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## Siouan and Algonquian Linguistic Interference

In 1695, Father Gabriel Marest reported that the Nakoda (aka Assiniboine) were allied with the Cree against the Dakota, their linguistic and cultural cousins, and he added that: “Many Assiniboëls speak Kriq and many Kriqs, Assiniboël.” (Thwaites 1896-1901:66, 107-109). This comment seem to portrait large scale bilingualism (the expected consequences of intermarriage, as well as military and commercial alliances), a situation that has been reported in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. My presupposition is that if Assiniboine and Plains Cree were effectively bilingual, then we can hope to find some traces of this age-old bilingualism despite the received wisdom that Siouan languages (Parks & Rankin 2001:109), but this applies to Algonquian languages too, only rarely borrow from neighboring, non-European languages. Although I do not think cultural restriction on borrowing in Siouan languages is false, I do believe this topic deserves more attention. In this talk I will explore linguistic interference between Nakoda and Plains Cree (who are known to have been allies in the historical period and maybe before), but also in other Siouan (Hocank, Stoney, Dakota) and Algonquian (Potawatomi, Arapaho, Cheyenne, Blackfoot) languages of the North American Plains and show that linguistic interference for this pair of language families implies lexical borrowing and morphological calques, as well as the sharing of common ontological metaphors and naming practices.

Parks, R. Douglas, and Robert L. Rankin

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Thwaites, Reuben Gold

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