

= Ottawa dialect =

Ottawa (or Odawa) is a dialect of the Ojibwe language , spoken by the Ottawa people in southern Ontario in Canada , and northern Michigan in the United States . Descendants of migrant Ottawa speakers live in Kansas and Oklahoma . The first recorded meeting of Ottawa speakers and Europeans occurred in 1615 when a party of Ottawas encountered explorer Samuel de Champlain on the north shore of Georgian Bay . Ottawa is written in an alphabetic system using Latin letters , and is known to its speakers as Nishnaabemwin " speaking the native language " or Daawaamwin " speaking Ottawa " .

Ottawa is one of the Ojibwe dialects that has undergone the most language change , although it shares many features with other dialects . The most distinctive change is a pervasive pattern of vowel syncope that deletes short vowels in many words , resulting in significant changes in their pronunciation . This and other innovations in pronunciation , in addition to changes in word structure and vocabulary , differentiate Ottawa from other dialects of Ojibwe .

Like other Ojibwe dialects , Ottawa grammar includes animate and inanimate noun gender , subclasses of verbs that are dependent upon gender , combinations of prefixes and suffixes that are connected with particular verb subclasses , and complex patterns of word formation . Ottawa distinguishes two types of third person in sentences : proximate , indicating a noun phrase that is emphasized in the discourse , and obviative , indicating a noun phrase that is less prominent . Ottawa has relatively flexible word order compared with languages such as English .

Ottawa speakers are concerned that their language is endangered as the use of English increases and the number of fluent speakers declines . Language revitalization efforts include second language learning in primary and secondary schools .

= = History of scholarship = =

Explorer Samuel de Champlain was the first European to record an encounter with Ottawa speakers when he met a party of three hundred Ottawas in 1615 on the north shore of Georgian Bay . French missionaries , particularly members of the Society of Jesus and the Récollets order , documented several dialects of Ojibwe in the 17th and 18th centuries , including unpublished manuscript Ottawa grammatical notes , word lists , and a dictionary . In the 19th century , Ottawa speaker Andrew Blackbird wrote a history of the Ottawa people that included a description of Ottawa grammatical features . The first linguistically accurate work was Bloomfield 's description of Ottawa as spoken at Walpole Island , Ontario . The Odawa Language Project at the University of Toronto , led by Kaye and Piggott , conducted field work in Ottawa communities on Manitoulin Island in the late 1960s and early 1970s , resulting in a series of reports on Ottawa linguistics . Piggott also prepared a comprehensive description of Ottawa phonology . Rhodes produced a study of Ottawa syntax , a dictionary , and a series of articles on Ottawa grammar . Valentine has published a comprehensive descriptive grammar , a volume of texts including detailed analysis , as well as a survey of Ojibwe dialects that includes extensive description and analysis of Ottawa dialect features .

= = Classification = =

Ottawa is known to its speakers as Nishnaabemwin " speaking the native language " (from Anishinaabe " native person " + verb suffix -mo " speak a language " + suffix -win " nominalizer " , with regular deletion of short vowels) ; the same term is applied to the Eastern Ojibwe dialect . The corresponding term in other dialects is Anishinaabemowin . Daawaamwin (from Odaawaa " Ottawa " + verb suffix -mo " speak a language " + suffix -win " nominalizer " , with regular deletion of short vowels) " speaking Ottawa " is also reported in some sources . The name of the Canadian capital Ottawa is a loanword that comes through French from odaawaa , the self @-@ designation of the Ottawa people . The earliest recorded form is " Outaouan " , in a French source from 1641 .

Ottawa is a dialect of the Ojibwe language , which is a member of the Algonquian language family .

