

THE NEW WORLD of STRANGE LANGUAGES

By Don Smithana --2010

ABSTRACT

The enigma of native languages found 500 years ago in the Americas continues to puzzle Historians. Now, using the Scientific Method such as used by engineers, it appears that order can finally be recovered from apparent chaos. Was there a basic and pervasive language that can be found on these continents described as "the New World"? A Big Bang of ancient language coalesced and rained down upon these two large continents. The author uses a similar tool as employed by the Frenchman that used the Rosetta Stone to recover the meanings of ancient Egyptian hieroglyphics. The Scientific method has been used with immense success in the physical sciences where the target subject is too remote or too small to study directly (astronomy and semiconductors). There can be found in the Americas an overwhelming language consisting of a mixture of 3 or more maritime ancient languages. Their vocabulary and grammar were neither New nor Strange from an Asiatic perspective !

. Much of this work is original and for that reason may certainly be controversial. This work introduces two rather unique (for American anthropology) techniques for probing the early history of the Americas. One is the Scientific Method and the other is treating it from an Asiatic perspective. These, I believe, yield results much advanced beyond contemporary methods.

. The planet Earth gave birth to the recognition of a relatively unknown civilization at the end of the 15th century. But was it a New World such as described in many of the reports of the time? The European world which recorded this birth had been enduring continuing disagreements and wars. And finally, just before this new discovery, a natural plague of contagious disease would teach some of this civilization the fatal mathematics of contagion upon populations huddled together in cities. The New World of the Americas offered Hope and Opportunity to the Old World citizens, be they adventurous or oppressed.

But was this a new civilization that the courageous explorers and Conquistadores met as they entered these new continents"? Of course not. There were, by some reports, millions of natives carving out comfortable civilizations, often in lands which seemed totally inhospitable.

While a civilization by some definitions may mean agricultural villages we see also at the time of discovery in North America the active hunter/ gatherer. There were several tribal groups that moved with the food supply not unlike the great animal migration on the plains of Africa. These people left their colorful verbal language which we can now decipher using a technique similar to that of the Rosetta Stone which provided in 1824 the translation of Egyptian hieroglyphics.

For our work, my colleagues and I used a "Language Rosetta Stone" which is primarily Nihongo, the Japanese language. It is a rather recent written language reported to be compiled little more than 2000 years ago. The effective use of this language discovery came about with the employment of the Scientific Method used today with such outstanding success in the physical sciences. Items too small or too distant to study directly (microcircuits and astronomy) can use the technique. It can be summarized:

Scientific Method

Observation
Questioning
Create Hypothesis
Experimentation
Resolution
Conclusion

This 6 step method of recovery for language may be at odds with that used by Linguists. It has been quite successful in Semiconductors, Electronics and Astronomy. Now, I introduce it to Sociology.

It was noticed that some important rivers in the Americas had the Japanese word for water in them. These were the Missouri, Mississippi, Kalamazoo, and Mississauga (water—*Misu*). Looking further into early Asiatic vocabulary provided much more evidence of identities and similarities. Other examples showed the current use of *Kawa* and *Pa/Po* (Japanese, Chinese /Phoenician) for rivers. Among them the *POTOMOC* (river, crystal clear) and a colorful Eastern river, the *SUSQUAHANA* (river of flowering banks). Lacking the need for the wheel, North America used abundant river paths to move easily about, providing both transportation and drinking water. We as historians are indebted to the early expeditions to the New World to preserve these native vocabularies even if often distorted by the ethnic bias of the listener.

Are these studies unique in any way? According to one well known Japanese scholar, Prof. Nobuhiro Yoshida, in 1989, "These are new studies on native America language never before offered by scholars of Japan". What is surprising is that this hypothesis was also offered in a Spanish pamphlet written by an attaché to the Peruvian embassy in Tokyo. He published it

in the 1920's and the library of Lima, Peru has only an index on it. He was fluent in the Inca language of Quechan and noticed, as I did, the strong similarity of words used by both civilizations. Further studies showed this New World early language extended from the Arctic down to parts of South America, covering much of North America. Who were these adventurous people?

