Michif Language Resources:
An Annotated Bibliography

Compiled by Lawrence Barkwell and Norman Fleury
July 2017
Revised Edition


Whereas the Metis emerged in Canada as a distinct nation with a unique culture; and whereas during the genesis of the Metis Nation, Michif evolved as a distinct language of the Metis Nation; and whereas it is recognized within international law that language is one of the requirements of the establishment or reaffirmation of Nationhood; therefore be it resolved that the Metis National Council recognize and declare Michif as the historical and official language of the Metis Nation.

The iteration of this reference work was initially prepared in 2010, as an aid to the Métis National Council (MNC) Michif Language Initiative, and the Michif Language Initiatives of the Manitoba Métis Federation, the Métis Nation - Saskatchewan, the Métis Nation of Alberta, the Métis Nation British Columbia and the Métis Nation of Ontario. These programs were financially supported by the Department of Canadian Heritage, Aboriginal Languages Initiative. The bibliography has undergone numerous additions.
and revisions over the intervening years. When we started to put this material together the senior author was working as a technical support person to Norman Fleury who was then the Director of Michif Languages for the Manitoba Metis Federation. Since then we have collaborated on writing several monographs and Norman has travelled throughout Canada, the United States, and the world (Japan and the Scandinavian countries) to educate people on the intricacies and history of the Michif language. Norman has also worked with the Louis Riel Institute and the Gabriel Dumont Institute to do numerous book translations into Michif and to provide a spoken record of Michif on the CDs that accompany these publications. Norman Fleury currently teaches Michif at the University of Saskatchewan - Saskatoon. The authors have worked extensively within a consortium which supports the Little Shell Tribe Language Preservation Program in Montana.\(^1\)

Michif is a mixed language drawing its nouns from a European language and its verbs from an Amerindian language...No such mixture of two languages has been reported from any [other] part of the world....Michif is unusual if not unique in several respects among the languages of the world. It poses challenges for all theories of language and language contact....Michif challenges all theoretical models of language. It is a language with two completely different components with separate sound systems, morphological endings and syntactic rules....The impetus for its emergence was the fact that the bilingual Métis were no longer accepted as Indians or French and they formulated their own ethnic identity, which was mixed and where a mixed 'language of our own' was considered part of their ethnicity.\(^2\)

**Bibliography**


This dictionary records the Michif dialect in and around Buffalo Narrows and Ile à la Crosse, Saskatchewan. In essence, most of the listings are Cree words and phrases with a much lesser amount Red River Michif word listings.

---

1 This consortium consists of the Little Shell Chippewa Tribe (Great Falls, Montana), Great Falls School Division, Stone Child College (Box Elder, Montana), Turtle Mountain College (Belcourt, North Dakota), Louis Riel Institute (Winnipeg) and Gabriel Dumont Institute (Saskatoon).

Nêhiyawêwin Mitâtaht: Michif ahci Cree. Saskatoon, Saskatchewan: Gabriel Dumont Institute, 2009.


This publication is a series of Michif language lessons for adult learners. It contains twenty language lessons and appendices on common verb forms, additional discourse, dialogue, and lists of words and phrases on various topics. The Michif-Cree in this resource is almost identical to that spoken in Manitoba and south-eastern Saskatchewan.


This is a Plains Cree dictionary by a Metis author, who published more than 100 books and brochures in Cree and English.


In this paper, Bakker examines the case for classifying Michif as a mixed language, through comparison with other mixed language examples.

__________ “The Ojibwa Element in Mitchif.” In William Cowan (Editor), Papers of the Twenty-Second Algonquian Conference. Ottawa: Carleton University, 1991: 11-20.

Bakker shows that all dialects of Michif show evidence of Ojibwe influence in both the words and the sounds.


The sentences in the memoirs of fur trader John Long are badly learned Ojibwe, perhaps a pidgin.


This chapter is a brief overview of Michif, in a book with chapters on other mixed languages.


Bakker examines language material recorded by Andrew Graham and Henry Kelsey and concludes that the York Factory Cree language was not a pidgin. This is a tenuous conclusion given the small sample size.


This article gives a brief overview of Aboriginal oral literature in Saskatchewan, with texts in Plains Cree and Michif collected from First Nations and Metis. The Michif language texts are; “Maskwa (The Bear)” by May Desjarlais from Lebret, Saskatchewan; “Mêtif” by Margaret Desjarlais from Lebret; and “Le Loup de Bois (The Timber Wolf)” by John Gosselin of Lebret. This article is also available through the internet.

Peter Bakker is respected and admired by all the Métis people he met and lived with during the course of this study. He spent almost ten years to produce *A Language of Our Own*, which is the definitive work to date on the Michif languages of the Prairie Métis. Bakker uses the International Phonetic Alphabet to write Michif, most readers even those who speak Michif will not comprehend the language examples shown in this form. Nevertheless, this book has been acclaimed as a major contribution to our knowledge regarding the development of Michif and other languages spoken by the Métis. The topics covered in this volume include:

- European-Indian contact in the fur trade
- Origin and culture of the Métis Nation
- A grammatical overview of Michif
- Variation between Michif speaking communities
- Types and origins of Cree-French language mixtures
- A model for the genesis of new mixed languages
- The intertwining of French and Cree
- The source languages of Michif: French, Cree and Ojibway, and;
  - The genesis of Michif.

This solid piece of scholarship sets the standard for a better understanding of Michif, even though it does contain the odd factual error. For instance, Wood Mountain, Saskatchewan is not in the Cypress Hills.


In this article, Peter Bakker gives what he calls “a world tour” of mixed languages, including the Michif language. The genesis of mixed languages, speaker’s attitudes toward these languages, and linguist’s attitudes toward these languages are among the issues he discusses.


This article discusses the importance of oral history and oral traditions. It shows the importance of passing these stories on from generation to generation and how slowly the Métis are losing their cultural and linguistic traditions. The author stresses that it is very important that the Métis’ languages be maintained so that they can pass on these stories. There are seven oral stories featured in this article that are available in English Cree and Michif.


This article relates a Métis story in the Michif language with translation into Dutch.


Mixed Languages are speech varieties that arise in bilingual settings, often as markers of ethnic separateness. They combine structures inherited from different parent languages, often resulting in odd and unique splits that present a challenge to theories of contact-induced change as well as genetic classification. This collection of articles is devoted to the theoretical and empirical controversies that surround the study of Mixed Languages. Issues include definitions and prototypes, similarities and differences to other contact languages such as pidgins and creoles, the role of codeswitching in the emergence
of Mixed Languages, the role of deliberate and conscious mixing, the question of the existence of a Mixed Language continuum, and the position of Mixed Languages in general models of language change and contact-induced change in particular. An introductory chapter surveys the current study of Mixed Languages. Contributors include leading historical linguists, contact linguists and typologists, among them Carol Myers-Scotton, Sarah Grey Thomason, William Croft, Thomas Stolz, Maarten Mous, Ad Backus, Evgeniy Golovko, Peter Bakker and Yaron Matras.


This article gives tentative geographical information on the different languages spoken by the Metis.


This paper consists mainly of a structural sketch of Michif, with a section on phonology, but mainly consisting of grammar. The sections of the grammatical sketch are broken down both into phonological versus syntactic processes, but also into processes occurring within the Cree component versus the French component. The authors assume that each component has its own distinct phonological and syntactic rules, hence this breakdown. There is also mention made of innovative, Michif-specific processes. In addition to the linguistic sketch, the paper includes a section on the history of the Métis Nation, and sections on the genesis and current status of the Michif language.