The varieties of Ojibwe form a dialect continuum , a series of adjacent dialects spoken primarily in the area surrounding the Great Lakes as well as in the Canadian provinces of Quebec , Manitoba , and Saskatchewan , with smaller outlying groups in North Dakota , Montana , Alberta , and British Columbia . Mutual intelligibility is the linguistic criterion used to distinguish languages from dialects . In straightforward cases , varieties of language that are mutually intelligible are classified as dialects , while varieties of speech that are not mutually intelligible are classified as separate languages . Linguistic and social factors may result in inconsistencies in how the terms " language " and " dialect " are used .

Languages spoken in a series of dialects occupying adjacent territory form a dialect continuum or language complex , with some of the dialects being mutually intelligible while others are not . Adjacent dialects typically have relatively high degrees of mutual intelligibility , but the degree of mutual intelligibility between nonadjacent dialects varies considerably . In some cases speakers of nonadjacent dialects may not understand each other 's speech .

A survey conducted during the 1980s and 1990s found that the differences between Ottawa , the Severn Ojibwe dialect spoken in northwestern Ontario and northern Manitoba , and the Algonquin dialect spoken in western Quebec result in low levels of mutual intelligibility . These three dialects " show many distinct features , which suggest periods of relative isolation from other varieties of Ojibwe . " Because the dialects of Ojibwe are at least partly mutually intelligible , Ojibwe is conventionally considered to be a single language with a series of adjacent dialects . Taking account of the low mutual intelligibility of the most strongly differentiated dialects , an alternative view is that Ojibwe " could be said to consist of several languages " , forming a language complex .

= = Geographic distribution = =

The Ottawa communities for which the most detailed linguistic information has been collected are in Ontario . Extensive research has been conducted with speakers from Walpole Island in southwestern Ontario near Detroit , and Wikwemikong on Manitoulin Island in Lake Huron . South of Manitoulin Island on the Bruce Peninsula are Cape Croker and Saugeen , for which less information is available . The dialect affiliation of several communities east of Lake Huron remains uncertain . Although " the dialect spoken along the eastern shore of Georgian Bay " has been described as Eastern Ojibwe , studies do not clearly delimit the boundary between Ottawa and Eastern Ojibwe .

Other Canadian communities in the Ottawa @-@ speaking area extend from Sault Ste Marie , Ontario along the north shore of Lake Huron : Garden River , Thessalon , Mississauga (Mississagi River 8 Reserve , Serpent River , Whitefish River , Mattagami , and Whitefish Lake . In addition to Wikwemikong , Ottawa communities on Manitoulin Island are , west to east : Cockburn Island , Shesheganing , West Bay , Sucker Creek , and Sheguiandah . Other Ottawa communities in southwestern Ontario in addition to Walpole Island are : Sarnia , Stoney and Kettle Point , and Caradoc (Chippewas of the Thames) , near London , Ontario .

Communities in Michigan where Ottawa linguistic data has been collected include Peshawbestown , Harbor Springs , Grand Rapids , Mount Pleasant , Bay City , and Cross Village . The descendants of migrant Ottawas live in Kansas and Oklahoma ; available information indicates only three elderly speakers in Oklahoma as of 2006 .

Reliable data on the total number of Ottawa speakers is not available , in part because Canadian census data does not identify the Ottawa as a separate group . One report suggests a total of approximately 8 @, @ 000 speakers of Ottawa in the northern United States and southern Ontario out of an estimated total population of 60 @, @ 000 . A field study conducted during the 1990s in Ottawa communities indicates that Ottawa is in decline , noting that " Today too few children are learning Nishnaabemwin as their first language , and in some communities where the language was traditionally spoken , the number of speakers is very small . " Formal second @-@ language classes attempt to reduce the impact of declining first @-@ language acquisition of Ottawa .

= = = Population movements = = =

At the time of first contact with Europeans in the early 17th century , Ottawa speakers resided on Manitoulin Island , the Bruce Peninsula , and probably the north and east shores of Georgian Bay . The northern area of the Lower Peninsula of Michigan has also been a central area for Ottawa speakers since the arrival of Europeans .

