

# **LEARN MICHIF BY LISTENING.**

**CD produced by Peter Bakker and Norman Fleury.**

**First edition.**

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*This text contains the English and Michif texts of the first CD.*

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*The content may also be put on cassette tapes.*

Realized with the support of Heather Souter and Torkil Oesterbye

This text file accompanies the CD "Learn Michif" . Michif, like any living language, is first and foremost an oral language. The sounds, words and sentences on the CD are the important items. These texts are made available just to support the oral texts on the CD. It is much more important to learn to understand - and speak - the language than to learn to write it.

If you want the CD, write to: [linpb@hum.au.dk](mailto:linpb@hum.au.dk)

Please note: two distinct spelling systems are used for Michif here.

One system was devised in the 1970s by the Turtle Mountain Métis, which is based on English spelling.

The other is based on a more phonetic system, where double vowels are used for long vowels, and each letter or letter combination always represents the same sound. This spelling was devised by Rita Flamand, with some modifications by the linguist Robert Papen of Montreal.

Both have been in use for a number of years. It is up to the users to adopt the system they like most.

## CONTENTS

1	Greetings	<i>Turtle Mountain spelling</i>
2.	Questions 1	<i>Flamand-Papen spelling</i>
3.	More questions	<i>Turtle Mountain spelling</i>
4.	Weather 1	<i>Flamand-Papen spelling</i>
5	Weather2	<i>Turtle Mountain spelling</i>
6.	Meals	<i>Turtle Mountain spelling</i>
7.	Food	<i>Turtle Mountain spelling</i>
8.	In the kitchen	<i>Turtle Mountain spelling</i>
9.	Michif foodways	<i>Turtle Mountain spelling</i>
10.	Traditional Michif Medicines	<i>Turtle Mountain spelling</i>
11.	Body parts	<i>Flamand-Papen spelling</i>
12.	Animals	<i>Turtle Mountain spelling</i>
13.	Days of the Week	<i>Turtle Mountain spelling</i>
15.	Culture words	<i>Flamand-Papen spelling</i>
16.	Commands	<i>Flamand-Papen spelling</i>
17.	Verbs/actions	<i>Flamand/Papen spelling</i>
18.	Some verb forms	<i>Turtle Mountain spelling</i>
18.	More verb forms	<i>Turtle Mountain spelling</i>
20.	Verb list	<i>Flamand-Papen spelling</i>
21.	Word list	<i>Turtle Mountain spelling</i>
22.	Enn kont/ A story	<i>Turtle Mountain spelling</i>
23.	Generic Prayer	<i>Turtle Mountain spelling</i>

## **1 Greetings**

## ***Turtle Mountain spelling***

Hello.	Tawnshi
How are you?	Tawnshi kiya?
How are you? (plural)	Tawnshi kiyawow?
I am fine.	Nimiyou ayawn.
What is your name?	Tawnshi eyishinikawshoyan?
My name isY	DishinikawshonY
How=s the weather?	Tawnshi ayshikeeshikawk?
Still the same.	Ekoushi kiyawpit.
How about you?	Kiya mawka?
I=m the same, too.	Ekoushi neeshta.
For sure.	Tapway outi.
How are they?	Tawnshi wiyawow?
How do you feel?	Tawnshi itamaschihouyen?
Where are you from?	Tawnday pe=oototayan?
I=ll see you again.	Meena ka wawpamitin.
Thank you for coming.	Marsi, ekeepay=itootayan.
Where did you go?	Tawnday kaw itoustayyen?
Come and visit sometime.	Paykeewkay ahpee.
What did you say?	Kaykwawy kaw itwayyen?
What are these?	Kaykwawy oonhin?
What is this?	Ooma?

What would you like to do? Kaykwawy ay noostay oushistawyin?  
Can you do it? Kashkistawn cheen?

Yes. You too. Wee. Keeshtawow.

I don=t understand. No nishtoohten.