This paper deals with lexical and morphosyntactic borrowing from French by the Aboriginal languages of Canada and adjacent parts of the USA. Code-switching between French and various Aboriginal languages in Quebec is discussed. Influences in the southeastern USA and the area from Louisiana to the north along the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers is not discussed.


This article gives a brief discussion on the origins of the words Métis and Michif. The main topic of discussion is the languages of the Red River Métis: Michif, French
Cree, Métis French, Métis Plains Cree, Métis Swampy Cree, Métis Saulteaux (Ojibwa) and French and Métis English. Métis multilingualism is also discussed.


The contributors to this two volume publication are Norman Fleury, Rita Flamand, Peter Bakker and Nicole Rosen.


The original overview, bibliography and proposal submitted to Heritage Canada and the Métis National Council by MMF.


This set of prints and the companion booklet are based on Christi Belcourt’s paintings. There are contributions to the text by Metis Elders Rose Richardson and Olive Whitford. Michif language translations are by Rita Flamand. Ile a la Crosse dialect translations are by Laura Burnouf.


This paper was apparently done by seven students for a linguistics Field Methods course, but we have no identifying data other than this.


This is the only major academic study of the Bungee language. Blain interviewed about six Bungee speakers, not all of who agreed to be taped. The small sample really limits the value of this thesis. Brian Orvis, a Bungee-speaker who grew up in Selkirk, Manitoba, takes issue with Blain’s description of the language as a dialect. He asserts that there are still Bungee speakers and that it is a language like Michif, not a dialect (Swan, 1991: 133).


The goal of this study was to determine the relationship between conceptual outlooks and the linguistic description of disease and its treatment among the Chippewa-Cree Métis of the Turtle Mountain area of North Dakota. The informants used for this study were largely Métis.

The study includes an examination of the tribal beliefs and environmental factors, which have influenced the formation of concepts concerning disease and its treatment. The investigation focuses on the medical concepts of people of multiple ethnic origin. This is one of the few known studies of the syncretic nature of Métis medical practices. The names of the herbs used are often given in the three languages common to Turtle Mountain (Michif, Ojibwa and Cree). Two main types of treatments are discussed; the use of herbal remedies, and cures involving a supernatural element.

Award winning Metis author David Bouchard C.M. wrote this non-fiction bi-lingual children’s book to honour his Anishinaabe, Chippewa, Menominee and Innu Grandmothers. The text is in English and Michif. The book is illustrated by well-known Metis artist Dennis Weber of Kelowna B.C.; the book has an accompanying CD featuring the fiddle music of John Arcand. The CD reading in Michif from the text is done by Norman Fleury a noted Metis linguist from Woodnorth, MB. He provided all of the Michif translation as well.


“Language, Chapter V.” In Ile A La Crosse Community Study for the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples: Governance Study. Ile à la Crosse: Guiding Committee, October 1993: 69-89.

For this chapter the research staff administered a Cree-Michif Language Questionnaire in the community, 202 of 215 respondents completed these (152 were Métis). They answered questions on the importance of language, ideas to enhance language retention, whether Cree-Michif should be taught K to 12, and whether an adult language program should be available. The latter two questions were answered 89% and 90% in the affirmative. The local community had numerous unique and interesting ideas for promotion of language retention.


This guide was developed in response to a Michif speakers gathering held in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan on March 11, 2006. It gives an overview of Michif as spoken in a variety of Metis communities. There are photos and brief statements from all the Michif Elders in attendance. The book also includes a 40 page Michif language dictionary.


This illustrated children’s book is in the English and Michif languages. There is a CD in the pocket of the cover with the narration in both languages.
This dissertation covers the history and struggle for survival of the Turtle Mountain people. Their fortunes were closely tied to the Canadian Métis, or mixed-bloods, and the American mixed-bloods. The development of a sense of Métis nationalism in the early to mid-nineteenth century caused problems for the less numerous Turtle Mountain “full-bloods” as well as the “Mechif” majority group. Negotiations with the U.S. government over their ten million-acre land claim were most difficult and took decades to resolve. Despite the negative impact of the agreement and the subsequent fee patent era, the people persisted and survived. The Turtle Mountain Reserve has the largest Michif speaking population in North America and currently teaches this unique language in their community college.


As far as we known this is the only time an Aboriginal Peoples Survey questionnaire has ever been translated into the Michif language. Norman Fleury Metis National Council, National Coordinator for Michif Language did the translation.


This is a Michif children’s book designed to introduce pre-schoolers and Aboriginal Head Start age children to the Michif language. It has an accompanying audiotape. The title translates as The Hungry Caterpillar (Hairy Worm, literally). The book assists children to count and learn the names of fruits and vegetables. First Nation’s artist Gilbert Baldhead is the illustrator.


This report contains the outline and activities of this major Michif conference held in Winnipeg in 1985.

**Pierriche Falcon: The Michif Rhymester** is a CD with accompanying text, lyrics and essay. This is a comprehensive cultural resource which includes English and Michif-French renditions of Pierre Falcon's songs by Krystle Pederson and Guy Dumont with music by John Arcand, the "Master of the Métis Fiddle," and Desmond Legace. Paul Chartrand, a distinguished Métis academic and former Chair of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples, also provides a thoughtful essay on the importance of Falcon's songs, Métis nationalism and the Michif languages. For the first time, several Pierre Falcon songs have been included in a musical compilation. Perhaps more importantly, these songs have been restored back to their original Michif Voice. Pierre Falcon was the first known Métis to compose songs. After personally witnessing many of the key events of Métis history, his tunes—particularly "The Battle of Frog Plain" or "la gournouillère," the first patriotic song created in Canada—take us back to the birth of the Métis Nation. These passionate, humourous, and ironic songs speak to the Métis Nation's resolute desire to be independent and self-determining.


This thesis is an examination of the intimate connection between Métis music and the identity of Métis people. She does an in-depth ethnographic study of the musical practices of the Métis community of Mattawa, Ontario. She includes technical notes on the Michif language and the nicknames of the area. There is an extensive discussion of the music of Vic “Chiga” Groulx an Elder of the Métis Nation of Ontario. This is the most extensive known study of Eastern Canadian Métis music and should be read in conjunction with Anne Lederman’s (1987, 1988) analysis of Western Canadian Métis music.


This paper has an introductory description the two main elements of the Michif-Cree language – French and Cree – as it is spoken at Turtle Mountain. Dialect variation, the relationship between Cree and Ojibway, the way in which Cree and French are combined, and the distinct sound system is discussed. Finally, there is a brief explanation of the orthography.

In this brief paper, Crawford reviews the five major language influences on Michif in North Dakota and briefly discusses the issue of language survival.


In this short well-written paper Crawford examines the problems involved in producing a written form of Michif-Cree. He suggests that the most appropriate starting point for developing orthography is to be found in the attempts made by the speakers of the language. He also discusses standardization problems, sound-symbol choices, and French and Cree sounds not easily approximated by English spellings.


