

Stoney (Alexis)

Stoney is a Siouxan language of the Dakota group, spoken on three reserves in Alberta. It is most closely related to Assiniboine, spoken in Saskatchewan and Manitoba.

The dialect recorded here is that of the Alexis Reserve, near Edmonton. This dialect preserves four ejective consonants [p', t', tʃ', k'] that the Morley dialect (spoken on a reserve west of Calgary) has lost (Cook 1990). Whereas both Morley and Alexis dialects have five vowel qualities, they have different nasal vowels. Of the five vowel qualities [i, e, a, o, u], Morley dialect has only three nasal counterparts [ĩ, ã, ũ], whereas in the Alexis dialect there is a nasal counterpart for each corresponding oral vowel (Cook 1990). Furthermore, the Alexis dialect has phonemic vowel length for each of the five qualities both oral and nasal (Cook 1990).

The consonants of Alexis Stoney:

plain	p	t	tʃ	k	
aspirated	p ^h	t ^h	tʃ ^h	k ^h	
ejective	p'	t'	tʃ'	k'	ʔ
fricatives		s	ʃ	x	h
		z	ʒ	ɣ	
sonorants	m	n	j	w	

There is no apparent phonetic variation for aspirated and glottalized stops, but the plain stops are more likely to be fully voiced in intervocalic position. They are usually unvoiced or only partially voiced in initial position. In either case, the plain stop is lenis (Cook 1990).

The bilabial ejective is extremely rare, suggesting its imminent demise (Cook 1990).

The vowels of Alexis Stoney:

Short	i ī	u ū	Long	i: ī:	u: ū:
	e ē	o ō		e: ē:	o: ō:
	a ā			a: ā:	

The nasalized mid vowels are rare, which is not surprising considering the fact that Morley Stoney and Assiniboine do not have such vowels (Cook 1990).

The recorded utterances are those of a woman of the Alexis band, approximately 65 years of age.

Each word is spoken three times (except the first word, which is spoken twice).

Consonants:

Plosives

1	[p]	[póyā]	"blow"
2	[p ^h]	[p ^h óya]	"nose"
3	[pʰ]	[pʰo]	"steam, mist"
4	[t]	[tówā]	"look" (imp.)
5	[t ^h]	[t ^h ahú]	"neck"
6	[tʰ]	[tʰatʰát]	"he's paralyzed"
7	[tʃ]	[tʃahpá]	"mudhen"
8	[tʃ ^h]	[tʃ ^h ápa]	"beaver"
9	[tʃʰ]	[kitʃʰ]	"backpack"
10	[k]	[kaná]	"scatter, spill" (imp.)
11	[k ^h]	[k ^h uté]	"shoot it" (imp.)
12	[kʰ]	[kʰu]	"give" (imp.)

Vowels:

Oral

1	[a]	[t ^h amá]	"birch"
2	[a:]	[t ^h ama:]	"cow moose"
3	[e]	[até]	"father"
4	[e:]	[waxpét]e:]	"leafy green"
5	[i]	[miʃtímat]	"I'm sleeping"
6	[i:]	[tʃ ^h ãók ^h i:n]	"shelter"
7	[o]	[k ^h ok ^h á]	"rotten"
8	[o:]	[k ^h o:k ^h a]	"bell"
9	[u]	[mak ^h úte]	"he shoots at me"
10	[u:]	[k ^h isú:sa]	"Chinese"

Nasal

1	[ã]	[k ^h ã]	"sinew"
2	[ã:]	[t ^h ã:]	"big"
3	[ẽ]	[p ^h oyónaxte]	"mallard"
4	[ẽ:]	[maʃtẽ:]	"rabbit"
5	[ĩ]	[ak ^h ĩ]	"saddle"
6	[ĩ:]	[mitʃ ^h ĩ:]	"my son"
7	[õ]	[õmá]	"the other"
8	[õ:]	[õ:hã]	"among"
9	[ũ]	[t ^h ap ^h ũ]	"cheek"
10	[ũ:]	[iktú:mi]	"prophet"

References:

Cook, Eung-Do (1990) "The sound system of Stoney spoken at Alexis Reserve and recommendations for a practical orthography: a report to the Alexis Indian band," unpublished ms.