## 2. Questions 1

### *Flamand-Papen spelling*

How are you?	Tawnshi kiya?
How about you?	Kiya mawka?
Where do they live?	Tawnday weekichik?
Who is this?	Awanaw awa?
Who is it?	Awanaw kiya?
How do you say it in Michif?	Tawnshi eh itwayk awn Michif?
What do you think?	Tawnshi eh itaytamawn?
Where are you going?	Tawnday eh itohtayen?
Is this O.K?	Si kwarik chee ooma?
Did you see him/her today?	Ki wapamow chee anoush?
How much does it cost.	Tawnima ikouhketakihtayk?
What=s your name?	Tawnshi eh shinikawshooyen?
Are you hungry?	Kinoohstaykatawn chee?
What=s this called?	Kaykwawy ooma eh shinihkawtek?
How are all of you?	Tawnshi kiyawow?
How is he/she?	Tawnshi wiya?
How is your family?	Tawnshi ta famee?
How are they?	Tawnshi wiyawow?
Are you ready?	Ti paree? (cheen) Ashay chee

### 3. More questions

### *Turtle Mountain spelling*

What is this?

Keekway uma?

Can you help me?

Kawiichihin chiin?

What are you doing?

Keekway ushihtayen?

How is this made?

Taanshi uma eeushikateek

What color is this?

Kel kuleur uma?

How do you use this?

Taanshi eshitapaschitayen uma?

Did you sleep well?

Kimiyeunipaan chii?

Good morning.

Taanshi kiya mataen?

Get up!

Wanishka!

Where do you live?

Taandee wiikiyen?

Tell me about your family.

Wiihtamawin keekway pur ta famiy

Do you have children?

Lii zanfan chiin kitayaawaawak?

Yes, I have two children.

Wii, deu lii zanfan dayaawaawak

What did you do yesterday?

Keekway kaaushitaayen yeer?

I went to church yesterday.

La mes giituhtaan yeer.

I went to church and I went to mess.

Daan ligliiz giituhtaan pi la mes giituhtaan yayr

What will you do tomorrow?

Keekway ushitayen dimae?

I am going to Saskatchewan tomorrow

Dimaen Saskatoon neutuhtawn. Saskatoon Saskechewan  
neutuhtawn

Can you tell a story?

Enn istwer kitaachimon

How is the weather?

Tawnshi eshikiishikahk?

Tawnshi li tawn?

#### 4. Weather 1

#### *Flamand-Papen spelling*

It is raining	kimuwann
The weather is bad	machikiishikaw
It is snowing	mishponn
It is cold	kishinaaw
It is chilly	tahkaayaaw
Thunder	li toneur
Northern lights	lii chiraan
It is hot	kishiteew
It is a nice day	miyeukishikaaw
Hail	la grel
It is cloudy	yiikwashkwann
It is summer	litii uma
It is fall	
It is winter	liver
	piponn
It is spring	li praentan
	shiikwann
It is mild weather	miyokiishikaw
	li bon tan
It is slippery	shuushkwaaw
It is freezing	ahkwatinn
It is foggy	la-bram-iwann
He moves out	shipweehteew
	kii-li-move-ihiiw
The ice melts	tikhishow
	la glas tikhishow



## **5 Weather2**

## ***Turtle Mountain spelling***

I feel cold.	Ga wawchin.
Its chilly.	Tahkawyow.
Mishpoun.	It=s snowing.
Yesterday was quite warm.	Yayr kee kishitayw
It=s raining.	Kimouwan.
It will snow tomorrow.	Ka mishpoun dimaen.
We had a hot summer last year.	Kee kishitayw l=itee pasee.
It=s windy	Yootin
It is going to get windy.	Weeyootin.
It rained yesterday	Kee kimouwan yayr.
It snowed last night.	Kee mishpoun yayr a swayr.
It was windy yesterday.	Kee yootin yayr.
It snowed last week.	Kee mishpoun la s=men pawsee.
It=s getting chilly.	Mawchi tahkawyow.
It=s getting cloudy today.	Mawchi eekwashkwun anoush.
Clear skies.	Wawshayshkwun. or Wawshayyow
Thunder.	Li toneur.
It will snow soon.	Weepat ka mishpoun.

## 6. Meals

### *Turtle Mountain spelling*

What did you eat?

Kaykwawy kaw meechiyen?

What did you drink?

Kay kwawykaw minihkwayyen?

I=m thirsty.

Ni nohtay awpawkwawn.

What do you want to drink?

Kaykwawy nohtay minehkwayyen?

Eat with us.

Wetoushpahminan.

I haven=t eaten today.

Nimoya gee meetshoun anoush.

I=d like a drink.

Ga minihkwawn. (Noohteh minihkwawn.)

Are you hungry?

Keenohtaykatawn chee?

We are going to eat at the restaurant. Dan li café nu meetshoonan.

Dan li restoran neumeechoonan

I=ll have some tea.

Li tea ga minihkwawn.

We are all going out to eat now.