Crawford documents language survival programs at Turtle Mountain North Dakota since 1974. He examines Michif as a Creole language, a dialect of Cree, a case of borrowing, and as a mixed language. He leans toward classifying it as a dialect of Cree. This article was published in 1985 (J. Peterson and J.S.H. Brown)

“...“Speaking Michif in Four Métis Communities.” Canadian Journal of Native Studies, (3) 1, 1983: 47-55.

Crawford conducted a survey of Michif language use in Belcourt North Dakota (Turtle Mountain), San Clara and Boggy Creek (Manitoba), Camperville (Manitoba) and St. Lazare (Manitoba). The major features of Michif-Cree are identified and there is some speculation as to origins.


Crawford examines Métis cultural distinctiveness as exhibited in their unique Michif language. He reviews the various analyses that Michif is a Creole, a mixture or a dialect of the Cree language and concludes that no definitive label of classification can be used. His study was based upon observation of the Michif spoken at the Turtle Mountain Reservation in North Dakota. Twelve years later Peter Bakker did produce a more definitive classification based on his research in dozens of Michif speaking communities in North Dakota, Saskatchewan and Manitoba.

Crawford, John, Ida Rose Allard, and Harry Daniels. “Dialects of Michif.” Winnipeg: University of Manitoba, Department of Native Studies, October 31, 1885.

This is a transcript of a presentation given on October 31, 1885, at the *Metis Issues Series*, a symposium convened by Paul Chartrand when he was head of the Department of Native Studies at the University of Manitoba.


This illustrated children’s book is in both English and Michif. The story behind “The Giving Tree” was told to Leah by Saskatoon Metis Elder Frank Tomkins. The story contains all the Metis values of giving, family and respect and it teaches a lot of the values and the cultural traditions of being Metis. In the accompanying CD Norman Fleury tells the story in the Michif language.


This illustrated children’s book has text in English and Michif-Cree. It is accompanied by a compact disc. English narration, read by Leah Dorion; Michif narration, read by Rita Flamand.

Dorion, Leah (author and illustrator), Michif translation by Norman Fleury. *The Diamond Willow Walking Stick: A Traditional Métis Story about Generosity; Li kaan di sool: aen nistwayr di Michif li taan kayaash taanishi aen ishi*


In this paper Douaud gives a description of the community around Lac La Biche, gives case studies of language interference and an overview of ethnolinguistic interaction. He refuses to classify Michif as a patois because of the fact that there is no noticeable simplification or levelling in the language.


Douaud gives an historical account of the Métis of the Lac La Biche Mission in Alberta. Three pages of this article are devoted to an analysis of their Michif-Cree dialect.


Drapeau describes the influence of French on Betsiarutes Montagnais (Québec), which she compares with Michif.

This paper discusses the Michif phonological system(s), investigating the claim that there are two coexisting, distinct phonological systems in Michif: a French phonology for French vocabulary in Michif and a Cree phonology for Cree vocabulary in Michif. Evans gives examples of different phonological phenomena, including several which occur in both strata, concluding that Michif seems to be moving to a convergence of the two systems, rather than coexistence of two distinct systems.


This alphabet book is in English and Michif languages.


These resource materials are used by Rita Flamand in teaching the Michif language at the Camperville school. She uses the Ojibway double vowel writing system for the language. Rita was an informant and resource person for Dr. Peter Bakker when he was in Canada working on his Ph.D. thesis.


This lesson book recaps the lessons Rita Flamand used while teaching the Michif language at the Metis Resource Centre. The package includes two CD’s so the student can hear the spoken language.

In this essay Michif Elder Rita Flamand tells of her experiences as a Michif speaking school-girl in Camperville, Manitoba. She concludes with recommendations for reconciliation with the Metis and preservation of the Michif language.


This is a booklet which gives Michif and English translations for various Michif language conversational terms. Norman Fleury is a Métis from St. Lazare Manitoba; he is currently director of the Michif Languages Project of the Manitoba Métis Federation and coordinator of the Michif Language Revitalization Project of the Metis National Council.


This is a small primer of basic Michif vocabulary.


This 42 page primer has a pronunciation guide, vocabulary, conversational phrases, a short verb listing and examples of Michif prayers and invocations.


This CD and the accompanying text tell the Michif version of the story of Cinderella. This story has been passed down over many generations in Michif folklore. Norman Fleury, director of the MMF Michif Language Program narrates the story. The text was transcribed by Peter Bakker and translated by Peter Bakker and Norman Fleury. Fleury, Norman, Gilbert Pelletier, Jeanne Pelletier, Joe Welsh, Norma Welsh, Janice DePeel and Carrie Saganance. *Stories of Our People - Lii zistwayr di la naasyoon di Michif: A Métis Graphic Novel Anthology*. Saskatoon: Gabriel Dumont Institute, 2008.
These Métis stories seamlessly blend characters and motifs from Cree, Ojibway, and French-Canadian traditions into an exciting, unique synthesis. Métis stories are an invaluable treasure because they tell familiar stories in interesting ways while preserving elements of storytelling which have become rare to the Métis’ ancestral cultures. The book includes stories about the three Métis tricksters (Wiisakaychak, Nanabush, and Chi-Jean), werewolves (Roogaroos), cannibal spirits (Whiitigos), flying skeletons (Paakus), and of course, the Devil (li Jiyaab). Steeped in Michif language and culture, this graphic novel anthology includes the storytellers’ original transcripts, prose renditions of the transcripts, and five illustrated stories.


These Métis stories seamlessly blend characters and motifs from Cree, Ojibway, and French-Canadian traditions into an exciting, unique synthesis. Métis stories are an invaluable treasure because they tell familiar stories in interesting ways while preserving elements of storytelling which have become rare to the Métis’ ancestral cultures. The book includes stories about the three Métis tricksters (Wiisakaychak, Nanabush, and Chi-Jean), werewolves (Roogaroos), cannibal spirits (Whiitigos), flying skeletons (Paakus), and of course, the Devil (li Jiyaab). Steeped in Michif language and culture, this graphic novel anthology includes the storytellers’ original transcripts, prose renditions of the transcripts, and five illustrated stories.


At this conference, the authors presented their research aimed at securing United States government acceptance of the Little Shell people as an officially recognized tribe. Their study combines legal expertise with anthropological evidence emphasizing marriage, kinship, settlement patterns, Michif language, and cultural affinity to indicate tribal identity and fulfillment of federal requirements for recognition. Since then in 2000 the U.S. government has announced that they will recognize this group as a tribe.

The Little Shell group developed in Montana as an offshoot of the Turtle Mountain Tribe of North Dakota, and more specifically the Pembina Métis people of Chippewa and Cree descent who historically made up a majority population at Turtle Mountain. Minority subgroups were Métis who came to Montana directly from Canada, fleeing the oppression which followed the second Riel resistance of 1885. In Montana, this latter
group intermarried with the Pembina Métis who had settled at St. Peter’s Mission at Cascade, the Dearborn Canyon, and the Teton River Canyon in the 1870s and 1880s.


This book explores the results of language contact in Michif, an endangered Canadian language that is traditionally claimed to combine a French noun phrase with a Cree verb phrase, and is hence usually considered a 'mixed' language. Carrie Gillon and Nicole Rosen provide a detailed account of the Michif noun phrase in which they examine issues such as the mass/count distinction, plurality, gender, articles, and demonstratives. Their analysis reveals that while parts of the Michif noun phrase have French lexical sources, and the language has certain features that are borrowed from French, its syntax in fact looks very much like that found in other Algonquian languages. The final chapter of the book discusses the wider implications of these findings: the authors argue that contact does not create a whole new language category and that Michif should instead be considered an Algonquian language with French contact influence; they also extend their analysis to other mixed languages and creoles. The book will be of interest to Algonquian scholars, formal linguists in the fields of syntax, morphology, and semantics, and to all those working on issues of language contact.