Population movements of Ottawa speakers since the arrival of Europeans have been complex , with extensive migrations and contact with other Ojibwe groups . Many Ottawa speakers in southern Ontario are descended from speakers of the Southwestern Ojibwe dialect (also known as " Chippewa ") who moved into Ottawa @-@ speaking areas during the mid @-@ 19th century . Ottawa today is sometimes referred to as " Chippewa " or " Ojibwe " by speakers in these areas . As part of a series of population displacements during the same period , an estimated two thousand American Potawatomi speakers from Wisconsin , Michigan and Indiana moved into Ottawa communities in southwestern Ontario . The non @-@ Ottawa @-@ speaking Ojibwes who moved to these areas shifted to speaking Ottawa , as did the Potawatomi migrants . As a result of the migrations , Ottawa came to include Potawatomi and Ojibwe loanwords .

Two subdialects of Ottawa arise from these population movements and the subsequent language shift . The subdialects are associated with the ancestry of significant increments of the populations in particular communities , as well as with differences in the way the language is named in those locations . On Manitoulin Island , where the population is predominantly of Ottawa origin , the language is called " Ottawa " , and has features that set it off from other communities that have significant populations of Southwestern Ojibwe (Chippewa) and Potawatomi descent . In the latter communities the language is called " Chippewa " , but is still clearly Ottawa . Dialect features found in " Ottawa Ottawa " that distinguish it from " Chippewa Ottawa " include deletion of the sounds w and y between vowels , glottalization of w before consonants , changes in vowel quality adjacent to w , and distinctive intonation .

= = Phonology = =

Ottawa has seventeen consonants and seven oral vowels ; there are also long nasal vowels whose phonological status is unclear . In this article , Ottawa words are written in the modern orthography described below , with phonetic transcriptions in brackets using the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) as needed .

The most prominent feature of Ottawa phonology is vowel syncope , in which short vowels are deleted , or in certain circumstances reduced to schwa [?] , when they appear in metrically defined weak syllables . Notable effects of syncope are :

Differences in pronunciation between Ottawa and other dialects of Ojibwe , resulting in a lower degree of mutual intelligibility .

Creation of new consonant clusters that do not occur in other dialects , through deletion of short vowels between two consonants .

Adjustments in the pronunciation of consonant sequences .

New forms of the person prefixes that occur on nouns and verbs .

Variability in the pronunciation of words that contain vowels subject to syncope , as speakers frequently have more than one way of pronouncing them .

= = = Consonants = = =

The table of consonants uses symbols from the modern orthography with the corresponding symbol in the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) following where the two vary , or to draw attention to a particular property of the sound in question .

* The sounds in parentheses f , r , l occur only in loanwords from English .

The plosive , fricative , and affricate consonants are divided into two sets , referred to as fortis and lenis . Fortis (or " strong ") consonants are typically distinguished from lenis (or " weak ") consonants by features such as greater duration or length , are voiceless where lenis consonants are typically voiced , and may be aspirated . In Ottawa , each fortis consonant is matched to a

corresponding lenis consonant with the same place of articulation and manner of articulation . Ottawa fortis consonants are voiceless and phonetically long , and are aspirated in most positions : [p??] , [t??] , [k??] , [t???] . When following another consonant they are unaspirated or weakly articulated . The lenis consonants are typically voiced between vowels and word @-@ initially before a vowel , but are devoiced in word @-@ final position . The lenis consonants are subject to other phonological processes when adjacent to fortis consonants .

Labialized stop consonants [??] and [k?] , consisting of a consonant with noticeable lip rounding , occur in the speech of some speakers . Labialization is not normally indicated in writing , but a subscript dot is utilized in a widely used dictionary of Ottawa and Eastern Ojibwe to mark labialization : ? ? taaji " he is afraid " and aa?zi " he is sick " .