Kahkiyuw nu doo meetshoonan awndor law oma.

## **7. Food**

### ***Turtle Mountain spelling***

The Michif meatballs are delicious. Li boulet di Michif weehkatishahak.

I made bag pudding for New Years. En pouchinn gee-oushihow pour li Zhour di Lawn.

We ate rababoo every day.                      Tou li zhour li rababoo geemeechinawn.

The coffee is hot                                      Li kawfee kishitayw.

The potatoes are cold.                              Lee pataek tahkishowak.

**8. In the kitchen**

***Turtle Mountain spelling***

He will wash the dishes.

Kakisheepayyawkanew.

They will wash the dishes.

Kakisheepayyawkanewak.

The oven is hot.

Li fournoo kishitayw.

He/she will cut the cake?

Kamanishwayw lee cake?

He/she will cut the cake

Kamanishwayw li gaatoo

## **9 Michif foodways**

bannock  
black haws  
buffalo  
chokecherries  
gooseberries  
high bush cranberries  
juneberries  
meatballs  
pemmican  
pincherries  
pudding  
rosehips  
stew  
thornapples  
tripe dish  
tripe dish

## ***Turtle Mountain spelling***

la galet  
lii zaliiz  
li boflo  
tahkwaminaana  
lii groozel  
lii pabinaa  
lii pweer  
lii bulet  
li tooroo  
lii meriiz  
la puchinn  
lii bon tiiroozh  
la rababoo  
lii snel  
la paans  
li dibrii

## 10. Traditional Michif Medicines *Turtle Mountain spelling*

<i>Michif</i>	<i>English</i>
la rasinn nwyar	black root
bel anzhelik	flagroot, rat root
li boum	wild mint
li pchi boum	wild peppermint, mint tea
li tabaw	tobacco (ceremonial)
la rosh di peup	red pipestone
l=arb a saent	wild sage
saent Jean	ginger
l=arb a daend	turkey weed
lii rasinn	Seneca root, snake root
li kounoy	cattail
la harrouzh	Red Willow
kinikinik	red willow tobacco

## 11. body parts

## *Flamand-Papen spelling*

eyes	lii zheu
nose	li nii
mouth	la bush
	kitunn
your ears	tii zaray
	kitawakaya
your head	ta tet
	kishtikwaann
your hand	ta maen
your fingers	tii dwe
	kichishchiya
your feet	tii pyii
your arm	ton braa
your ankle	ton bule
your neck	ton ku
your eyebrows	tii susis
your moustache	ta mustaash
your bottom	kichish
	ton cheu
your chin	ta maanshwaer
	ton maanton
fingernails	tii zong
your thumb	ton pus
your pinkie	ton pchi dwe
middle finger	ton groo dwe
fingers	lee dwe
pointing finger	ton dwe kaa-itwayikeehk avek
	ton dwe kaa-itwayenn
your lips	tee babinn
your teeth	tee daan
your tongue	ta lang
your penis, testicles	ton gurloo
your penis	ta piset
your testicles	tii gos
your scrotum	ta posh
his bum	uchisk
woman=s private, frog	enn gurnuj
woman=s private	enn pinush
his knee	son zhnu
hair	li pwel
hair on the head	lii zhveu

pubic hair  
toes  
liver  
lungs  
heart  
breasts  
breasts  
intestines  
kidneys  
blood  
shit  
pee  
spit  
to spit  
cry

li pwel  
lee zartey  
ushkwann  
see pumon  
son keur, son cheur  
sii dzhiidzhii  
otoohtooshima  
sii trip  
sii royon  
li san  
la maard  
li pisa  
li krosha  
shihkuhk, ee-shihkuhk  
ee-maatut



## **12. Animals**

I saw a moose.

This is a dog

That is a dog.

I see a gray kitten.

I like fish.

He killed four ducks.

## ***Turtle Mountain spelling***

Aen nariyael geewawpamow.

Aen shyaen awa.

Aen shyaen ana.

Aen pchi minoosh gree niwawpamow.

Li pwasoon nimiyaymow.

Katr kanawr kee nipahayw.

**13. Days of the Week*****Turtle Mountain spelling***

Today is Monday.

Laenjee anoush.

Tomorrow is Thursday.

Zhweejee dimaen.

Yesterday was Sunday.

Yayr Jimawnsh.

We will meet on Friday.

Vandarjee ka nakishkawtanan.

There are seven days in a week.

Il y a set zhour den smenn.