This paper argues for the acceptance of “Creenglish” and “Michiflish,” linguistic hybrids of English and Cree and of English and Michif.


Patrick Gourneau was Turtle Mountain Tribal Chairman from 1953 to 1959. In this brief history there is an excellent summary of the early history and development of the Turtle Mountain Chippewa-Cree-Metis. He discusses the two groups living on the reservation, the full-blood Plains Ojibway (less than one percent of the population) and the Michif majority. He also describes the Michif language variations spoken at Turtle Mountain as well as an archaic French dialect and *Les Michif Anglais* spoken by the Scottish-English Michifs.


Hogman outlines some of the basic differences between Michif-Cree as spoken at Buffalo Narrows, Saskatchewan versus that of Turtle Mountain, North Dakota. He then describes one aspect of Michif grammar, agreement for animacy and gender.


In this snapshot overview, Hourie covers languages, traditional dance and music, the Michif flag and Louis Riel, the Métis founder of Manitoba.


Howard, an American anthropologist, discusses the Michif-Cree language and the customs of the unique group of Plains-Ojibwa and Métis living at Turtle Mountain, North Dakota. This research was done in the 1950s. He also analyses the material culture, spirituality and ceremonials of the Plains Ojibway as studied at Turtle Mountain and Waywayseecappo. There are a considerable number of interesting photographs in this book.


This work is intended to give guidance on Michif language preservation and revitalization. In this regard the literature review and Elder sample size is much too limited. The Elders she quotes are too heavily influenced by their Nehiyawak roots in their ontological thought and language.

In reviewing online resources for the Michif language the author is confused in referring to the www.learnmichif.com Metis Nation British Columbia
resource as “speakers...speaking a version of the language spoken in Manitoba.” In fact, in these clips Norman Fleury, the internationally recognized expert on Michif language is speaking the language of the Metis buffalo hunters of the 1700s and 1800s. He speaks the language used in the Michif declaration of Michif as the official language of the the Metis people passed by the Metis National Council in their Annual General Assembly of July 23, 2000. Norman has taught Michif for the Louis riel Institute, the Gabriel Dumont Institute, the Turtle Mountain Chippewa Cree at Belcourt, N.D., Brandon University and the University of Saskatchewan, and is currently a member of an International Michif Language Consortium assisting the Little Shell Tribe in Montana with their Michif language revitalization efforts.

The two most notable omissions in Isenke’s literature review are:


The Michif language expert guests who participated in the Métis Elders’ gatherings that were the basis of this book were: Rita Flamand, Sonny Flett, George Fleury, Norman Fleury, George McDermott, Rose Richardson, Elmer Ross, Grace Zoldy, Laura Burnouf and Karon Shmon.


This article is a report of the *Métis Elders Michif Conference* in Yellowknife North West Territories, February 19-20, 1993. Dene and Métis Elders recall Michif as the predominant language in Métis communities along the Mackenzie Valley.


This booklet offers interested readers a quick but informative overview of the history of the Métis community of the North West Territories. The authors maintain that this community is a mixture of Dene-French-Canadian and Red River Métis intermarriage. Information is chronologically presented with Métis origins being the first section in the book, followed by transportation systems, the coming of missionaries and formal education, Métis women, culture-art, social relations, the use of Michif, Métis veterans and current political organization.


Père Guy Lavallée, is a Métis Oblate priest from St. Laurent, Manitoba. He has a lifelong concern with preservation of the Michif language and collecting Elder’s historical and lifeways accounts. In this essay he examines the variety of Native languages spoken over the years at St. Laurent Manitoba and the influence that the Church, Church schools and later, public schools had on these languages, particularly on Michif-French. Father Lavallée was ordained as an Oblate priest in his home parish on July 6, 1968. He has served in numerous country and urban parishes over the years. He holds a Master’s degree in Cultural Anthropology from the University of British Columbia and has taught Native Studies at several Canadian Universities.

Father Lavallée examines the variety of Native languages spoken over the years at St. Laurent Manitoba and the influence that the Church, Church schools and later, public schools had on these languages and particularly on Michif-French.


Father Guy Lavallée (OMI) has put together a collection of prayers and invocations delivered around the time of the Canadian constitutional negotiations at Charlottown. There are two Michif-French prayers in this collection (pp. 1-6 and 38-39). Excellent color photos are included in the collection. The epilogue is written by Maria Campbell.


In 1987, Father Guy Lavallée conducted taped interviews with the Métis residents of St. Laurent, Manitoba. St. Laurent has had an interesting history and a unique Métis culture. The traditional language of this community is Michif-French or Métis-French, a very distinct dialect of Canadian French which has Cree and Ojibway syntax. Michif-French was once the object of fierce ridicule by Francophones—Breton French and French Canadians (Canayens)—who considered it as a “bad” form of French.

Father Lavallée donated this body of interviews known as the “St. Laurent Oral History Project” to the Gabriel Dumont Institute. All told, there were approximately 65 interviews collected for this project. Not all the interviews conducted appear on the website of the Virtual Museum of Metis History and Culture. The Gabriel Dumont
Institute only included those interviews for which we could obtain copyright. George Ducharme and Lawrence J. Barkwell of the Manitoba Métis Federation for working to obtain copyright in order to share these interviews with the public. A full set of these interviews rests with both the Gabriel Dumont Institute in Saskatoon, Professor Robert A. Papen (Université du Québec à Montréal), and the Manitoba Métis Federation in Winnipeg.


A dictionary of Michif-Cree as spoken on the Turtle Mountain Chippewa Cree Reservation in North Dakota. Now out of print, this is the most complete dictionary of the language. This dictionary contains some limitations since Michif in this anglicised written form does not capture all of the sounds of the language. Dr. John Crawford of the University of North Dakota acted as technical consultant to this project carried out by the Turtle Mountain Community College, and provided an introductory chapter to the book.


Saint Paul, Alberta was originally founded in 1895, by Father Lacombe and was originally known as Saint Paul des Métis. This thesis describes the phonological system of the French dialect spoken by the Métis of that area. Lincoln determines the features that characterize this Michif language by comparing it with standard French.


This booklet traces the development of the languages spoken by the Little Shell people from the late 1700s up to the present date. The languages they discuss are Anishinaabemowin (Ojibwe), French, Gaelic, Nakota (Assiniboine), Nehiyawak (Cree), and Michif.

This monograph traces the history of the early Chipewyan (Dene) at Ile-à-la-Crosse, the subsequent arrival of the Cree, the arrival of the English and French speaking fur traders which led to the creation of a variation of Cree with some French influence. There are several lists of North West Company and Hudson’s Bay Company employees from 1804 to 1884. The stories of the missionaries and Sister Sara Riel are recounted as well as Elder’s reminiscences from Marie Rose McCallum, Mary Ann Kyplain, Claudia Lariviere, Sister Therese Arcand, Tom Natomagan, Fred Darbyshire, Nap Johnson and Vital Morin. The book contains many maps and photographic images from both the past and present.