= = = Vowels = = =

Ottawa has seven oral vowels , four long and three short . There are four long nasal vowels whose status as either phonemes or allophones (predictable variants) is unclear . The long vowels / i? , o? , a? / are paired with the short vowels / i , o , a / , and are written with double symbols ii , oo , aa that correspond to the single symbols used for the short vowels i , o , a . The long vowel / e? / does not have a corresponding short vowel , and is written with a single e . The phonological distinction between long and short vowels plays a significant role in Ottawa phonology , as only short vowels can be metrically weak and undergo syncope . Long vowels are always metrically strong and never undergo deletion .

The table below gives the orthographic symbol and the primary phonetic values for each vowel .

The long nasal vowels are iinh ([??]) , enh ([??]) , aanh ([ã?]) , and oonh ([õ?]) . They most commonly occur in the final syllable of nouns with diminutive suffixes or words with a diminutive connotation , as well as in the suffix (y) aanh ([- (j) ã?]) ' first person (Conjunct) Animate Intransitive ' . Orthographically the long vowel is followed by word @-@ final nh to indicate that the vowel is nasal ; while n is a common indicator of nasality in many languages such as French , the use of h is an orthographic convention and does not correspond to an independent sound . One analysis treats the long nasal vowels as phonemic , while another treats them as derived from sequences of long vowel followed by / n / and underlying / h / ; the latter sound is converted to [?] or deleted . A study of the Southwestern Ojibwe (Chippewa) dialect spoken in Minnesota describes the status of the analogous vowels as unclear , noting that while the distribution of the long nasal vowels is restricted , there is a minimal pair distinguished only by the nasality of the vowel : giuwe [?i?we?] " he goes home " and giuwenh [?i?w??] " so the story goes " . Other discussions of Ottawa phonology and phonetics are silent on the issue .

= = Grammar = =

Ottawa shares the general grammatical characteristics of the other dialects of Ojibwe . Word classes include nouns , verbs , grammatical particles , pronouns , preverbs , and pre-nouns .

Ottawa grammatical gender classifies nouns as either animate or inanimate . Transitive verbs encode the gender of the grammatical object , and intransitive verbs encode the gender of the grammatical subject , creating a set of four verb subclasses . The distinction between the two genders also affects verbs through agreement patterns for number and gender . Similarly , demonstrative pronouns agree in gender with the noun they refer to .

= = = Morphology = = =

Ottawa has complex systems of both inflectional and derivational morphology . Inflectional morphology has a central role in Ottawa grammar . Noun inflection and particularly verb inflection indicate grammatical information through the use of prefixes and suffixes that are added to word stems .

Notable grammatical characteristics marked with inflectional prefixes and suffixes include :

A distinction between obviative and proximate third person , marked on both verbs and nouns .
Extensive marking on verbs of inflectional information concerning person .
Number (singular and plural) .
Tense .
Modality .
Evidentiality .
Negation .

Prefixes mark grammatical person on verbs , including first person , second person , and third person . Nouns use combinations of prefixes and suffixes to indicate possession . Suffixes on nouns mark gender , location , diminutive , pejorative , and other categories . Significant agreement patterns between nouns and verbs involve gender , singular and plural number , as well as obviation .

Ottawa derivational morphology forms basic word stems with combinations of word roots (also called initials) , and affixes referred to as medials and finals to create words to which inflectional prefixes and suffixes are added . Word stems are combined with other word stems to create compound words .

Innovations in Ottawa morphology contribute to differentiating Ottawa from other dialects of Ojibwe . These differences include : the reanalysis of person prefixes and word stems ; the loss of final / -n / in certain inflectional suffixes ; a distinctive form for the verbal suffix indicating doubt ; and a distinctive form for the verbal suffix indicating plurality on intransitive verbs with grammatically inanimate subjects .

The most significant of the morphological innovations that characterize Ottawa is the restructuring of the three person prefixes that occur on both nouns and verbs . The prefixes carry grammatical information about grammatical person (first , second , or third) . Syncope modifies the pronunciation of the prefixes by deleting the short vowel in each prefix .

