

PREFACE

This is a dictionary of Chickasaw, a language of the Muskogean family of American Indian languages now spoken primarily in the Chickasaw Nation of south-central Oklahoma. The Chickasaws are one of the Five Tribes of Oklahoma (traditionally known as the Five Civilized Tribes), having been moved to Indian Territory there by the federal government in the 1830s. Our dictionary consists of several introductory sections, which explain the structure and use of the dictionary; a Chickasaw-English section, with main entries for Chickasaw words, including definitions, grammatical information, etymologies, cross-references, and examples; and an English-Chickasaw index.

While this book primarily reflects the speech of Catherine Willmond, who grew up near McMillan, Oklahoma (a community in western Marshall County), every effort has been made to present additional varieties of spoken Chickasaw. Other speakers whose usage has been extensively recorded (and who have helped us in many other ways as well) include Frankie Alberson, Adeline Brown, Vera Virgie Brown, Willie Byars, Onita Carnes, the late Mina Christie, the late Cora Lee Collins, Lizzie Frazier, Lorene Greenwood, Emily Howard, Mary James, Luther John, the late Tecumseh John, the late Jeff Johnson, the late Martha Johnson, the late Maybell Lacher, Caroline Milligan, the late Tennie Pettigrew, Eloise Pickens, the late Clarence Porter, Leola Porter, Flora Reed, Lee Fannie Roberts, Mary Ella Russell, Minnie Shields, the late Hattie Stout, Thomas Underwood, and Adam Walker. These speakers represent areas of the Chickasaw Nation from Kingston in the south to Byng or Happyland (near Ada) in the north, and from Davis or Ardmore in the west to Fillmore and Wapanucka in the east; their ages at the time of our work ranged from the late thirties to the late nineties. All are native speakers of Chickasaw, with the exception of Mr. Byars, a native speaker of Choctaw who learned Chickasaw as a young man. Still others, including Edna Baken, Pauline Brown, the late Patsy Byars, Frank Christie, the late Jackson Collins, Joyce Cripps, Josie Crow, Pauline Fillmore, Thomas Frazier, Geraldine Greenwood, the late Amos James, Rose Jefferson, Annie Orr, Bill Pettigrew, the late Dan Pettigrew, the late Binum Pickens, John Puller, and Fanny Underwood, have shared their knowledge of Chickasaw, providing valuable additional help with or comments on our studies. We are very grateful to all of these people.

A number of other sources suggested words for possible inclusion here. The most important of these was Jesse and Vinnie May (James) Humes's *Chickasaw Dictionary*, which reminded Mrs. Willmond of many words, some of them older words no longer in common use. Since the Choctaw and Chickasaw languages are very closely related, we consulted Choctaw sources as well, and many of these, particularly Cyrus Byington's *Choctaw Dictionary*, Allen Wright's *Chahta Leksikon*, Ben Watkins's *Choctaw Definer*, and several works by T. Dale Nicklas (and his associates), suggested other Chickasaw words to include. In addition, a number of Choctaw speakers from Oklahoma,

Mississippi, and Los Angeles, including Aaron Baker, Juanita Baker, Rosie Billy, Laura Carney, Gus Comby, Edith Gem, Jincy Ingram, Ollie Jack, Leona Jefferson, McDonnell Johnson, Levi Jones, Marie McKinney, Reba Meashintubby, Florence Nelson, Paul Perkins, the late Tillie Perkins, the late Steven Roberts, Semiah Robinson, the late Julia Thomas, Julia Timms, Henry Tubby, Gladys Wade, Hanson Wade, Frances Willis, and especially the late Josephine Wade, Adam Sampson, and the late Buster Ned (who helped in many other ways as well), taught us Choctaw words whose Chickasaw equivalents appear in our dictionary.

Many other people in Oklahoma, Mississippi, and Los Angeles have helped us to prepare this version of our dictionary. The late Reverend Oliver Neal deserves very special thanks for introducing me to Mrs. Willmond in 1977. We are grateful for the encouragement of the administration of the Chickasaw Nation of Oklahoma under Governors Overton James and Bill Anoatubby. During the early stages of our work, Lynn Gordon and Charles Ulrich often gave us four much appreciated extra ears and lots of other support. Aaron Broadwell and Jack Martin helped with the preparation of the index, and Karen Wallace and JP Munro provided valuable editorial assistance. Allen Munro gave us computer support and other good help and comments. We also thank Stephen Anderson, Fern Appel, Janet Scott Batchler, Jerry Bennett, William Bright, Rhonda Brown, Brenda Carnes, Felicia Carnes, Bonnie Chiu, Barbara Clum, David Costa, the late James Crawford, William Davies, Betty Dodd, John Drayton, Larry Dunn, Emil Farve, the late Harry Folsom, Bonnie Glover, Brunetta Bernard Griffith, Joe Griffith, Mary Haas, Heather Hardy, Cindy Huston, Norma John, Dan Kempler, Margaret Langdon, Ann Lewis, Benjamin Marquez, Irene Marquez, Ramona Marquez, William (Mac) McGalliard, Vera McGilberry, Wanda Ned, Sarah Nestor, T. Dale Nicklas, Doris Payne, Jane Russell, Teresa Spörk, Laura Welch, Robert Williams, Andreas Wittenstein, Harvey York, Jean York, the students in four UCLA classes that studied Chickasaw with Mrs. Willmond, and everyone else who has encouraged or assisted in our research, which has been funded by the Academic Senate and Department of Linguistics of the University of California, Los Angeles, and by the National Science Foundation (A Chickasaw Dictionary, 1987-89), with additional assistance from the American Indian Studies Center of UCLA (through a grant to Charles Ulrich).

We hope you enjoy using the dictionary.