This study examines reflexive clauses in the Michif language. It shows that the conditions for the occurrence of the reflexive morpheme and the passive morpheme may be formulated by simply using concepts available in relational grammar. A second finding was that the structure of reflexive passive clauses involves retroherent advancement. Third, Michif has initially unaccusative clauses which also involve retroherent advancements with accompanying reflexive verb morphology.


Volume III is devoted to other more contemporary problems that impact the Métis, including the question of identity, education, government funding, and the Michif language.


The activities of the committee over the term of the project are documented as is the agenda and presentation at the final conference in Winnipeg.


The author discusses the French heritage of Turtle Mountain Reservation families; development of the Métis Michif language (a mixture of Cree and French), the effects of land allotment and Bureau of Indian Affairs schooling. She relates this to Louise Erdrich’s fictional depiction of the assimilation of reserve families over four generations. The two novels reviewed are part of Erdrich’s Dakota Quartet.


  The author compares processes in the development of Michif and the Tiwi and similar languages of Northern Australia.


  Dale McCreery is a Metis linguist currently working to revive the Nuxalk language in British Columbia and the Michif language in the Metis homeland. In 2015 he attended “Back to Batoche” and assisted the Louis Riel Institute with its Michif language workshops.


  This project proposal briefly describes the Michif-French language used in the North West Territories. In addition, a three-year workplan is outlined with plans for developing an appreciation for the language, language preservation and language documentation are also elucidated.


_____________

This paper prepared by Métis National Council staff reviews and includes: the Michif historical perspective, Aboriginal language use data, existing Michif programs and activities, strategies for language retention and promotion and future directions for the Michif language.


This book contains the language lessons Rita Flamand uses to teach Michif at the Metis Resource Centre and two CDs with the spoken language.


Louise Moine (née Trottier) writes beautifully about Métis family life after the turn of the century in rural Saskatchewan (at Val Marie near Lac Pelletier). The book has many pen and ink drawings. It has parallel text in English and in Cree syllabics. Moine’s autobiography confirms the presence of Michif language speakers at Val Marie, Saskatchewan where she grew up. “As a descendant of Indian, French and Scots ancestry, my life was more or less guided by a mixture of these three nationalities. Since my parents were both Métis, it was only natural that my Indian blood predominated. Our first language was a mixture of Cree and French” (unpaged).


Monette, a Band member from Turtle Mountain Reservation, examines the factors, which have led to the loss of the Michif language over the last one hundred years.

Louis Riel’s written French reflects more standard French than the Michif French language.

Murray, Bonnie. Translated to Michif by Rita Flamand, illustrated by Sheldon Dawson. 

This is Pemmican Publication’s first children’s book produced in the English and Michif languages. Rita Flamand, a Michif speaker from Camperville, Manitoba has provided the Michif text. She teaches the Michif language at the Metis Resource Centre in Winnipeg. A Michif pronunciation guide is provided as an appendix to this book.


Niederehe discusses the importance of Michif vocabulary sources such as Laverdure and Allard’s Michif Dictionary in the study of the French Canadian lexique and also discusses the survival chances for the Michif language itself.


As of 1996, all but three of Canada’s fifty Aboriginal languages faced extinction (Cree, Ojibwa and Inuk). The factors that bear upon language retention are discussed in this article. Again the Métis are ignored, thirty-three languages or groups are listed in the statistical table but the Michif language does not appear.


This children’s book written in English and Michif has an accompanying CD of Norman Fleury telling the story in the Michif language.


This article discusses Michif French.


This article discusses Michif French.


Papen discusses the high degree of linguistic variation among Michif speakers. He argues that the Michif language should be seen as a continuum with French and Cree at opposite poles. With this paradigm, he would ideally place speakers at various points on this continuum depending on the relative frequency and use of Cree or French grammatical structure. He provides examples of gender assignment, positional rules, conjunctions, and mixed complex sentence structures among disparate Michif dialects.


__________ “Michif: One Phonology or Two?” Paper presented at “Languages in Contact”: The 8th Workshop on Structure and Constituency in the Languages of the Americas (WSCLA). Brandon University, March 7-9, 2003.

__________ “French in contact with an Amerindian language: The case of Michif.” Paper read at the Linguistics Symposium on Romance Languages XXXIII, Indiana University, Bloomington. 2003.


Papen discusses the Michif French spoken at Belcourt and surrounding area in this paper.


Papen argues that because the Metis National Council has designated Michif-Cree as the historic Metis language, Francophone Metis have no way of preserving their Michif language. Papen argues for the recognition of French Mitchif.

In this paper, Papen and Bigot look at the variable use of the variants *sontaient, ontvaient* and *fontsaient* (forms of the irregular verbs ‘être’, ‘avoir’ and ‘faire’) in Michif French. Their data came from the *St. Laurent Oral History Project*. These are interviews gathered in 1987 when Father Guy Lavallée conducted taped interviews with the Métis residents of St. Laurent, Manitoba as part of his fieldwork for his MA thesis. A full set of these interviews rests with both the Gabriel Dumont Institute in Saskatoon, Professor Robert A. Papen (Université du Québec à Montréal), and the Manitoba Métis Federation in Winnipeg.


This illustrated children’s book is in the English and Michif languages. There is a CD in the pocket of the cover with the narration in both languages.


The Alfred Reading Series are children's books, which are culturally affirming. They are in English, French, Cree and Michif, and have an audio read-along component, entitled "Come and Read With Us". This book is the first installment in the Alfred Reading Series and it deals with an apprehensive Alfred and his first day at school. Like many children, both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal, Alfred feared going to school. Once Alfred met his teacher, his classmates and discovered his school's toys, goldfish and further learning, he welcomed the opportunity to return to school.


A charming little book, which tells how Alfred spent one summer with his grand parents – his *moshom* and *kokum*. In these carefree days of childhood, Alfred would listen to his grandfather tell stories, catch frogs in a nearby creek, and sleep in tent. The author was obviously reminiscing about time spent with his grandparents when he was a child.

In this book, Alfred is frightened by a big storm. Eventually, his father comes in and burns sweet grass, which shows respect to the Creator. Pelletier demonstrates how spiritualism plays a role in the every day life of Aboriginal people. The sweet grass soothes Alfred and he is eventually able to go back to sleep.


In this book, Alfred's sister Lisa, a nature lover, collects a small snake, which she calls "Sam". The problem is that Sam does not adapt well to his new environment – a large glass jar. Eventually, Lisa and Alfred's mother convinces the girl to return the snake to nature – where it belongs. This happens at the end of the book. The message for young readers is that we should not harvest wild animals for pets.


In this edition, Alfred and his cousin Leroy attend a pow wow. Alfred enjoys his time at the pow wow. By reading this book, young readers are given an inside view to Plains First Nations’ culture.


The Alfred Reading Series is designed to help improve literacy among pre-school and primary-level children. This illustrated five book series has accompanying audiotapes and a CD in French, English, Michif-Cree and Cree. These are the only children’s books we know of in the Michif language. The books tell the story of Alfred, a five year old Aboriginal boy, and his sister Lisa. Through their lives the readers gain an understanding of contemporary Métis and Indian culture.


Pentland examines the history of loanwords (partially and completely assimilated) in the Cree language, examines Michif’s use of two phonological systems (French and Cree). Interestingly, these phonological systems have little interaction. He concludes that not all loanwords derive from the same dialect of French, he distinguishes three varieties that appear to be chronologically different and correlates these with three types of Cree dialects.