With the results of preliminary language studies, we see the apparent results of a Big Bang of ancient languages. Early explorers to the Americas reported language that was Strange and New. Today we can see that the language was not strange (to Asiatic) and certainly not new. Among the possible preliminary deductions that can be made is that the New World language consisted of a mixture of three prominent ancient ones. These are Chinese, Japanese, and Akkadian (Phoenician). It is as if there had been many centuries ago a big language explosion which coalesced and rained down upon the Americas

With this perspective, I am sure professional language experts will be able to better make an assessment of who these people were and from where they arrived. The widespread nature of early civilization in North America sometime over hostile environments leads to the conclusion that it took many centuries to achieve. Their language tells us that they were proud of their technical progress in the field of hunting and fishing. A widespread nation, an empire, existed in North America with knowledge of it reported to the English colonists on the Atlantic coast. It was the "Western Empire" or "Tennessee---Tenno Sei". The capitol city sat upon the top of a pyramid located just East of the great Mississippi river. It was named 'Kentucky---Kan To Kei'(capital East of Barrier). Only remnants are left today, named as a "place that has been abandoned----Cahokia". The respected name of this Empire was perpetuated by their most treasured technology, the flint arrowhead. The Empire name was ALGONQUIN---(ali Kan Quay'n----to be of the Bow and Flint arrow point).

The early exploration (1541) of mid-America can be attributed to this famous point known throughout the land. It was easily chipped and flaked and even fluted. They called it QUAY---a channel down the side just as early ship piers have a quay alongside. Many natives



Figure 1 Conquistador to CIBOLA

throughout America were aware of this almost magic point and were part of a mistake (not conspiracy) to divert the expedition by Coronado which came from Mexico City. As Coronado



Figure 2—CIBOLA, the Backbone

and his large expeditionary force reached Arizona headed towards the Rocky Mountains, the natives were probed by sign language to reveal these huge riches of a special mineral that could be found in and upon the ground. It was very important and well known to the Indians and they directed these pitiful conquistadores toward the Arkansas river and to Wichita in Kansas where this precious mineral could be found everywhere (and yet today!) But while the Spaniards lusted for gold, this location (north of Clovis, New Mexico) was yielding the mineral wealth of the Indian Empire--- Flint. The area is known today as the **"Flint hills of Kansas"**. His original destination had been explained to him as *"Cibola---Sebo la" or the mountain*

(backbone) place. Of course there was gold there, and plenty of it, but he had started out in the wrong direction,

for the wrong mountains. It was the Cibola of Peruvian Andes that held the golden treasure eventually plundered by Pizzaro.

This historical anecdote gives us an insight to their concept of technological wealth as well as an established communication system that seemed to be widespread. These fields of flint were well known and were called **"the Place of the Sparking Arrow point---QUIVIRA"**. Was it the channel chipped into the side of the point that gave it the name? Maritime people and certainly the Phoenicians knew of the quay providing a docking channel area for sailing ships even today (Manitowoc, Wis). The mountains of New Mexico south of Clovis were named "place of the mother lode of Flint----*Ba Bo Quivira*". This can explain why the Clovis area today is so famous for its ancient industry of arrow point manufacture.

We can look back at these early civilizations which used the rivers for simple transportation. They were natural providers for food as well. We see the colorful native descriptions on the East coast, *Massachusetts*. While contemporary explanations are that it means "up the river" a much more definite one is obtained using our hypothesis. The etymology is *"Masu Chu Setts---trout/salmon have duty Season"* or are spawning up the rivers. Similarly, further south along the coast is the areas called *"Narragansett---Nara Gan Setts"*. Similarly, the meaning is a "season when Geese form Lines (in the sky)". Migration of animals and fish were of extreme importance to these early societies. Harvesting these animals during migration provided a timely supply of plentiful food.

THE BIG BANG OF ANCIENT LANGUAGE

Our modern civilizations have arisen not only from humble origins but also from amazing and clever people of the past. What have the Linguists hidden from us as we now use the gift of language and documentation to move ahead at warp speed? Digital computers at last have made possible the organization and archiving of information which leads us to new understanding. Human use of writing has been a strong instrument to expanding science and technology.

Before this invention, the use of verbal vocabulary provided people with history by use of mythology and religion. -----Did the intelligence of sea-going people excel over those remaining on land? Surely, mistakes of building a house that collapses is not nearly as disastrous as building a boat that sinks. Young people learned vocally that which today many students rely on from books. Where to build a house or village could be easily implanted in pioneer children by explaining their villages placed as "*Pottawatomie villages*" such as described by the Algonquin nation of North America. It simply instructed the young men to build near "*River place with rushing noisy waters and water crystal clear*" (*Pa Oto Wa Toomei*). It avoided disease.

