes as |md| or |mbd|.

[24] Rankin et al. 2006: 253, 265, 865.

[25] The CSD contains only a few words of Assiniboine, or Nakota. Parks & DeMallie (1992) demonstrate that *R becomes |n|, and that *kr manifests as |kn| before both oral and nasal vowels. The preliminary Assiniboine text developed by Shields (2012) contains words with *br clusters showing that these manifest as |mn| regardless of the nasality of the following vowel.

4.3.1.5 Stoney reflexes

- Fricatives tend to shift forward: *s > |θ|

  *š > |s|
- Free simple stops are voiced: *p > |b|

  *t > |d|

  *k > |g|
- *br always manifests as |mn|: *br > |mn|
- *kr always manifests as |hn|: *kr > |hn|
- *R manifests as |n|: *R > |n|
- *tk becomes |kt|: *tk > |kt| < *kt

4.3.2 Winnebago-Chiwere reflexes

Hoocąk and IOM share a number of innovations. The cluster *pt merges with preaspirate *ht. Proto-Siouan simple stop *p before vowels becomes |w|. Generally, it appears that the postaspirate stop series merges with the simple stop series. The *rh cluster also merges with the simple stop *t. As in Dhegiha, the presumed cluster *wR always seems to reduce to simple *|R|.

Both languages show a sporadic tendency to nasalize vowels that are not nasal in other MVS languages.[26] Both of them also sometimes replace a glottal stop with a glottalized |t^{ʔ}| following *i. This could be interpreted as an epenthetic |y| being naturalized as *|r|, and then converted to |t| before the glottal stop. The problem is that the glottal stop itself would seem to be in the way of obtaining the epenthetic |y| in the first place. Rankin suggests that in verb paradigms, the glottal stop is lost in conjugated forms, and that the conjugated form was recast back into the main verb.

- *pt becomes |ht|: *pt > *|ht| < *ht
- *rh becomes *|d|: *rh > *|d| < *t
- *wR merges with MVS *R: *wR > *|R| < *R
- *p becomes |w| before a vowel: *pV > *|wV|
- *i^{ʔ}V verbs become |it^{ʔ}V|: *i^{ʔ}V > *|it^{ʔ}V|

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[26] Rankin et al. 2006: 50.

4.3.2.1 Hoocąk reflexes

Hoocąk shows quite a number of sound shifts of its own. One of its biggest is that it levels vowel length in monosyllables: the vowel of all monosyllabic words is long.[27] Further, it creates many new monosyllabic words by dropping the trailing final vowel, especially *-e. On top of this, it creates an extra syllable within an obstruent-sonorant cluster, by inserting the vowel that follows the cluster into the spot between the two consonants as well.[28] As in Mandan, Crow and Hidatsa, Proto-Siouan *y merges with *r. The *t series, except for glottalized t *t^ʔ, is affricated into a |č| series. An *r^ʔ cluster may become either |t^ʔ| or |k^ʔ|.[29]

- The vowels in monosyllables are always long.

  Long monosyllables: *CV(C) > *|CVV(C)| < *CVV(C)

- Trailing final vowels are often dropped, making even more monosyllables.

  Trailing vowels dropped: *CVCe > *|CVVC| < *CVVCe

- Obstruent plus sonorant clusters are broken up by insertion of the following vowel between the obstruent and the sonorant.

  Back insertion of vowel: $*C_{obst}C_{son}V_1 > *|C_{obst}V1C_{son}V_1|$

- As in Crow, Hidatsa, and Mandan, Proto-Siouan *y merges with *r.

  *y/*r merger: *y > |r| < *r

- *t series affricatizes: *t > |ǰ|

                                            *ht > |č|

- *r^ʔ becomes |t^ʔ| or |k^ʔ|:   *r^ʔ > |t^ʔ| or |k^ʔ|

- *R manifests as |d|:[30]   *R > |d|

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[27] Rankin et al. 2006: 303, 797.

[28] Helmbrecht (2011: 123–124). This Hoocąk pattern of back-filling an obstruent-sonorant cluster with the following vowel is known as 'Dorsey's Law'.

[29] Rankin et al. 2006: 816-817.