This thesis focuses on the French portion of the Michif French-Cree language and its historical origins. To determine origins, semantic and phonological features that distinguish French Cree French from standard French were presented and compared with modern French of France and of Canada, archaic French dialects of the 16th to 18th centuries, and a few other North American French dialects. The author concludes that Michif-Cree French originated in the 16th and 17th century popular French speech of northwest and central France. Although it does not resemble any particular dialect of those times the Ile de France dialect appears to have influenced it more than the other archaic dialects. Last, Michif Cree French has some unique features that can be attributed to Canadian French and to Cree and English influences operating on the language as it evolved.


This chapter discusses Michif French.


This research is of very limited value. It is based upon a sample of one Michif speaker’s limited phrase and word list. There is a massive inventory of audio examples of Michif speech by a wide array of Michif speakers which could have been used for their research. They do not appear to be aware of the extensive Michif language resources available and this is reflected in the paper’s inadequate literature review.


This paper, based on a mainly syntactic and morpho-syntactic sketch of Michif, argues that Michif is a dialect of Plains Cree, which happens to borrow heavily from French. The reader should note that Rhodes retracts this view in his 1985 paper. Rhodes notes that Michif-Cree is spoken alongside the *joual* dialect of Canadian French. He examines the internal structure of verbs, the animacy agreement of verb stems and demonstratives, conjunct verbs, equative clauses, postpositions, possessives, adjectives, and quantifiers.


The author revisits his 1977 claim that Michif is a dialect of Cree. He presents phonological evidence, and argues that Michif is in fact not simply a dialect of Cree, but rather that it is a mixed language, with Cree as a substrate, and French as the superstrate. The author then discusses the origins of Michif and provides an overview of the thoughts of some of the scholars working in the field, until that time.


Rhodes examines the Métchif language practice of the repetition of clauses in a non-temporally organized fashion in narrative texts. This is compared to the Plains Cree practice of multiple embeddings of direct quotes. The overlay strategy in Métchif is not appertant in published collections of Plains Cree texts.


This thesis analyses the Michif language of the Metis people and offers the first systematic description of phonological distribution and patterning including segmental
inventories, stress assignment and syllabification, as well as a sketch of Michif morphology and morphological categories. It argues that Michif need not be analyzed as stratifying its lexical components according to historical source.


The goal of this book is to support adult Michif language courses for people with English as their main language. It does not presuppose any knowledge of any other language, and is meant to be taught over twelve weeks, with each chapter taking a week to complete. Of course, students (and teachers) may move more quickly or more slowly through the chapters if they prefer. At the end of this course, students will have a grasp of many of the basic concepts of the language and be able to communicate in simple sentences in a finite number of contexts. It is a good introduction to the language for anyone planning on doing a Master-Apprentice program with Michif elders, but should not be considered the final word on the language by any stretch of the imagination. The best place to learn Michif is orally, alongside the Michif Elders; this manual is an attempt to support students who find written word helpful and who do not have daily access to Elders, so that they may have another reference to help them with their studies.


Rosen argues that when we look at the Michif language synchronically, lexical patterns which were thought to pattern differently with respect to source language, are actually found to be merging to look more and more alike. This paper significantly advances our understanding of Michif, particularly as to its modern day usage. Michif is actually more unique than as previously described.


__________ “Towards Non-Stratification in Michif.” Paper presented at the Third Annual Bilingual Workshop on Theoretical Linguistics, Queen’s University, February 4-6, 2000.

__________ “A Phonology of Michif.” Paper presented at “Languages in Contact”: The 8th Workshop on Structure and Constituency in the Languages of the Americas (WSCLA). Brandon University, March 7-9, 2003.

This article gives a generative analysis of the variable surface ordering of demonstratives in Michif, a mixed language historically derived from French and Cree, and spoken by some Métis. It is claimed that all demonstratives in Michif originate in \([\text{Spec, DemP}]\) and raise to \([\text{Spec, DP}]\). Prenominal demonstratives occur when the head of the movement chain is pronounced, while postnominal demonstratives are the result of two factors: first, the pronunciation of the tail rather than the head of the demonstrative's movement chain, and second, the noun undergoing a last resort p-movement, adjoining to DemP. The different patterning is motivated via meaning differences in the corresponding patterns, appealing to the differences in the featural makeup of demonstratives. Pragmatic information, said here to be a contrastive focus feature, is posited on some demonstratives while not on others, yielding the different ordering and also a different interpretation.


The goal of this book is to support adult Michif language courses for people with English as their main language. It does not presuppose any knowledge of any other language, and is meant to be taught over twelve weeks, with each chapter taking a week to complete. Of course, students (and teachers) may move more quickly or more slowly through the chapters if they prefer. At the end of this course, students will have a grasp of many of the basic concepts of the language and be able to communicate in simple sentences in a finite number of contexts. It is a good introduction to the language for anyone planning on doing a Master-Apprentice program with Michif elders, but should not be considered the final word on the language by any stretch of the imagination. The best place to learn Michif is orally, alongside the Michif Elders; this manual is an attempt to
support students who find written word helpful and who do not have daily access to Elders, so that they may have another reference to help them with their studies.

Rosen, Nicole, Jeffrey Muehlbauer, and Élyane Lacasse. « L’espace des voyelles postérieures en michif français et cri des plaines. » Paper presented at the 78th congress of the association francophone pour le savoir, Montreal, Québec, April 29 – May 1, 2010.


This second edition includes updated grammatical explanations, and a new spelling system with nasalization represented.


Alexander Ross, a nineteenth century English Métis, was a newspaper man and a shrewd observer of Red River society. This excerpt from his 1856 history of the Red River community – The Red River Settlement: Its Rise, Progress and Present State – is a very useful primary document because Ross provides readers with his interpretation of the famous Guillaume Sayer trial in 1849, which resulted in a victory for the Métis and French-Canadian free traders. Ross asserts that the French Canadians were the first to shout “Le commerce est libre...Vive la liberte!” once it was clear that no penalty was to be imposed by the court after the guilty verdict was delivered (p.21). In addition, Ross provides readers with the first written reference to the Michif language: “...that the French Canadians and half-breeds form the majority of the population, and, to a man, speak nothing but a jargon of French and Indian” (Ibid).


This is a first hand account of one Metis family’s forced relocation from the community of Ste. Madeleine in Manitoba. The narrative for this story is taken from a longer conversation between Victoria Genaille née DeMontigny and Verna DeMontigny in the Michif language. The conversation is written in Michif with the English version given on a line by line basis.


Métis folklore has considerable historical significance, even if it has not been as documented as thoroughly as First Nations or Euro-Canadian traditions. This book documents many of the folk songs traditionally sung by the Prairie Métis. While most of these songs are in French, some are in Cree and in Michif. This book includes both lyrics and music notes. In addition, music notes for jigs and reels are included, as are a few legends in French. Perhaps the most poignant song is Louis Riel’s "Sur le champ de bataille" or "Over the Battle Field" (p. 36). Riel apparently wrote this song while he was awaiting his execution. Elder Joe Venne in Zelig and Zelig (p. 203), provides an English translation of this same song. Mr. Venne also provided the French version in the Métis songbook.


