

ɔɪv<ɥB ɔ̃ɟɪɪɪ̃bUP ɔ"Δɤ° ɫ"ɪɪVΔ.ɪ°Δ9Δ.ɔ̃ ɤbσΔ̃ɤ̃ɤb<ΔC



FIG. 1. *Kā-wāwiyēyaki* style. /nistam īyiyumasinihikan/ Northern East-Cree.

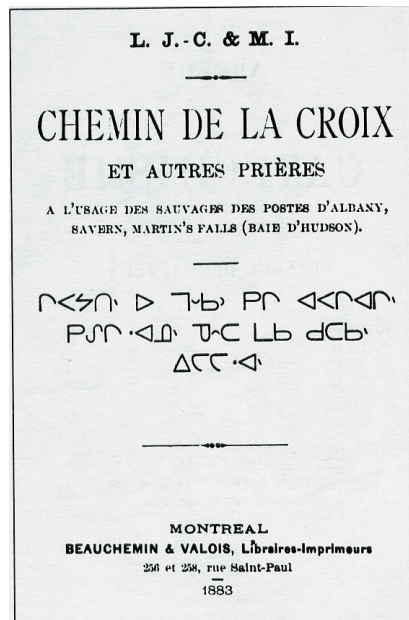


FIG. 2. *Kā-ayisawēyaki* style. /cīpayātik omēškan kici apacihācik kī[ē]šiciwanohk nēsta māka kotakak ililiwak/ Moose Cree

DIVERSITY IN LINGUISTIC VARIATION

line finals, and *kā-ayisawēyaki* finals are usually mid-line: ʙ·ʙ̄^ʌ vs ʙ·ʙ̄^ʌ /kwayask/. Some, such as the c-final and w-final have a stronger tendency than others to be mid-line in *kā-wāwiyēyaki* fonts as well: Δ·<- /wīpac/, ασC° /nanitaw/.

Blackfoot finals are all top-line, except for the t-final, which is mid-line. Dakelh finals are generally mid-line in old printed texts, although there are some fonts which place the finals top-line. Occasionally in some Dakelh texts (such as gravestones), a few finals are the same size as the rest of the syllabics, for example: ʎ⊙ʂ instead of ʎ⊙^s /payas/. This may be due to the craftsman’s poor knowledge of the language.

Althought there are tendencies for final placement in the languages discussed above, there is are no definitive rules. It is in the northern Dene languages where the location of finals is very important to proper pronunciation. CF Dene orthography differentiates top-line and mid-line finals. Such distinctions can be seen in the table below—each final is preceded by the syllabic /da/.

TOP-LINE	PRONUNCIATION	MID-LINE	PRONUNCIATION
C`	dɑ (nasal)	C`	dak
C'	t'a (ejective)	C'	dap
C ^c	dax	C ^c	dam

The top-line ^c is also used to indicate the following sound is an “aspirate”: ^cɫ /tʰa/, ^cb /ka/, ^cC/⊙ /ta/.

AE Dene also has a consistant pattern of final placement. When a final is baseline, it represents a consonant sound only—no vowel. If the final is topline, it is a diacritic modifying the following syllabic.

TOP-LINE	PRONUNCIATION	BASE-LINE	PRONUNCIATION
ɫ̄	dla (d + la)	C-	dad
ɫ̄	tla (t + la)	C _v	dat
ɫ̄	ʰa (θ + la)	C _j	daθ

While final placement in most syllabics languages may be stylistically conventional, it would in no circumstances impede legibility. In northern Dene languages on the other hand, the location of the final indicates pronunciation.