The New World that has been explored and recently documented in the 15th century can be a treasure house of information (and speculation). What a surprising laboratory of language is provided for us as the studies show an ancient residue of language has rained down upon these two large and isolated continents. Was there a BIG BANG of language that exploded sometime in the last 5000 years of world history? Do we see a residue derived from early maritime nations that had much more technology than is often given credit for?

Let's look at the New World description for a dwelling, a house. I have looked with great interest at the use of such an important word. While many can see the use of Spanish CASA in the Americas, the earlier pre-Columbian use of the simpler word of IE /YE is more evident. The use extends from the Arctic to the Amazon and today is also current in East Asia. In the Dakotas a popular saying is "All of our Family" with the native version as "*MI TAKU YE OYASHIN*". With modern translation a literal meaning is derived of "All my households, houses, and parents" where the ancient word for house is evident. This use for house is still evident today with the *Kumeyaay* (Ku Me Aie--group of people joined together—a union) of southern California.

More remote use is seen in the jungle of South America near the Amazon where the indigenous people are called the *YE NO MONO* (*Yanomomo*). According

to the noted Anthropologist Dr. N. Chagnon and his studies at Northwestern University they described themselves as “People with things of the house”. Indeed, this is quite understandable using an ancient East Asian language. They have embedded themselves into this tropical rain forest and live a rather simple life almost naked although they extol their technology of having household artifacts as an improvement over other native tribes of the Amazon. They are proud of their “pots and pans”.

Another surprising place to find these dwellings is at the far north of the Arctic. The famous IGLOO describes with accuracy the structure that is used for a house, YE GALLO. This “House structure” is well known and often made with the most



Figure 3 --The IGLOO house structure of InnuIt (Eskimo)

common material available, snow and ice. Early people often saw prominent features which were not “buildings” and thus became a “structure--- GALLO”

In America’s colorful West the most impressive natural structures were observed and the location of these stone towers was called

“OGALLALA-----IO GALLA LA” translated as “the place of stone structures”. What an impressive

OGALLALA-----The Place of the Stone Structures.

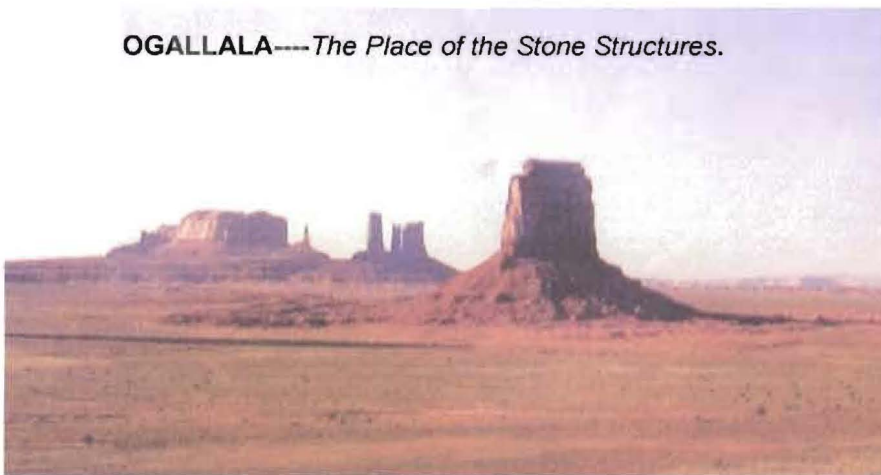


Figure 4--Stone "structures" of desert

and strange sight rising up from the desert floor! In today’s cities it is the massive buildings which attract our attention, but to early people these natural “sky scrapers” were of immense interest and vital landmarks. An entire denomination

of Native Americans have been identified using this description, the Ogallala Sioux.

RICE---the First Export of the New World?