This very brief anthropology thesis is largely based on secondary sources. For Métis historical background she relies heavily on Alexander Ross (1856), Marcel Giraud (1945) and accounts from the fur trade journals and previously published articles from the North Dakota Historical Society. Schneider argues that the Mechif people persisted as an identifiable ethnic group because of their adaptive strategy of exploiting natural resource niches which others were not using. Furthermore, due to their organizational abilities, they prevailed in their confrontations with others up until 1871.


In “Michif Voices as Cultural Weaponry,” Pamela Sing discusses the role of language and literature in *hi/stories* of displacement, in this case of a people — the Métis. She argues that the language “specific to some of Western Canada’s Métis of French ancestry,” Michif, has the potential to reinscribe “a space that, to the Métis, feels like a *homeland*.” In her discussion of Maria Campbell, Sharon Proulx-Turner, Marilyn Dumont and Joe Welsh, Sing shows how Michif becomes a powerful way to sustain the connection between place and identity in spite of historical dispossession. “Love of words” in this context includes choosing to use a language that differs from standard English, a language embedded in imperial history and imbued with colonial values.


A listing of Michif pronouns, created by Heather Souter.


This thesis provides a transcription and translation of a Michif language narrative. The text of the “Whiskey Jack,” a hunting narrative, was elicited and recorded on tape by Professor John Crawford in the spring of 1979, from Justin La Rocque of San Clara, Manitoba. Mr. La Rocque, age 80, was born near Walhalla, North Dakota but moved to the San Clara area as a child and lived most of his life in the Duck Mountain area where San Clara is located.

The concept of a script, a stereotypic chain of events, which are culturally defined, is explained. A sketch of the narrative is provided, which shows how scripts connect to larger discourse structures. A proposal of how scripts affect the introduction of new information in a Michif text is discussed briefly. The author concludes that scripts allow new information to be introduced as if not totally new because of contextual familiarity and further aid the text by providing structure, connectivity, and coherence. This thesis represents one of the first efforts to provide a written version of a Michif language narrative with an accompanying translation.


St. Onge interviewed many Michif-French speaking Elders for this project. All the tapes are at the provincial archives, some however have restricted access.


This thesis provides gives analysis of the structure of the determiner phrase (DP) in Michif, based on data from The Michif Dictionary: Turtle Mountain Chippewa Cree, by Patline Laverdure and Ida Rose Allard (1983). Even though the majority of the DP is French, Cree contributes demonstratives and quantifiers. This thesis examines the use of articles, quantifiers and discontinuous constituents (where part of the DP appears to the left of the verb and the remainder is on the right). The syntax of the Michif DP is mixed, which two syntaxes at work in which the French-derived DP is embedded within the Cree-derived DP.

This article contains only a brief mention of Michif, based on Rhodes, 1977.


University of British Columbia, First Nation Languages Program, *Invited Speaker’s Series on Endangered Languages*.

- "Our Michif Language Heritage." 18 November 2003. Pearl LaRiviere, Ile la Crosse, Sask. In conjunction with *One hand helping the other: Healing with our Elder’s teachings in honour of Meñtis Culture. First Nations House of Learning, UBC*.


This booklet which accompanies the music recording gives a brief introduction to Turtle Mountain Michif music, the history of the Turtle Mountain Band and the Village of Belcourt. In a chapter entitled “Views from the Turtle Mountains” (pp. 5-10) Vrooman includes interviews with Michif Elders Francis Cree, “King” Davis, Alvina Davis, Delia La Floe, Fred Parisien, Fred Allery, Mildred Allery, Norbert Lenoir, Ray Houle, Mike Page and Dorothy Azure Page. The final chapter of the booklet gives descriptions of the songs, their cultural significance as well as the lyrics.

Nicholas Vrooman was the Director of the Institute for Métis Studies at the College of Great Falls Montana. He is the former state folklorist for both North Dakota and Montana. He produced the Smithsonian-Folkways recording *Plains Chippewa/Métis Music from Turtle Mountain* and was the primary folklorist/consultant for Michael Loukinen’s award winning documentary film, *Medicine Fiddle*. He wrote the new introduction for the reprint edition of Joseph Kinsey Howard’s book *Strange Empire* (1994).

This booklet discusses the Native drumming, fiddles, chansons and Rock and Roll music which is presented on the album. Part II of this booklet contains the words for eleven Michif songs. There is also a Japanese language edition of this booklet.


Vrooman gives a brief overview of the Turtle Mountain Michif people. The Michif people then reminisce about Michif ways, fiddle music and the jig. In Vrooman’s words: “Your (Michif) music is up close music, made for homes and families and neighbors, person to person. And what the fiddle and being Michif has to teach us, perhaps, what the medicine is, is that we are all really one people, at the same dance, stepping to a common tune.” (p.29)


Weaver presents a sketch of Michif verb morphology, then examines the literature on obviation in Algonquian languages, of which Cree is one. Michif has a noun phrase that is primarily French and a verb phrase that is primarily Cree. This thesis examines the effect that the loss of most Cree nouns has had on the proximate/obviate distinction usually found in Algonquian languages. This distinction is a cross referencing system for identifying which of several third persons in a given context is being referred to by a given verb. In a language that has lost most of its Cree nouns it is possible that this distinction was lost when the Cree noun morphology was lost. However, this research study found that this situation had not lead to a loss of the proximate/obviate distinction.

The Effects of Language Change and Death on Obviation in Michif.” In W. Cowan (Editor), Actes du Quatorzième Congrès des Algonquins. Ottawa: Carlton University, 1983: 261-268.
Weaver makes the case for sociolinguistic research on current Michif language use in terms of how those factors impact on Michif speech.


Whidden, an ethnomusicologist who teaches at Brandon University, Native Studies, provides an overview of the amalgam of musical styles, languages and socio-cultural elements present in Métis music. Seven Michif song examples are reprinted in this article.


Métis folklore has considerable historical significance, even if it has not been as documented as thoroughly as First Nations or Euro-Canadian traditions. This book documents many of the folk songs traditionally sung by the Prairie Métis. While most of these songs are in French, some are in Cree and in Michif. This book includes both lyrics and music notes. In addition, music notes for jigs and reels are included, as are a few legends in French. Perhaps the most poignant song is Louis Riel's "Sur le champ de bataille" or "Over the Battle Field" (p. 36). Riel apparently wrote this song while he was awaiting his execution. Elder Joe Venne in Zelig and Zelig (p. 203), provides an English translation of this same song. Mr. Venne also provided the French version in the Métis songbook.


This booklet and its companion audio-cassette is designed to aid beginners with the enunciation of Michif. Charlie White Weasel, now 70 years of age, is the son of Patrick Gourneau, who wrote an earlier short booklet called, *History of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians*. Charlie is proud to call himself a relative of Louis Riel (through his grandmother who was a MacLeod). He is the uncle of novelist Louise Erdrich.


York interviews Rita Flamand and others for this brief profile of Michif-Cree language.


Sixteen Michif prayers are included in this booklet; it includes The Lord’s Prayer, The Apostle’s Creed, The Holy Rosary, the Prayer to the Holy Spirit, The Beatitudes and a Bedtime Prayer. All of the translations are by Grace Ledoux-Zoldy. The double vowel writing system for Michif is used.


