

In the upper picture, the weaver
is dyeing wool in ~~the~~ a solution made
for boiling a native plant called Nardoo Tree.

(Thelespuma
Megapotaemicum)

At left, woman ^{preparing to dye} ~~dyeing~~ wool with the yellow
root of the holly grape.

At right. This shows a weaver sitting before her
loom shows how ^{weaves} ~~works~~ a portion of the width
before she weaves to

This weaver has just moved over to complete
the rows she had commenced at the left.

Because this rug is too wide to weave ~~one~~ entire
row " from one position, the weaver commences several
rows before she moves over to complete them.

of the approximately twelve hundred Indian languages of the Americas, certain linguistic inter-relationships have been described and established by a series of scholars who have specialized in this field over the past years. In addition many dialects still exist within the languages spoken by closely related tribes.

Navaho origins seem to go back to the hypothetical Nadene people who are believed to have migrated to Alaska from Asia possibly three thousand ~~years~~ or more years ago. From this origin have come four major branches of language, one of which is Athabascan. This language family in turn has many offshoots one of which is Navaho which is identified with the Apachean sub-group of Athabascan languages. ^{Some of} These Athabascan speaking people migrated long ago to the Pacific coastal area while others followed the Rocky Mountain southward, and over a period of hundreds of years they occupied a wide expanse of territory stretching from Alaska to Mexico.

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.

As one outgrowth of linguistic change over the course of time, the Navaho language has its roots deep in antiquity. Like other languages Navaho is no primitive form of expression, but is a highly complex form of communication, differing greatly from ^{the} English and other European Tongues. Navaho has many sounds that are not used in English and vice versa. It is a language full of movement and of subtle meaning; a language whose vocabulary is based upon verbs whose prefixes denote modification of the verbal action. Like the Chinese languages Navaho is a "Tone language" and whether the pitch of the voice is raised or lowered, rising or falling is the featured use to distinguish the meaning.

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 who have accomplished this feat. Mr. Robert Young, Area Tribal Operations Officer of the BIA in Gallup is one of those who has gained exceptional

proficiency in this language. He has traveled in western Canada including British Columbia where there are other Athabaskan speaking people and with whom he had no difficulty in establishing a working relationship, and though the Athabaskan 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. The people with whom he worked in the north were as interested in the Navaho language as he was in theirs.

In addition to a dictionary and grammar, Mr. Young has written an extensive article in the Navaho Year Book (1961), focused especially on the problems of teaching English to Navaho beginners. It is sufficiently detailed to give insight into the grammatical structure and sound system of the language for those who seek some knowledge of the Navaho Tongue.