We are going to work all day Saturday.

Ka atoushkanan tout la zhournee Samjee.

## 15 Culture words

Red River cart  
Sash  
  
gun  
Indian  
  
Cree  
Sioux  
Blackfoot  
square dance  
  
round dance  
jig  
fiddle  
fiddle dance  
York boat  
ox cart  
buffalo hunter  
pemmican  
dry meat  
dry meat  
sirup  
trader  
  
snowshoe  
maple sirup  
portage  
  
canoe  
birch bark canoe  
White Horse Plains  
fishing  
ice fishing  
fish with net  
fish with funnel  
buffalo  
outhouse  
horse team  
grandpa (mooshoom)  
grandma (kokoum)  
finger weaving

## *Flamand-Papen spelling*

enn shaaret  
enn saencheur fleshii  
enn saencheur di flesh  
aen fiizii  
lii pramyæer nashon  
lii shavaazh  
lii kri  
lii syuu  
lii pjii nwaenr  
lii square dance  
lii daans rond  
kaawaashkeeshimohk  
la jig  
li vyaeloon  
la daans di vyelon  
lii groo batoo  
enn sharet di beu  
en shaseur di bafloo  
li tooroo  
la vyand shesh  
kaahkeewak  
li siroo  
aen voyazheur  
aen komii voyazheur  
lii suyii di niizh  
li siroo darab  
kwekwe nahtam  
kaanayuuhtaman kiikwee  
aen kanoo  
aen kanoo di buloo  
la prerii di zhwal blan  
kwaskweepichikeehk  
daan la glas eekwaaskweepichikeehk  
eepakatakwahkaachik  
eekachinaachik avek la pleuzh  
lii bofloo  
enn klaazet  
aen chim di zhvoo  
mushuum  
kuuhkum  
ee-litapii-ihkeehk

making rugs	lii tapii kaa-ushihtaayenn
Red River jig	lii tapii ee-ushitaachik
accordeon	la jig de la rivyer ruuzh
beadwork	enn akorjijon
mittens	lagarnicheur
buckskin coat	lii mitenn
leggings	aen kapo d chwiir
mocassins	lii mitas
carriole	lii suyii mon
flag	enn kariol
church	enn poviyon
lieutenant	li gliiz
pilgrimage	li tenan
	kaayamihaahk

## 16 Commands

Let=s go  
Come here  
Don=t come here  
Hurry up  
Go away  
Don=t go away  
stop it  
Stop it  
Don=t stop it  
Come in  
Phone me  
Phone him  
Phone him  
Take this  
Open the door  
Tell me  
Don=t tell me  
Shut up  
Shut up  
Quiet down  
Stay with me  
Go to bed  
Welcome  
Sit down  
Excuse me  
  
Find your shoes  
Comb your hair  
Brush your teeth  
Change your shirt  
Put your jacket on  
Get your books  
Turn down the TV  
Go to school  
Come and eat  
Pass me the ...  
Sit down and eat  
Eat!  
Would you like some berries  
Build a fire  
Help me

## *Flamand-Papen spelling*

shipweehtehtak  
aashtam uta  
akaya /kaya uta peeyituhte  
kakweechaho  
shipweehte  
kaya shipweehte  
naakii  
nakina  
akaya nakina  
piihtikwee  
pee-li-foonii  
lifoonee  
lifoonee wiya  
uuma utina  
la port pashteena  
wiihtamowinn  
kaya wiihtamowinn  
kipaha kituunn  
pooneu uta  
ekoshi eekwa  
uta aya avek niya  
dookooshomo  
marsii eekiipeetuhteeyenn  
api  
ekskeusee mwe.  
Ups.  
tii suuyii mishka  
shiikaho  
tii daan peekita  
ta shmiizh meeshkotishka  
ton zhile kiishka  
tii liiv naata  
li tiivii kipaha  
likol tuhtee  
peemiichisho  
peeshinamowin lii pataak  
api peemiichisho  
Miichisho  
lii grenn cii kaanuhteemiichinn  
aen feu ushta  
wiichihinn

Show me  
Show them  
What is that?