The third @-@ person prefix / o- / , which occurs with both nouns and verbs , is completely eliminated in Ottawa . As a result , there is no grammatical marker to indicate third @-@ person on inflected forms of nouns or verbs . For example , where other dialects have jiimaan " a canoe " with no person prefix , and ojimaan " his / her canoe " with prefix o- , Ottawa has jiimaan meaning either " canoe " or " his / her canoe " (with no prefix , because of syncope) . Apart from the simple deletion of vowels in the prefixes , Ottawa has created new variants for each prefix . Restructuring of the person prefixes is discussed in detail in Ottawa morphology .

== Syntax ==

Syntax refers to patterns for combining words and phrases to make clauses and sentences . Verbal and nominal inflectional morphology are central to Ottawa syntax , as they mark grammatical information on verbs and nouns to a greater extent than in English (which has few inflections , and relies mainly on word order) . Preferred word orders in a simple transitive sentence are verb @-@ initial , such as verb ? object ? subject (VOS) and VSO . While verb @-@ final orders are avoided , all logically possible orders are attested . Ottawa word order displays considerably more freedom than is found in languages such as English , and word order frequently reflects discourse @-@ based distinctions such as topic and focus .

Verbs are marked for grammatical information in three distinct sets of inflectional paradigms , called Verb orders . Each order corresponds generally to one of three main sentence types : the Independent order is used in main clauses , the Conjunct order in subordinate clauses , and the Imperative order in commands .

Ottawa distinguishes yes @-@ no questions , which use a verb form in the Independent order , from content questions formed with the Ottawa equivalents of " what " , " where " , " when " , " who " and others , which require verbs inflected in the Conjunct order .

Ottawa distinguishes two types of grammatical third person in sentences , marked on both verbs and animate nouns . The proximate form indicates a more salient noun phrase , and obviative indicates a less prominent noun phrase . Selection and use of proximate or obviative forms is a

distinctive aspect of Ottawa syntax that indicates the relative discourse prominence of noun phrases containing third persons ; it does not have a direct analogue in English grammar .

= = Vocabulary = =

Few vocabulary items are considered unique to Ottawa . The influx of speakers of other Ojibwe dialects into the Ottawa area has resulted in mixing of dialects that were historically distinct . Given that vocabulary spreads readily from one dialect to another the presence of a particular vocabulary item in a given dialect is not a guarantee of the original source of the item . Two groups of function words are characteristically Ottawa : the sets of demonstrative pronouns and interrogative adverbs are both distinctive relative to other dialects of Ojibwe . Although some of the vocabulary items in each set are found in other dialects , taken as a group each is uniquely Ottawa .

= = Demonstrative pronouns = =

Ottawa uses a set of demonstrative pronouns that contains terms unique to Ottawa , while other words in the set are shared with other Ojibwe dialects . Taken as a group the Ottawa set is distinctive . The following chart shows the demonstrative pronouns for : (a) Wikwemikong , an Ottawa community ; (b) Curve Lake , an Eastern Ojibwe community ; and (c) Cape Croker , an Ottawa community that uses a mixed pronoun set . The terms maaba ' this (animate) ' , gonda ' these (animate) ' , and nonda ' these (inanimate) ' are unique to Ottawa .

= = Interrogative pronouns and adverbs = =

Ottawa interrogative pronouns and adverbs frequently have the emphatic pronoun dash fused with them to form a single word . In this table the emphatic pronoun is written as -sh immediately following the main word .

= = Other vocabulary = =

A small number of vocabulary items are characteristically Ottawa . Although these items are robustly attested in Ottawa , they have also been reported in some other communities .

= = Writing system = =

Written representation of Ojibwe dialects , including Ottawa , was introduced by European explorers , missionaries and traders who were speakers of English and French . They wrote Ottawa words and sentences using the letters and orthographic conventions of their own languages , adapting them to the unfamiliar new language . Indigenous writing in Ottawa was also based upon English or French , but only occurred sporadically through the 19th and 20th centuries . Modern focus on literacy and use of written forms of the language has increased in the context of second language learning , where mastery of written language is viewed as a component of the language learning process . Although there has never been a generally accepted standard written form of Ottawa , interest in standardization has increased with the publication of a widely used dictionary in 1985 and reference grammar in 2001 , which provide models for spelling conventions . A conference held in 1996 brought together speakers of all dialects of Ojibwe to review existing writing systems and make proposals for standardization .