[30] Helmbrecht (*Phonetics and Phonology*) and personal communication. This sound is written 't' in the CSD and in modern Wisconsin Hooąk orthography. But the 't' is voiced in prevocalic and intervocalic position, where it is the reflex of *R.

4.3.2.2 IOM reflexes

A distinctive feature of IOM is its forward shifting of the fricatives. Siouan *s becomes |θ|, and *š becomes |s|.[31] In clusters of *k before a fricative, the |k| is replaced by a glottal stop.[32] As in Kaw and Osage, the *t-series, including *$t^{ʔ}$, is affricatized before a front vowel *i or *e. Initial *o- regularly becomes |u-|.[33]

One of the most interesting features of IOM is its treatment of the Proto-Siouan *y phoneme. As in several other Siouan languages, Proto-Siouan *y merges with another phoneme. Uniquely to IOM, however, the *y words are split about evenly between which other phoneme they merge with. Some of them merge with Siouan *r, as in Hoocąk, Mandan, Crow and Hidatsa. Others remain |y|, but these are joined by MVS *ž, which itself becomes |y| in IOM. The fact that many IOM *y fail to merge with *r is mentioned in the CSD, but the significance of the counter-merger of these *y with MVS *ž seems not to have been noticed. For IOM only, we must consider the *y phoneme to be two distinct phonemes, *y_1 and *y_2.

- Fricatives shift forward:

    *s   > |θ|
    *š   > |s|

- *k before fricative becomes |^{ʔ}|:   *kS > |^{ʔ}S|

- Initial *o- becomes |u-|:   *o- > |u-|

- *R manifests as |d|:   *R > |d|

- *y_1 merges with *r as |r|:   *y_1 > *|r| < *r

- *y_2 merges with *ž as |y|:   *y_2 > |y| < ž

- *t-series affricates before *i/*e: *ti > *|či|

    *te > *|če|

    *hte > *|hče|

    *$t^{ʔ}$e > *|$č^{ʔ}$e|

    etc.

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[31] Rankin et al. 2006: 245.
[32] Rankin et al. 2006: 857.
[33] Rankin et al. 2006: 893.

4.3.3 Dhegiha Reflexes

Dhegiha is characterized by substantial shifts and mergers in its vowel structure. The nasal Proto-Siouan vowel *ų merges with *ą, producing a variably pronounced low back vowel with minimal rounding. The oral vowel *u also shifts forward to become |ü|. In Dhegiha, Siouan *y merges completely with MVS *ž. Unlike the other MVS languages, the preaspirate stops do not merge with another stop series. In most Dhegiha languages, these manifest as 'tense', or double-long unaspirated stops, but in Osage they manifest as preaspirates. Proto-Siouan *rh becomes |th|.[34] MVS stop clusters collapse into a single stop, of the preaspirate series. The clusters *ks and *ps become |s|, and the clusters *kš and pš become |š|.[35] Siouan *xw becomes |ph|.[36] As in Winnebago-Chiwere, the presumed cluster *wR always seems to reduce to simple *|R|.

- *ų merges with *ą: *ų > |ą| < *ą

- *u becomes *|ü|:   *u > |ü|

- *y merges with MVS *|ž|:   *y > |ž| < *ž

- *rh merges with *th: *rh > |th| < *th

- *xw merges with *ph: *xw > |ph| < *ph

- *ps and *ks merge with *s: *ps > |s| < *s

  *ks > |s| < *s

- *pš and *kš merge with *š: *pš > |š| < *š

  *kš > |š| < *š

- *wR merges with MVS *R: *wR > *|R| < *R

- Stop clusters merge with preaffricate stops (general pattern):

*pt	>	*|ht|	<	*ht
*pk	>	*|hk|	<	*hk
*tp	>	*|ht|	<	*ht
*tk	>	*|ht|	<	*ht
*kp	>	*|hp|	<	*hp
*kt	>	*|ht|	<	*ht

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[34] Rankin et al. 2006: 165.

[35] Rankin et al. 2006: 64, 123, 222, 849.

[36] Rankin et al. 2006: 180.

