

On the historical relationship between Cheyenne and Arapahoan

The most significant current questions in Algonquian historical linguistics deal with the classification of daughter languages into subgroups. Only Eastern Algonquian and Core Central Algonquian are established as intermediate dialects. Salmons (2022) argues that shared phonological innovations support viewing Cheyenne and Arapahoan as descended from a common dialect, based on the fact that Cheyenne and Arapahoan share a number of typologically unusual changes, unconditioned loss of *k*, merger of *y* and *w* (including glide > *n*). as well as some parallel vowel shifts, *o* > *i* and *a* > *o*. Both are tone languages in a family that otherwise lacks tone.

The purpose of this paper is to evaluate this claim. Drawing data from published sources and fieldwork we will present a detailed history of Cheyenne reflexes of PA **k* (Leman, 1980) and compare that history with the well-understood history of Arapahoan (Goddard 1974). The Cheyenne loss of *k* interacts with other changes in Cheyenne, including the development of *n* from pre-Cheyenne **y* (Goddard, 1988). Focusing primarily on the PA consonant clusters with **k*, we will show that neither the order of the changes in Cheyenne and Arapaho nor the conditions for them support the view that Cheyenne and Arapaho share a common history.

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Goddard, Ives. 1988. Pre-Cheyenne **y*. In, In Honor of Mary Haas. From the Haas Festival Conference on Native American Linguistics, ed. by William Shipley. Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter. Pp. 345-60.

Leman, Wayne. 1980. Some Cheyenne consonant alternations: Synchronic and diachronic views. *Papers of the 11th Algonquian Conference*, ed. by William Cowan, pp. 262-273. Ottawa: Carleton University.

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