A most surprising discovery was made by tracking language. Food for expanding early civilization in the islands of Japan appears to have come from North America! While Archaeologists love to track the use of Corn in early civilizations, in America's Midwest the use of Rice was more useful to their lifestyle. Unlike the corn cob, rice leaves little residue for the archaeologist. Shallow lakes and rivers abounded which were very compatible with the growing of wild rice. Wisconsin (Ouse/Wase-Konsin) translates to 'main route to detach'. In fact, the American state of WISCONSIN was home to the tribe acknowledged as the *MENOMINEE* (*Minne-Ho-Min-Nee*---People of the River Grain). Rice was easily grown and harvested while corn needed irrigation and care especially during the vital hunting season. This essential seed was named *WASE* after its method of harvest. Gliding over the lakes the native need only detach the rice seeds into their canoe---*WASE* (from Akkadian² *Waseru*, detach or depart)³.

Related to this is the surprising history in East Asia with their use of rice known as both *MISU-HO* (water seed) and *WASE* (Cold weather rice). Here is the same description used by Japan and the American Indians---*WASE*. It is known as "cold weather" rice in Japan where it provided them with the ability to grow crops near Tokyo. This area was not compatible with the usual rice from Viet Nam and Indonesia which had warm climates. With the introduction of Wase (from America with speculation) the Eastern section of Japan grew and Tokyo became the new capitol.

手紙を出すことを
忘れないでね

Tegami O desu koto O wase re nai de ne

DO NOT FORGET TO MAIL THIS LETTER -- --*WASE* (TO DETACH IN THE ANCIENT SUMERIAN LANGUAGE) Wisconsin rice gatherers---main route to detach rice in early America rice country---BEI KOKU !.

similarity. The connotation of "forget" uses the expression "wase" (see above). While the Chinese character is different, the concept of "detaching from memory" is obvious.

How did some of the pioneer people of America arrive here? We need only look at their language (which is quite similar to ancient Japanese) to begin to answer that question. The Spanish Conquistadores in Mexico met with the famous Aztec empire. The records show that they asked the natives who they were. "AZTEC" was their reply. (The suffix 'tek' is reported to refer to "where we

Can we further validate this speculation? At the risk of boring the reader in the field of Japanese Kanji ideographs, I will present a surprising

are from”) Other tribes identified themselves similarly as Toltec, Mixtec, Zapotec, etc. The Aztec people said they were from Ashi (Azt using Portuguese phonetics). The place was called *AZTLAN (place of Ashi)* and was an island very, very far away.

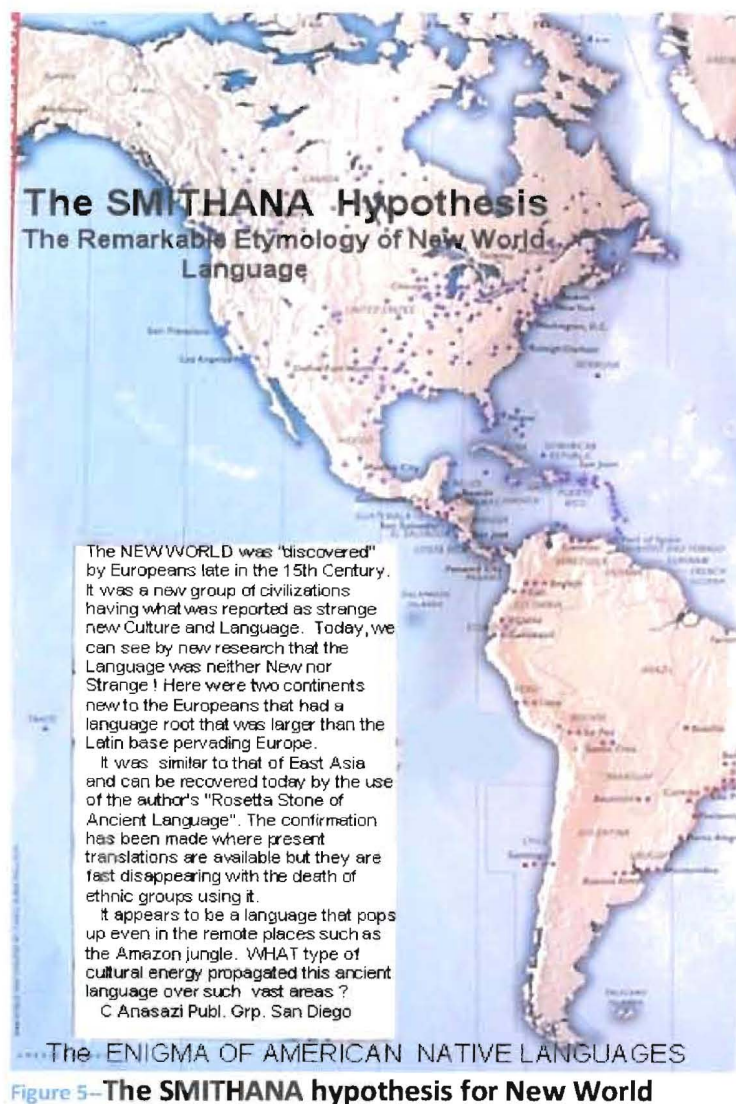
With great surprise, I found that the early history of Japan designated it as Ashi (Ashi-Hara-no-Kuni---the country of sea lion with legs on its belly). This animal proliferated along the island shores as it does today along the Alaska shoreline. It was a most prized source of food and artifacts for the explorer. In fact the territory of Alaska proclaims that, being named “Ali ASHI-KA” or the Place of the sea lion. This was a unique animal having legs rather than flippers such as on a seal. The name “Ashi” means “legs” and Hara refers to the belly from where the appendages appear (ASHI-HARA—legs on belly).

