

START

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ON THE MIDDLE AMERICAN CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY

Series: LV

No: 294

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REDUCTION RATIO: 12

Macro-Penutian Notes

by

Benjamin L. Whorf

(1938 - 1940)

MICROFILM COLLECTION

OF

MANUSCRIPTS

ON

CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY

No. 294

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University of Chicago Library

Chicago, Illinois

October 1, 1977

320 Wolcott Hill Road
Wethersfield, Conn. U.S.A.
Feb. 18, 1940

Dear Morris:

[Swadesh]

①

There are a few minor errors in the MS of my sketch "The Milpa Alta Dialect of Aztec", which I sent in through Bloomfield just before Jan. 1st for the Volume of sketches of American Indian languages, and which I suppose is now in your hands. I have indicated the necessary corrections on the enclosed pencil sheet, and I trust you will see that they are made sometime before final printing.

I took great pains on the Hopi and Aztec sketches, having revised and altered them several times till I got them into a form that thoroughly satisfied me. I was especially pleased with the way that the arrangement adopted fits both languages, and while showing clearly their differences brings out quite strikingly their common Uto-Aztecan resemblance, in unsuspected ways as well as along the lines of general type. Because of the work which I put in on these two, and the fact that a deadline of Jan. 1st was called, but I did not hear about it until the middle of December, I did not have enough time to include a third sketch on Comparative Uto-Aztecan, as I wished to do. I was going ~~in~~ to write this as soon as I finished the Aztec sketch, and was leaving it to be done this Jan. and Feb., but the deadline ruling made it impossible - and probably it is just as well, for I think it was a good idea to set a definite date to call the thing in, and not let it ~~drag~~ drag along.

Had a pleasant session with Norman McQuown when he was here. He tells glowing accounts of the linguistic work in Mexico, and I wish there was some chance of my getting down there to work with you for a month or two. Right now I can't see any way of getting a leave of absence, especially as the financial problem is more exacting than ever now that Raymond - you remember him - is a freshman in college. I got a Totonac vocabulary from McQuown - a rather small one but it proved quite unexpectedly rich in comparative material. I have been working it over intensively, and the quantity of Macro-Penutian and especially Azteco-Tanoan comparisons proved most exciting. It begins to look as if Totonac can be definitely placed in the Azteco-Tanoan sub-phylum - or at the very least in the Macro-Penutian phylum and decidedly more closely related to Azteco-Tanoan than to the other branches. I hope your mill will start shipping me Totonac vocabulary in quantity soon, as I can do a lot with it.

I was also interested ~~in~~ in what Norman said of your opinions about Chitimacha and its possible relation to the whole group. I was corresponding with Mary a while back about the relationship of the Gulf and Siouan languages, and she places Chitimacha along with ~~these~~ those other isolated languages of that region in her Siouan-Gulf or Midcontinental phylum. However, Chitimacha may not belong there and we ought to see if it isn't Macro-Penutian ~~before~~ before we place it somewhere. I have the Macro-Penutian and Azteco-Tanoan material, and I wonder if you could send me some Chitimacha vocabulary some time.

Please let me ~~hear~~ hear from you some time, and tell me how the volume of sketches is coming on, how you liked my two UA languages, and all the news.