4.3.3.1 Omaha-Ponca reflexes

Omaha and Ponca carry the vowel reorganization begun in Dhegiha even further. Dhegiha *ü, from Siouan *u, now loses its rounding and merges completely with Siouan *i. Behind it, the Siouan *o vowel is raised to |u|. Siouan *R manifests as |n|, thereby merging with the |n| from Siouan *r before a nasal vowel. The plain Siouan glottal stop disappears, while the glottalized velar clusters *k^ʔ and *x^ʔ both reduce to |^ʔ| as a neo-glottal stop. The preaspirate stop series manifest as tense, while simple stops are voiced. The postaspirate *ph usually, but not always, reduces to |h|. The Siouan *r phoneme manifests as what I call 'ledh', a quick, smooth, flip of the tongue from an apical |l| to edh and off the back of the front teeth. Linguists generally indicate it with the edh symbol, ð, though l and r would be equally reasonable choices. Additionally, an entire series of new stops is being generated from a custom of affricating the t-series stops as a "baby talk" method of suggesting smallness or cuteness.

- Dhegiha *ü merges with *i: *ü > |i| < *i

- *o becomes |u|:   *o > |u|

- *R manifests as |n|:   *R > |n| < *n < *r

- *^{ʔ} disappears: *V^{ʔ}V > |VV|

- *k^ʔ and x^ʔ become |^ʔ|:   *k^ʔ > |^ʔ| < *x^ʔ

- *ph usually becomes |h|:   *ph > |h|

- Free simple stops are voiced: *p > |b|
                                            *t > |d|
                                            *k > |g|

- Preaspirate stops are tense: *hp > |pp|
                                            *ht > |tt|
                                            *hk > |kk|

- Diminutive t-series transform: |d| dim.> |ǰ|
                                            |t| dim. > |č|
                                            |tt| dim. > |čč|
                                            |th| dim. > |čh|
                                            |t^ʔ| dim.> |č^ʔ|

4.3.3.2 Kaw-Osage reflexes

Kaw and Osage share a characteristic of dropping the velar stop from the *kr cluster and replacing the cluster with |l|. It seems that both of them also merge the glottalized fricatives *sˀ and *šˀ into a glottalized dental/alveolar affricate |cˀ| (|tsˀ|).[37] As in IOM, the *t-series, including *tˀ, is affricatized before a front vowel *i or *e.

- *kr drops the velar stop: *kr > |l|

- *sˀ and *šˀ merge as |cˀ|:   *sˀ > |cˀ| < *šˀ

- *t-series affricates before *i/*e: *ti > *|či|

      *te > *|če|

      *hte > *|hče|

      *tˀe > *|čˀe|

      etc.

4.3.3.2.1 Kaw reflexes

Kaw agrees with Omaha and Ponca in voicing the free simple stops and in pronouncing the aspirated stops as tense. In Kaw, Siouan free *r manifests as |y|.

- Free *r manifests as |y|:   *r > |y|

- *R manifests as |d|:   *R > |d|

4.3.3.2.2 Osage reflexes

In Osage, the preaspirate series is pronounced with preaspiration, and the free simple stops are voiceless. Siouan free *r manifests as edh or ledh (ð). *ph manifests as |pš|.[38]

- Free *r manifests as |ð|:   *r > |ð|

- *R manifests as |t|:   *R > |t|

- *ph manifests as |pš|:   *ph > |pš|

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[37] Rankin et al. 2006: 856.
[38] Rankin et al. 2006: 64.

4.3.3.3 Quapaw reflexes

In Quapaw, free Siouan *r manifests as |d|. It seems that simple stops sometimes become tense.[39] The Siouan cluster *pˀ is reduced to plain glottal stop.[40]

- Free *r manifests as |d|:   *r > |d|

- Simple stops may become tense: *t > |tt|

- *pˀ becomes |ˀ|:   *pˀ > |ˀ|

4.4 Southeastern Siouan reflexes

Very few systematic sound shifts characterize Southeastern Siouan as a whole. One mentioned in the CSD is the loss of glottalized fricatives. Also, it seems that *š usually affricatizes to |č|.

- Fricatives lose glottalization and merge with the corresponding plain form. Thus, *Sˀ > *|S|.[41]

  Fricatives deglottalize:

*sˀ	>	*|s|	<	*s
*šˀ	>	*|š|	<	*š
*xˀ	>	*|x|	<	*x

- *š then usually becomes |č|:[42]   *š > *|č|

4.4.1 Tutelo reflexes

Tutelo seems conservative. The only significant change noted involves the Proto-Siouan *š and *s phonemes.