Can the language of our geography tell us HOW and WHY these pioneers arrived in North America”? Of course it can be used to verify prominent theories. One is the Bering Sea path to North America. Some research shows very early migration across the snow free path down into the Wisconsin territory. However, these studies reveal that a path of discovery and sustenance existed along the Aleutian islands. These “stepping stones” might have earlier been closer together at a time of lower ocean levels. That is what the natives called the islands, *ALEUTIAN (Aleuti---one step at a time, creeping)*. Along the route there was a plentiful supply of sea lions (Ashi---Alaska). They were much easier prey than the whale and supplied many artifacts needed for civilization, food and clothing. Additionally, fresh water storage was possible using their organs. Much better than relying on the dangerous whale which some historians suggest as the target of these intrepid sea-going people.

Further down the coast of Alaska was the large Canadian area referred to as the ATHABASKA area. Here too, if we rely on the “Rosetta Stone” for translation will show it is the “*Searching place for Sea Lion*”----*Assa Ba Ashi ka*. However their vocabulary indicates that the whale was also a prey animal since they report on their procedures of drying the whale meat in the sun (*Kwakiutl*)

We are able to see by language the probability of how and why there were early expeditions to the Americas from Asia and Japan. Language, it must be remembered, is a poor indicator of ethnicity. Much of the Americas used a Japanese related language, however it must be noted that my colleague (from Libya) reported that many of the Japan dictionary words are similar to Arabic which can explain the Akkadian influence that I see in Wisconsin. How old are these words?

For example, the early church of Christianity used an expression most certainly used by early Pagans in the middle East as well as America. According to natives, atop the pyramid at Cahokia in Illinois the high priest coaxed the sun to creep up each morning to help rule over the empire, which was a Sun Empire. What words he used we do not know but in Europe it was repeated with joy as the congregation yet today sing out with "*HALEALULYA*" (*Ha-Le-Aleu-ya*) where the HA is the sun and Alleulia has an identical meaning at the Aleutian Islands---- one step at time, creeping. While my pastor insists it means "Joy", with no explanation, I feel my translation is more specific.



The CORN Enigma, the Rosetta Stone and the Archaeologist

History reports that in Caesar's time the people needed their Roman harbor improved such that more ships could arrive bringing corn to the hungry people. But, wait just a moment-----Corn was reported as discovered in the Americas with the Columbus voyages in 1500, almost 5 centuries later. Can we look to ancient language to resolve what may be a 500 year mistake by archaeologists? On the islands of the Caribbean this precious grain was first reported by Columbus as MAIZE, a popular and nutritious food item. I believe this was a mistake perpetuated yet today as the wrong name for such an important discovery. And this mistake leads to another enigma which can be unraveled for the archaeologists of Arizona.