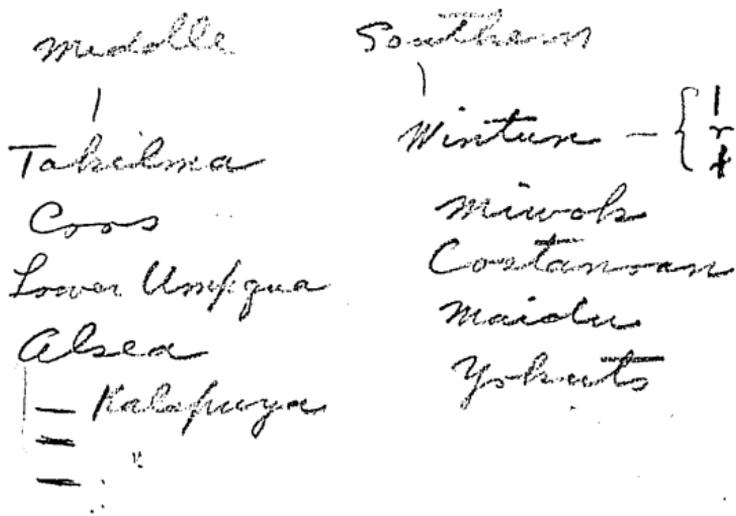
Sincerely,

Ben

Penutian
Sakaptian Timshian Chuvok

Orthon - Penutians

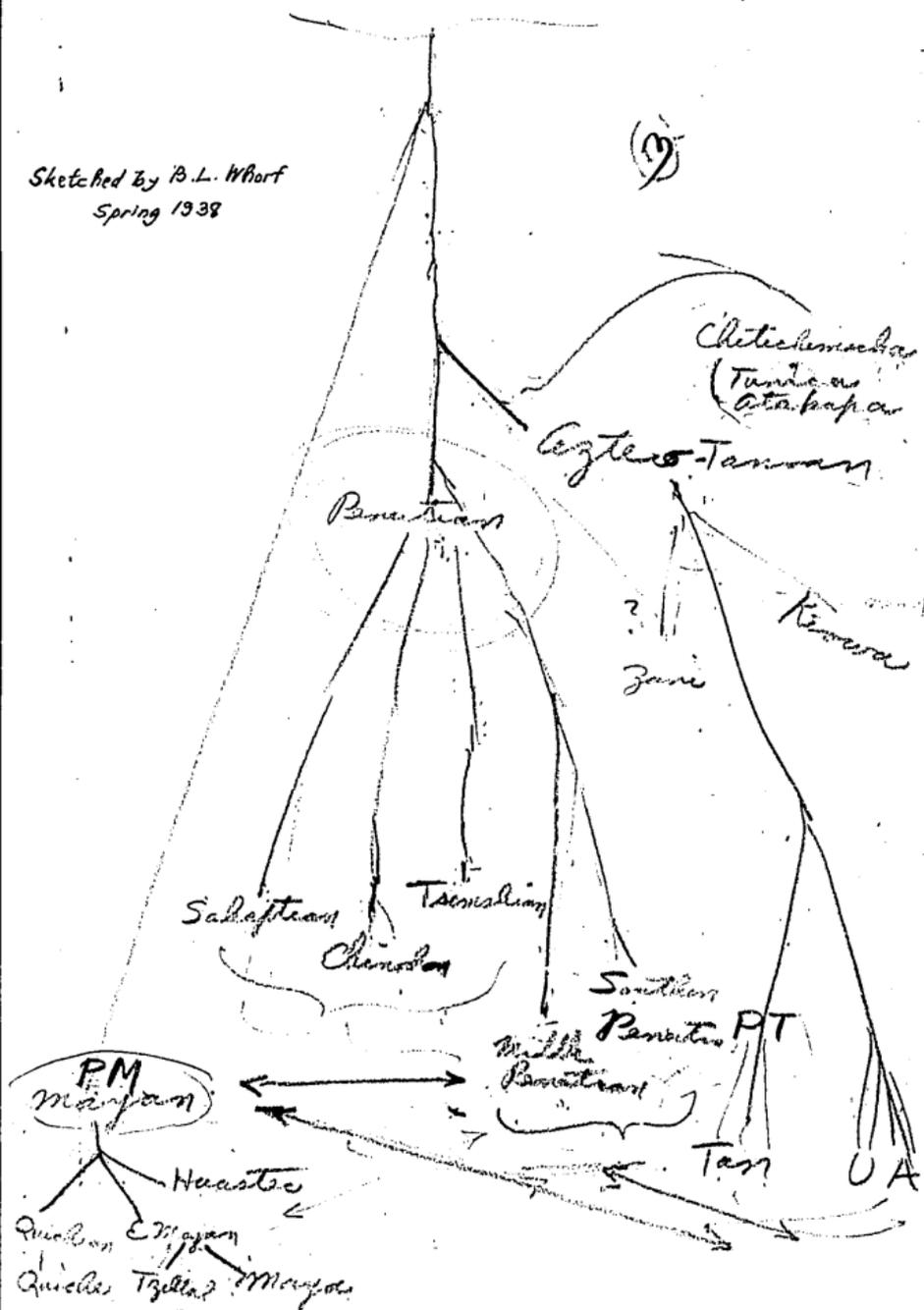
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Sketched by B.L. Whorf
Spring 1936

Macro - Penutians

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Spring 1938



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