I Lived With The Eskimos

by Sydney R Montague

Appendix II - Glossary

The Eskimo language is unwritten. The majority of the sounds are high-pitched, but some sounds take on a different meaning when uttered in a low voice. There are a number of guttural sounds, and words often end in a sort of gulp, as though the speaker gasped for breath. The Eskimo has no word for the pronoun I, nor for the words me, my or mine. He refers to everything as One, his idea being that everything goes to make up a complete whole, and that everyone has an equal share in everything. Each one must work to live. A dead man's possessions, excepting dogs, kyak, sled and omiak, are buried with him. If a son wants to have a rifle, he will have to earn it; he cannot inherit that from his father. The language of the women and girls sounds differently from that of men and boys, so the white man must be careful not to give any word the accent which make it like "woman talk." The words that follow are spelled as they sound to me; another man might use different letters to convey the same idea.

	I don't know
Ah Chook	
	Plenty
Ah-ma-shoot	
	Home of the little auk
Akpatok	
Auk shu nak	The Sun; the strong light; also Aurora Borealis

	Hello! Be strong
Auk shu ni	
	The Strong One
Auk shu nook	
	Sculpin fish
Cop-ee-nock	
	Sugar
Ee mu yuk	
	Salmon
Ee-ay-lak or Ee- ey-look, Ee-ka- look	
	Eye
Ee-gee-yee	
	Maybe
Ee-ma-haw	
	Thirsty one
Ee-ma-too-yuk	
	Track of white partridge
Ee-tig-eeynak	

	Man
Enook or Ee- nook	
	Come here; come
Hi gate	
	Left turn (driving dogs)
Houk!	
	Stop! (driving dogs)
How!	
Huskie	Eskimo dog of Western Territories
	Snowhouse
Igloo	
lk-kom-mim-ik	Matches; white man's little stic (same word for stove or fire)
	Where is everyone?
III-lun-atik-nan-tima?	

Inuits	Tribes of Eskimos living near coast and on islands of Northeastern American Continent
	Yesterday
lp-ah-sup	
lpp-ah-sanh-nee	Indefinite number of days before yesterday
	Walrus
lvik	
	Lots of walrus
lvik-am-ah-shoot	
Kad-Lou-Nok, Ee-nook Ka-sak	White man who is almost an Eskimo
	Always hungry; starving
Kah pa tuk	
Kah par	Hungry; let's get something to eat
	Shoes
Kamik	

	Canoe or small boat
Kay-ak or ki-ak or kyak	
	Broth; stew
Kay-uk	