I asked the Papago of Arizona what they called this grain. It sounds something like "Ho-on". Using the results of 65 years of language research and an Asiatic Rosetta Stone my colleagues and I worked to resolve these issues. A porridge of any grain could be called maize (*meshi* in Japan) and the actual grain "min" would have a seed referred to as "Ho". So the seed of the grain ancient people ate was HO but it was made edible in a product called MAIZE. Maize was eaten, but not planted. With this new perspective we can finally understand the **HO-HOKAM** enigma. Where does this lead us as explorers of ancient civilizations?

Today we have a food product describing this ancient nutrition---HOMINY. As for many ancient descriptions the name is merely a recipe for making this mixture which may earlier have been called maize. The seed (HO) of the grain (MIN) is put in boiling water (NE) and we get the popular HOMINY. For over 500 years the clarification has been needed to further understand these clever people who lived here for thousands of years. One of these are known today as the **HO-HOKAM** of Arizona. They abandoned their homes and "disappeared" which is the ancient translation for "*hokam*" which dates back to the early Arabic HK even before language had the use of vowels. We still today use the term now referred to as students "playing Hooky". The Indian empire and pyramid at St. Louis

described as CA-HOKIA (the place where they have disappeared) is still a national historic landmark.

Where, then, did the expression CORN come from? It seems that ancient people would use a suffix "N" to denote specificity and it was this special HO (seed) called HO-O'N. Time eroded the word to modern CORN such that even Caesar referred to the imported wheat or grain as "corn". What can we learn of the *HO-HOKAM*? It would be obvious that while the people have disappeared from this outstanding archaeological site in Arizona, the reason for abandonment by their own admission was the loss of their food supply, the corn seed (HO). This might be for various reasons including drought or insect infestation. That mystery is resolved by their own description of this vital seed: CORN/HO'n---- not MAIZE.

CONCLUSION:

The world has entered the Information Age which will impose changes as large if not larger than that of the Industrial Age before it. We are quickly losing our history which has often been preserved until now by language. It has been said that words become the threads that weave the colorful fabrics of successful civilizations. And we see here in the New World an admixture of several ancient maritime languages. They include Asiatic as well as Phoenician/ Akkadian² probably going back well before Biblical times. The question has often been brought up, 'Can two geographically diverse cultures really understand each other?' Linguists insist that the Japanese is an isolate language--only used in the Japanese islands. My research comes as a stunning surprise. Linguists tell us that language is much more than vocabulary. But, if two computers can pass information between them, it is called communication. And if two people do the same verbally it can certainly be observed in some way as language even if the grammar and pronunciation is somewhat different.

We can wait no longer to recognize these intrepid ancient explorers to the New World---their language² can tell us a lot about them. With this mid-course correction of perspective, our future scholars will certainly find that they can unravel more of the mysteries of the past.

Note 1: From books by author:

DECODING AMERICA'S ANCIENT INDIAN LANGUAGES by Don Smithana

AMERICA----Land of the Rising Sun by Don Smithana

in English and Japanese (Tokuma Shoten—Tokyo publisher)

www.anasazipublishing.com Further more complete information

Note 2: Akkadian translations reference-----

AKKADIAN GRAMMAR-----the translation of Riemschneider's **Lehrbuch des Akkadischen**, 1974. Marquette University Press, Milwaukee, Wis. By T.A. Caldwell, J.N. Oswalt, John Sheehan A glossary of Akkadian and Sumerian grammar and vocabulary.

Note 3: One can speculate that our global directions of EAST and WEST come from this early language. [Hlst(East) is **Sunrise** and Ouse (West) is a departure from the sky, a **Sunset**.]

AUTHOR-----Don Smithana

Raised in Wisconsin, Smithana has over sixty years compiled studies from three continents. He has three books out on the subject of New World language and has lectured at American and Asiatic Universities and appeared on National TV in Japan. His books are in English and Japanese. He has applied his professional work with computer data recovery to the challenge of analyzing New World anthropology. Rather than linguistic, his research employs the Scientific Method which has been immensely successful in his physical fields of discipline as well as here. His graduate work has been in

Mathematics and He has been employed at IBM, Motorola and Kyoto Ceramics as an Electronic Engineer on Computer. As defined by Mario Pei (An Invitation to Linguistics), he could be classified as a "geolinguist"---in same sense that engineering is the practical application of laws of physics.



Figure 6--Smithana and colleagues

Mr. Wu (on right) fluent in Japanese, Chinese and English languages
Also Prof. Nobuhiro Yoshida historian, not shown