Michif on the Internet

You Tube: Michif Language and Michif Cultural Practices:

- Louis Riel Institute Michif Language https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nnhAe-gWlzI Part 1 of seven videos

- Louis Riel Institute: Michif Language Examples "St Madelaine Conversation" https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v4ZRlGwK8y0

- Louis Riel Institute Michif Language Examples: Tea https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z6--tO2WGgw

- Louis Riel Institute: Michif Language Examples "Ice Fishing" https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tbDpGGEsoAc

- Louis Riel Institute: Michif Language Examples "A Blessing for the Meal" https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pZdhJvBFsXw&list=PL-ebGXpOgDuCtixItzscDH8oXFotA&index=4

- Louis Riel Institute: Michif Language Examples "The Lost Dog"
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jvSnGGEwKgUk

- Louis Riel Institute: Michif Language Examples "Skinning a Rabbit"
  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pNmQbIlIm0e0

- Louis Riel Institute: Michif Language Examples "Catching Frogs"
  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LJGjh4b-GFU

- Louis Riel Institute: Michif Language Examples "Oh Where oh where has my little dog gone (song)"
  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5cjaEjw6x-U

- Louis Riel Institute: Michif Language Examples "Rooster Eggs"
  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V_bCVrXXZcs

- Louis Riel Institute: Michif Language Examples "Medicines and How We Used Them"
  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WBX-w-JD9F8

- Louis Riel Institute: Michif Language Examples "How to Pluck a Chicken"
  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zMYR6X0opk8

- Louis Riel Institute: Michif Language Examples "The Michif Way of Hunting"
  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jk3KSmnaC24

- Louis Riel Institute: Michif Language Examples "Drying Meat, Fish and Berries"
  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cXWgalEBMzE

- Louis Riel Institute - Speaking Michif-French "Bannock" Part 5/7
  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8PrG0Sa8bwo

- Louis Riel Institute - Speaking Michif-French "Frog Picking" Part 2/7
  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cu8eFmFgNes

- Louis Riel Institute - Speaking Michif-French "Trapping" Part 7/7
  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yDi5nerEVXE

- Louis Riel Institute - Speaking Michif-French "Duck Hunting" Part 6/7
  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=90NsiK836_M

- Grace (Ledoux) Zoldy (in Michif) Honored Grandmother Award Acceptance Speech
  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ai_HwE1tdVQ
• Ste. Madeleine: A story in Michif about the expulsion of the Métis community of Saint Madeleine in the 1930s, told by Grace Zoldy (Ledoux). 
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8TPKnNY1TZg

Michif Language Videos, Audio Tapes, CD’s and CD-ROM’s


__________ *Michif language cassette tape of Joe Fagnan, Leo and Maggie Lafreniere*, recorded at Camperville, Manitoba, July 17, 1990. Copy on file with MMF.

__________ *Michif language cassette tape of Maggie Ledoux and Grace Zoldy*, recorded at Camperville, Manitoba, July 10, 1990. Copy on file with MMF.

__________ *Michif language cassette tape of Peter and Stanley Parenteau (Part I)*, recorded at Camperville, Manitoba, July 15, 1990. Copy on file with MMF.

__________ *Michif language cassette tape of Peter and Stanley Parenteau (Part II)*, recorded at Camperville, Manitoba, July 15, 1990. Copy on file with MMF.


This CD allows students to listen to an extensive Michif language vocabulary followed by the English for each word or phrase. Norman Fleury is the Michif speaker on the CD. There is a text file that accompanies the CD. Heather Souter worked with Peter Bakker and Norman Fleury to make copies of this CD freely available within the Metis community.


This video portrays the preparations for a Michif feast at Grace and Walter Menard’s lodge south of Camperville Manitoba. Norman Fleury, the Michif Language Project
director interviews Louis Ledoux Sr., an 89 year old Michif elder. All the speech on this video is in Michif-Cree. The video also features fiddle music by Rene Ferland who is accompanied by Patrick Gambler on guitar.


This tape accompanies Condon’s book of the same title. The narration told in both English and Michif-Cree. Bruce Flamont provides the translation and narration in Michif.


Chris Blondeau Perry narrates in Michif. This Michif-Cree is slightly different compared to what is spoken in Manitoba.


Michif narration on this video is provided by Gilbert Pelletier of Yorkton, Saskatchewan. This video contains an overview of traditional Michif culture and numerous interviews with Michif Elders.


This video, much of which is in the Michif language, tells the story of Crescent Lake from the perspective of Elders and former residents. It surveys, story telling, dancing and the teaching of children about the old ways, thus showing the rich cultural and social life of this community.

Fleury, Don. (Interviewer). Michif language tape of Leo Belhumeur, recorded February 27, 1996. Copy on file with MMF.

__________ Michif language tape of Joe Fleury, recorded March 5, 1996. Copy on file with MMF.

__________ Michif language tape of Joe Bell, recorded March 21, 1996. Copy on file with MMF.

__________ Michif language tape of Eva Fleury, recorded March 25, 1996. Copy on file with MMF.

__________ Michif language tape of Frank Fleury, recorded March 25, 1996. Copy on file with MMF.

This is a large set of interviews conducted by Father Guy Lavallée with the Métis residents of St. Laurent, Manitoba. St. Laurent has had an interesting history and a unique Métis culture. The traditional language of this community is Michif-French or Métis-French, a very distinct dialect of Canadian French which has Cree and Ojibway syntax. Michif-French was once the object of fierce ridicule by Francophones—Breton French and French Canadians (Canayens)—who considered it as a “bad” form of French.

Father Lavallée donated this body of interviews known as the “St. Laurent Oral History Project” to the Gabriel Dumont Institute. All told, there were approximately 65 interviews collected for this project. Not all the interviews conducted appear on this website. The Gabriel Dumont Institute only included those interviews for which we could obtain copyright. George Ducharme and Lawrence J. Barkwell of the Manitoba Métis Federation for working to obtain copyright in order to share these interviews with the public. A full set of these interviews rests with both the Gabriel Dumont Institute in Saskatoon and the Manitoba Métis Federation in Winnipeg.


Ledoux, Abraham. Michif language tape of Abel Genaille, recorded in Duck Bay, 1971. Copy on file with MMF.

Manitoba Association of Native Languages. An Interactive Guide to Seven Aboriginal Languages. (Cree, Dene, Michif, Ojibwe, Dakota, Oji-Cree and Saulteaux). K.I.M.

Norman Fleury was the consultant and Michif-Cree speaker for this interactive CD ROM. Topics such as days of the week; months, weather; feelings and other descriptive vocabulary are covered in each language on this material aimed at early elementary school children. A teachers guide with picture cues can be purchased with the CD.


A cassette tape containing nine Michif language children’s songs.


Norton, Ruth. (Facilitator). Video of the Michif-Cree language group at the Michif Languages Conference, recorded at Winnipeg, June 28, 1985. Copy on file with MMF.

Video of the Michif-French language group at the Michif Languages Conference, recorded at Winnipeg, June 27, 1985. Copy on file with MMF.

Video of the Michif-French language group at the Michif Languages Conference, recorded at Winnipeg, June 28, 1985. Copy on file with MMF.

Video of the Michif-Expressions group at the Michif Languages Conference, recorded at Winnipeg, June 28, 1985. Copy on file with MMF.


This booklet and its companion audio-cassette are designed to aid beginners with the enunciation of Michif. Charlie speaks the Michif language with a noticeable English accent. He learned Michif at Turtle Mountain Community College.