= = Early orthographic practices = =

19th @-@ century missionary authors who wrote in Ottawa include Catholic missionary Frederic Baraga and Anglican Frederick O ? Meara (illustration , this section) . Ottawa speaker Andrew Blackbird wrote a history of his people in English ; an appended grammatical description of Ottawa

and the Southwestern Ojibwe (Chippewa) dialect also contains vocabulary lists , short phrases , and translations of the Ten Commandments and the Lord 's Prayer . Accurate transcriptions of Ottawa date from linguist Leonard Bloomfield 's research with Ottawa speakers in the late 1930s and early 1940s .

A tradition of indigenous literacy in Ottawa arose in the 19th century , as speakers of Ottawa on Manitoulin Island became literate in their own language . Manitoulin Island Ottawas who were Catholic learned to write from French Catholic missionaries using a French @-@ influenced orthography , while Methodist and Anglican converts used English @-@ based orthographies . Documents written in Ottawa by Ottawa speakers on Manitoulin Island between 1823 and 1910 include official letters and petitions , personal documents , official Indian band regulations , an official proclamation , and census statements prepared by individuals . Ottawa speakers from Manitoulin Island contributed articles to Anishinabe Enamiad (" the Praying Indian ") , an Ojibwe newspaper started by Franciscan missionaries and published in Harbor Springs , Michigan between 1896 and 1902 .

It has been suggested that Ottawa speakers were among the groups that used the Great Lakes Algonquian syllabary , a syllabic writing system derived from a European @-@ based alphabetic orthography , but supporting evidence is weak .

= = = Modern orthography = = =

Although there is no standard or official writing system for Ottawa , a widely accepted system is used in a recent dictionary of Ottawa and Eastern Ojibwe , a collection of texts , and a descriptive grammar . The same system is taught in programs for Ojibwe language teachers . One of its goals is to promote standardization of Ottawa writing so that language learners are able to read and write in a consistent way . By comparison , folk phonetic spelling approaches to writing Ottawa based on less systematic adaptations of written English or French are more variable and idiosyncratic , and do not always make consistent use of alphabetic letters . While the modern orthography is used in a number of prominent publications , its acceptance is not universal . Prominent Ottawa author Basil Johnston has explicitly rejected it , preferring to use a form of folk spelling in which the correspondences between sounds and letters are less systematic . Similarly , a lexicon representing Ottawa as spoken in Michigan and another based on Ottawa in Oklahoma , use English @-@ based folk spellings distinct from that employed by Johnson .

The Ottawa writing system is a minor adaptation of a very similar one used for other dialects of Ojibwe in Ontario and the United States , and widely employed in reference materials and text collections . Sometimes referred to as the Double Vowel system because it uses doubled vowel symbols to represent Ottawa long vowels that are paired with corresponding short vowels , it is an adaptation attributed to Charles Fiero of the linguistically oriented system found in publications such as Leonard Bloomfield 's Eastern Ojibwa . Letters of the English alphabet substitute for specialized phonetic symbols , in conjunction with orthographic conventions unique to Ottawa . The system embodies two basic principles : (1) alphabetic letters from the English alphabet are used to write Ottawa , but with Ottawa sound values ; (2) the system is phonemic in nature , in that each letter or letter combination indicates its basic sound value , and does not reflect all the phonetic detail that occurs . Accurate pronunciation cannot be learned without consulting a fluent speaker .

