

There are a few aspects of Carrier about which I would like to ask you a few questions. I have used your article on Carrier very often in learning about the Carrier language syllabic orthography. There are a few inconsistencies between your article and what I see in the texts. Most likely, I have misunderstood either the texts or your analysis, or perhaps there were some typos made during the Missionary Newspaper printing process. In any case, I would greatly appreciate if you could clarify these issues for me.

The š Final

On page 17, ¶2, you ask the question why would Father Morice include a graph for isolated /š/ š? In looking through the old Newspaper Carrier, I have found some instances of the š final.

- 1) 1st page of 1894 “Carrier 22 Carrier, Carrier 4 Carrier”, §2, ¶1, line7, word8: *šND.
- 2) Pg. 32 (Carrier Prayer Book), ¶1, line 6, word 5: DšQ

The first example is a proper name I don't recognise, and the second example has the /š/ before /y/. Does /s/ -> /š/ - y?

The long vowel °

In footnote 15 on page 17, you discuss the small circle to indicate a lengthened vowel, and that it was not used. I have seen this ring used about once or twice per page in the newspapers. Some examples:

- 4) Pg. 43, ¶1, line 5, word 1: E°
- 5) 1st page of 1894 “Carrier 22 Carrier, Carrier 4 Carrier”, §2, ¶1, line7, word2: AE°.
- 6) Pg. 65, §1, ¶2, line 2, word 1, Carrier
- 7) Pg. 65, §2, ¶1, line 14, word 3, DžE°.

Examples 4–6 all have the pattern E°. Is this a postposition, that perhaps is marked with the ° to disambiguate it from other words ending in E? Something like this happens in Chipewyan and Slavey.

On the rarity of ʷ

You comment how the /ŋ/ phoneme is very rare in Carrier. I do however see the final ʷ used fairly often in the newspapers.

- 8) Pg. 43, §2, ¶1, line 3, word 3: WʷD
- 9) Pg. 43, §2, ¶1, line 1, word 6: Δʷ
- 10) Pg. 65, §2, ¶1, line 15, word 6: DʷΛʷz

I assume that in 10, the ʷ is marking the /ŋ/ allophone of /n/. However examples 8 and 9 are before /d/. Morice describes ʷ as “Nasal”. What is the status of ʷ in these instances?

Thank-you for your time and interest in these questions, Chris Harvey.