

Of the approximately twelve hundred Indian languages of the Americas, certain linguistic <sup>inter-</sup>relationships have been <sup>described and established</sup> defined by a series of scholars who have specialized in this field over the past years.

In addition many dialects (either) still exist (or have long existed) <sup>(101th-)</sup> in the <sup>languages spoken by closely</sup> many branches of related tribes. <sup>(Navajo argues)</sup> The source, however, seems to <sup>go back to the</sup> be the <sup>hypothetical</sup> Nadene (speaking) people, who are believed to have migrated to Alaska <sup>or more</sup> from Asia, possibly three thousand <sup>1</sup> years ago. From this origin have come four major branches of language, one of which is the Athabaskan language <sup>family</sup>. This ~~xxxxxxx~~ in turn, has many off shoots, one of which <sup>is</sup> in Navaho, <sup>who are identified with the Apachean sub-group of the Athabaskan languages.</sup> These Athabaskan speaking people migrated long ago to the Pacific <sup>and others following the Rocky Mountains southward, and</sup> costal area (and thence) over a period of hundreds of years, <sup>some going</sup> (to other) <sup>they came to occupy a wide expanse of territory stretching from Alaska to Mexico</sup> parts of this country.

Some scholars believe that there is a relationship between the ancient <sup>and</sup> language of the Nadene and the Chinese-Tibetan languages, though this relationship is probable, <sup>will be necessary to establish it as a fact.</sup> it still needs much more research. So the Navaho language, <sup>as one with many linguistic changes over the course of time, has</sup> (having undergone many changes and modifications as time has passed,) its roots <sup>(lie)</sup> deep in antiquity. <sup>Like other languages, Navajo</sup> (This) is no "primitive" form of expression, but a highly complex form of communication, differing greatly from the English and other European languages. Navaho has many <sup>that are not used in</sup> (more phonetic) sounds <sup>and vice versa.</sup> (than) English. It is a language full of movement and of subtle meaning; a language <sup>whose vocabulary is based upon</sup> (contain many) verbs, whose <sup>modifications of the verbal</sup> pre- <sup>in which a wide variety of</sup> fixes (and suffixes) <sup>may</sup> denote <sup>an entire action;</sup> the pitch of the voice <sup>(It is a "tone language", like the Chinese languages, and</sup> whether raised or lowered <sup>may change the entire meaning.</sup> It is a <sup>meaning or feeling, is feature used to distinguish meaning</sup> difficult language for English speaking people to learn, and many of the ~~phonetic~~ sounds are most difficult for us to produce. Yet there

Are many who have accomplished this feat. Mr. Robert Young, <sup>Area Tribal Operations Officer</sup> Assistant <sup>and</sup> Director of the Bureau of Indian Affairs in Gallup, is <sup>one of those who has gained</sup> highly pre- <sup>western Canada, including</sup> ficient in this language. He has traveled in ~~Alaska and~~ British Columbia where there are other Athabaskan speaking people and with



whom he had no difficulty in conversing, has written an extensive article in The Navaho Year Book, (1961) which should be of great interest to those who seek further knowledge of the Athabascan Tongue.

Whom he had no difficulty in establishing ~~a~~ a working relationship because, although the Athabascan languages have become too divergent over the centuries to be mutually intelligible, there are enough similarities in vocabulary, structure and other features to demonstrate their close ~~relationship~~ kinship. The people with whom he worked in the north were as interested in the Navajo language as he was in theirs. Aside from a dictionary and grammar, he has written an extensive article in the Navajo Yearbook (1961) aimed especially at the problem of teaching English to Navajo beginners, but sufficiently detailed to give ~~and~~ considerable insight into the grammatical structure and sound system of the language for those who would like to know something about it.

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