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a

a to be (II;3C) (<ya> when prefixed; deleted when no prefix or suffix is used; <oo> when there is no prefix and suffix is +t, +tok, +tokmat, +tokma, +kmat, +kma, +ta, +tam, +to, +kat, or +ka; requires an overt preceding complement noun) § Chikashsha' saya. I am a Chickasaw. | Chahta chiyata? Are you Choctaw? | Alikchi' poya'chi. We are going to be doctors. | Hattak yammat minko' attook. That man was a chief (long ago).

á'lbí ggr. of albi

á'lmo ggr. of almo

á'lhto ggr. of alhto

á'ni ggr. of ani

á'pa ggr. of apa

á'ya ggr. of aya

aba' up; something above ground level: upstairs, ceiling

aba' anompa anompoli' see aba' anompishtanompoli'

aba' anompishtanompoli', aba'

anompa anompoli' preacher [aba' anompa (isht) anompoli+']

aba' aya to go up, go upstairs (I)

aba' bínni'li to sit up high (I)

Aba' Binni'li, Aaabinni'li' God in Heaven [(aba' binni'li)+']

Aba' Chaaha' highest Heaven [chaaha+']

aba' ishtaloowa' hymn [isht taloowa+']

aba' p'la ggr. of aba' p'lla, <aba pila>

aba' píhhi'la hgr. of aba' p'lla, <aba' pila>

aba' pila up

<aba' pila> in aba pilachi {ggr. aba'

p'la, (var.) aba' p'lla; hgr. aba' p'fhi'la}

aba' pilachi to roll up (one's sleeves), pull up (one's dress), raise (something) (I;3) [<aba' *pila>+chi]

aba' p'lla way up

aba' p'lla to be up: pulled up, sticking up (of hair, for instance) (3)—var.

ggr. of <aba pila> {ggr. aba' p'la;

hgr. aba' p'fhi'la}

Aba' Pinchitokaka' Our Lord, Our God [from the Choctaw Bible: pim+ (=pom+) Chitokaka']

Aba' Pinki' God our Father [from the Choctaw Bible: pim+ (=pom+) inki']

Aba' Yaakni' Heaven

abáni ggr. of abaani

abaksha', (AB, WB, MS, TJ) abaksho', (ER) habaksho', (LF) habaksho' chicken snake

abakshowahángli hngr. of abakshowakli

abakshowakli to toss one's head, throw one's head back (I) [a+bak+] {ggr. abakshówwakli; hngr. abakshowahángli; ngr.

abakshowángli; abakshowali}

abakshowali to put one's head way back, put one's chin in the air (I)

[a+bak+] {ggr. abakshówwa'li; ngr.

abakshowáli; abakshowakli}

abakshowángli ngr. of abakshowakli

abakshowáli ngr. of abakshowali

abakshówwa'li ggr. of abakshowali

abakshówwakli ggr. of abakshowakli

abalalli, abalatli to grow over, grow together with (of crabgrass on a lawn, for example) (3;3) [a+balalli]

abalatli see abalalli

a

a certain kanimpi, kanimpihmat,
 kanimpihma
 a certain, to be kanimpi
 a few kannohmihmat,
 kannohmihma
 a few, just chaafowa'si, kanihmo'si
 a few, to be kánnohmi
 a little kánni'ya
 abandon, to ka'shcha kaniya
 abandoned aachokkillissa'
 abandoned child chipotalhtakla'
 abide by, to ishtittihállalli
 able to do things right, not to be
 akánni'ya
 able to take it, to be achónna'chi
 abort, to abi
 abortion, to have an chipotabi
 about fokha, fokhakaash, fokhakma
 about, to be aayimma, fokha,
 ishtanompa
 absentminded, to be imaanokfila-at
 iksho
 absolved, to be inkashofa
 abuse sexually, to ishtakaanihmichi
 abuse, to ilbashachi
 accept, to holiitobli
 accepted, to be holiitopa
 accident in, to have an
 aaoshkannapa
 accident, to have an ayoppóllo'ka,
 oshkannapa
 accomplish taha
 accumulate, to lawachi
 accuse falsely, to ahobbichi
 accuse, to ishtombohli, ishtonhochi,
 onhochi
 accused, to be falsely ishtonittola
 accustomed to, to get imomochi
 ache in the bones, to have an
 komoochi

aches, to have muscle lhikkachi
 acorn nasi'
 acorn, type of nasishto'
 across from, to be straight áchcha'pa
 across, to be horizontally okkawaata
 across, to come to rest ootawaata
 across, to go abaanabli, lhopo'li,
 lhopolli
 across, to go back and forth okkawalli
 across, to go straight apissáli
 across, to lay awalli, awaatali
 across, to lie okkawatkachit máa,
 okkawatkáyya'chi, okkawátta'a
 across, to put abaanali, lhopo'chi,
 lhopolichi, okkawalli
 act as a doctor, to alikchi
 act as a midwife, to chipotapooba
 act as, to tóhho'ba
 act bravely toward, to imaaiklóha
 act friendly toward, to inkána
 act grouchy toward, to imalhaa
 act good, to chokma, chokmat atta
 act good to, to chokma imilahobbi
 act in a certain way toward, to
 iyámmohmi
 act like a man, to nakni
 act like a man, to fail to iknakno
 act like friends, to ittinkána
 act like, not to ikholbo
 act like, to chihmi, chohmi, ilahobbi
 act nice to, to ihapashshi
 act on, to ayalhlhichi
 act silly, to ilihaksichi
 act spoiled, to ishtilamáka'li
 actor shoo ikbi'
 Adam's apple inonkopoolo'
 add for, to imalapalínchi
 add on another piece, to achaakali
 add on, to ibaant hotihna
 add on to the side of, to apaatali