- *š normally becomes |č|:   *š > |č|

- Sometimes, *š becomes |s|:[43]   *š > |s| < *s

- *s is indifferently pronounced:[44]   *s > |s| or |š|

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[39] Rankin et al. 2006: 833.

[40] Rankin et al. 2006: 831.

[41] Rankin et al. 2006: 856.

[42] Rankin et al. 2006: 99, 126, 167, 827, 931.

[43] Rankin et al. 2006: 912.

[44] Rankin et al. 2006: 54, 931.

4.4.2 Ofo-Biloxi reflexes

In Ofo and Biloxi, initial Proto-Siouan *w or *h before a vowel is lost.[45]

- *wV becomes plain |V|:   *wV > |V|

- *hV becomes plain |V|:   *hV > |V|

4.4.2.1 Biloxi reflexes

Biloxi is fairly conservative. Final *-i and *-e merge as |-i|,[46] and the glottal stop often appears as |h|.[47]

- Final *-e merges with *-i: *-e > |-i| < *-i

- The glottal stop becomes |h|:   *ʔ > |h|

4.4.2.2 Ofo reflexes

Ofo is much more innovative. Proto-Siouan *y becomes aspirated |čh|,[48] as in Dakotan. The CSD suggests that Proto-Siouan *š before an accented syllable may have become aspirated |čh| as well.[49] Notably, the *s fricative changes to |f|, while Proto-Siouan *x shifts forward to become a neo-|š|.[50] Several of the Proto-Siouan clusters do interesting things as well. In the case of a glottalized stop consonant, the glottal stop seems to shift forward so that it releases prior to the stop. This phenomenon is suggested in Ofo transcriptions as a neutral vowel appearing epenthetically in front of the stop that in other languages is known to be glottalized. The stop consonant is then aspirated as well.

- *y becomes |čh|:   *y > |čh|

- Accented *|š| becomes |čh|:   *šV́ > *|čV́| > |čhV́|

- *s becomes |f|:   *s > |f|

- *x becomes |š|:   *x > |š|

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[45] Rankin et al. 2006: 7, 223, 817, 929.
[46] Rankin et al. 2006: 901.
[47] Rankin et al. 2006: 103.
[48] Rankin et al. 2006: 85, 242.
[49] Rankin et al. 2006: 827.
[50] Rankin et al. 2006: 174, 299.

- *hs becomes |fh|:[51]   *hs > |fh|

- *Cr becomes |l|:[52]   *Cr > |l|

- *C$^{\textipa{P}}$ becomes |əCh|:[53]   *C$^{\textipa{P}}$ > |əCh|

Abbreviations

CSD = Comparative Siouan Dictionary 2006; IOM = Iowa-Otoe-Missouria; MVS = Mississippi Valley Siouan.

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[51] Rankin et al. 2006: 174, 299.
[52] Rankin et al. 2006: 90.
[53] Rankin et al. 2006: 229, 232.

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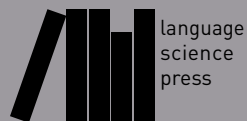
Back Title

The Siouan family comprises some twenty languages, historically spoken across a broad swath of the central North American plains and woodlands, as well as in parts of the southeastern United States. In spite of its geographical extent and diversity, and the size and importance of several Siouan-speaking tribes, this family has received relatively little attention in the linguistic literature and many of the individual Siouan languages are severely understudied. This volume aims to make work on Siouan languages more broadly available and to encourage deeper investigation of the myriad typological, theoretical, descriptive, and pedagogical issues they raise.

The 17 chapters in this volume present a broad range of current Siouan research, focusing on various Siouan languages, from a variety of linguistic perspectives: historical-genetic, philological, applied, descriptive, formal/generative, and comparative/typological. The editors' preface summarizes characteristic features of the Siouan family, including head-final and "verb-centered" syntax, a complex system of verbal affixes including applicatives and subject-possessives, head-internal relative clauses, gendered speech markers, stop-systems including ejectives, and a preference for certain prosodic and phonotactic patterns.

The volume is dedicated to the memory of Professor Robert L. Rankin, a towering figure in Siouan linguistics throughout his long career, who passed away in February of 2014.