

Of the approximately twelve hundred Indian languages of the Americas, certain linguistic inter-relationships have been described and established by scholars. In addition many dialects still exist within the languages spoken by closely related tribes.

Navaho origins lie in a hypothetical group-- the Nadene people-- who are believed to have migrated to Alaska from Asia several thousand years ago, and who branched into four major language families one of which is Athabascan. These Athabascan speaking people gradually migrated over a wide expanse of territory stretching from Alaska to Mexico, some following along the Pacific Coast, others following along the Rock Mountains. There are many ^{sub groups and} ~~sub groups and~~ off shoots ^{even the} ~~of~~ Athabaskan, one such sub group being the Apachean from whom the Navaho are an off shoot.

The Navaho language is ^{communication} ~~no~~ primitive form of expression but is a highly complex form of ~~expression~~. Differing greatly from the English and other European tongues, it is a language full of movement, of subtle meaning, full of verbs whose action may be modified by a wide variety of prefixes.

Some scholars believe that there is a relationship between the ancient language of the Nadene and the Chinese-Tibetan languages, and though the relationship is probable, much more research is needed to establish it as a fact. Like the Chinese languages, Navaho is a "tone language", and the meaning of the words is distinguished by the pitch of the voice, whether it be raised or lowered.

Navaho is a difficult language for English speaking people to learn, and many of the sounds are most difficult for us to produce, yet there are many ~~fixtthxsmndx~~ who have accomplished this feat. Mr. Robert Young, Area Tribal

doubtless obtained through trade ^{or capture} from Spanish, Mexican
or even Plains Indian Tribes such as the Utes or Kiowa
who sometimes came in contact with the Navaho.

M12 are made from 25 pieces, hammered into thin
bell-~~shaped~~ shapes. The coins are all pounded
between a round headed bar and a corresponding