The Ottawa variant of this system uses the following consonant letters or digraphs :

b , ch , d , f , g , h , j , k , l , m , n , p , r , s , sh , t , w , y , z , zh

The letters f , l , and r are found in loan words , such as telephoneyashin " give me a call " and refrigerating " in the refrigerator " . Loan words that have recently been borrowed from English are typically written in standard English orthography .

The letter h is used for the glottal stop [ʔ] , which is represented in the broader Ojibwe version with the apostrophe . In Ottawa the apostrophe is reserved for a separate function noted below . In a few primarily expressive words , orthographic h has the phonetic value [h] : aa haaw " OK " .

Vowels are represented as follows :

Long ii , oo , aa , e ; Short i , o , a

By convention the three long vowels that correspond to a short vowel are written double , while the single long vowel written as orthographic e that does not have a corresponding short vowel is not written doubled .

The apostrophe ' is used to distinguish primary (underlying) consonant clusters from secondary clusters that arise when the rule of syncope deletes a vowel between two consonants . For example , orthographic ng must be distinguished from n ' g . The former has the phonetic value [ŋ] (arising from place of articulation assimilation of / n / to the following velar consonant / ŋ / , which is then deleted in word @-@ final position as in mnising [mn?s??] " at the island ") , while the latter has the phonetic value [n?] as in san ' goo [san'o?] " black squirrel " .

= = History = =

In the general model of linguistic change , " a single ancestor language (a proto @-@ language) develops dialects which in time through the accumulation of changes become distinct languages . " Continued changes in the descendant languages result in the development of dialects which again over time develop into distinct languages . The Ojibwe language is a historical descendant of Proto @-@ Algonquian , the reconstructed ancestor language of the Algonquian languages . Ojibwe has subsequently developed a series of dialects including Ottawa , which is one of the three dialects of Ojibwe that has innovated the most through its historical development , along with Severn Ojibwe and Algonquin .

= = Sample text = =

Traditional Ottawa stories fall into two general categories , aasookaan " legend , sacred story " and dbaajmowin " narrative , story " . Stories in the aasookaan category involve mythical beings such as the trickster character Nenbozh . Stories in the dbaajmowin category include traditional stories that do not necessarily involve mythical characters , although the term is also used more generally to refer to any story not in the aasookaan category . Published Ottawa texts include a range of genres , including historical narratives , stories of conflict with other indigenous groups , humorous stories , and others .

Ottawa speaker Andrew Medler dictated the following text while working with linguist Leonard Bloomfield in a linguistic field methods class at the 1939 Linguistic Society of America Summer Institute . Medler grew up near Saginaw , Michigan but spent most of his life at Walpole Island . The texts that Medler dictated were originally published in a linguistically oriented transcription using phonetic symbols , and have been republished in a revised edition that uses the modern orthography and includes detailed linguistic analyses of each text .

Love Medicine Andrew Medler

(1) Ngoding kiwenziih ngii @-@ noondwaaba a @-@ dbaajmod wshkiniigkwen gii @-@ ndodmaagod iw wiikwebjigan .

Once I heard an old man tell of how a young woman asked him for love medicine .

(2) Wgii @-@ msawenmaan niw wshkinwen .

She was in love with a young man .

(3) Mii dash niw kiwenziiyan gii @-@ ndodmawaad iw wiikwebjigan , gye go wgii @-@ dbahmawaan .

So then she asked that old man for the love medicine , and she paid him for it .

(4) Mii dash gii @-@ aabjitood maaba wshkiniigkwe iw mshkiki gaa @-@ giishpnadood .

Then this young woman used that medicine that she had bought .

(5) Mii dash maaba wshkinwe gaa @-@ zhi @-@ gchi @-@ zaaghaad niw wshkiniigkwen .

Then this young man accordingly very much loved that young woman .

(6) Gye go mii gii @-@ wiidgemaad , gye go mii wiiba gii @-@ yaawaawaad binoojiinyan .

Then he married her ; very soon they had children .

(7) Aapji go gii @-@ zaaghidwag gye go gii @-@ maajiishkaawag .

They loved each other and they fared very well .