Pray  
Wake up

Don=t touch it  
Don=t touch me  
Don=t=s scream

waapahtahinn  
waapahtahik  
Keekway anima  
Keekway enima  
ayamihaa  
kushkopayi  
wanishka  
kaya tashihka  
kaya tashiihkawinn  
kaya teepwee

## 17 Verbs/actions

He plays guitar  
He plays the piano  
He pulls a rope  
He reads a newspaper  
He carries suitcases  
  
He repairs a car  
  
She cleans (the house)  
He climbs (a mountain)  
He rides an elephant  
He listen to music  
The shirt shrunk  
She walks the dog  
  
He is waiting for the bus  
She washes dishes  
He washes his face  
  
He washes his hands  
He watches TV  
He wears a tie  
One is tall, one is short  
He goes to bed  
They plow the field  
He takes her as a spouse  
He splashes water  
They are having a party  
He is playing bingo  
He puts on clothes  
He tells him to do something  
He tightens it  
He winks at him  
He opens his eyes  
He smokes a pipe  
She spansk him  
He stares at him  
She puts on clothes  
They play hockey  
They play baseball

## *Flamand/Papen spelling*

li guitar mataweew/ kitushchikeew  
li pieeno kitushchikeew/ meetaweew  
la kab uchipitam  
lii papyii ayamihtaaw  
li suitcase tahkonam  
sii valiiz tahkonam  
son kaar ushiheew  
son kaar tahkikaweew  
la maeson peehkitaaw  
la monntay amachiweew  
li lifan teehtapiw  
la mizik natuhtam  
la shmiiz kiiwiichipupayinn  
li syaen avek pimuhteew  
avek son syaen pimuhteew  
li bus peeheew  
kishpeehaakaneew  
son vizaazh kishiipeekinam  
sa fas  
Kishipeekinam sa fas  
sii maen kishipeekinam  
li tiivii kanawaapahtam  
en kol kishkaweew  
hen kinoshiw, hen chahkoshiw  
dookooshoomow  
li shan laburiwak  
wiikimeew  
dilu matawaakeew  
monchikanahkaawak aen paarti  
li bingo mataweew  
son bitaen kishkam  
wiihtamaweew keekwee chi-ushihtaayit  
shishipitam  
chipiihkweshtaweew  
si zheu paashtenam  
la pip pihtwateew  
pakamahweew  
neekwaapameew  
son bitaen kishkam  
li haakii mataweewak  
la plot mataweewak

They play basketball  
He steps on it  
She turns on the light  
He teaches him  
They watch him

They whirl  
He sucks it  
They sting him  
He turns off the light

They make fun of him  
He is waiting for her  
He buys things  
He looks at him  
She looks at it

li basketball mataweewak  
takushkaatam  
li light ashtaaw  
kishinahaamaweew  
kanawaapameewak  
pishkaapamewak  
kakweeshkiiwak  
nuunaatam  
kiichiishuhikow  
la light ashtaweewam  
la lanp ashtaweewam  
pahpihikow  
peeheew  
lii zafeer ataweew  
kanawaapameew  
kanawaapahtam



**18 Some verb forms**

talk!  
tell!  
think!  
visit!  
wake up!  
walk!  
wash clothes!  
write!

***Turtle Mountain spelling***

peekishkway!  
weehta!  
itayyihta!  
kiyokayhk  
koushkoupayi!  
pimohtay!  
kisheepaykinikay  
oushipayyikay

**To Ask**

Ask  
Ask him/her  
Ask me  
Ask them  
Ask them for it.

(ka) kwaychihkaymou  
(ka) kwaychim  
(ka) kwaychimin  
(ka) kwaychimik  
(ka) natoutamawik

**To Believe**

I believe it.  
They believe it.

dawpwayhtaen.  
tawpwayhtamwak.

**To Call**

Call him/her  
Call them  
Call us  
Call (square dance)

taypwawsh  
taypwawshik  
taypwawshinawn  
taypwawta

**To Come**

Come here.  
Come (all of you).  
They are coming.  
He=s coming.

Ashtum oota.  
Ashtamik.  
Payyawwuk.  
Payyow.

He/she came.  
They came.  
We came.

Kee paytohtew  
Kee paytohtaywuk.  
Gee paytohtawnawn.

**To Count**

Count  
Count me  
Count yourself  
Count him/her  
Count them

akishchikay  
akimin  
akimishou  
akim  
akimik

## 19 More verb forms

## *Turtle Mountain spelling*

### **To Dress**

Dressed (I got)	gee pohtashawkawn
Dressed (you got)	kee pohtashawkawn
Dressed (she/he got)	kee pouhtashawkayw
Dressed (they got)	kee pouhtashawkaywak
Dressed (we got)	gee pouhtashawkawnawn

### **To Drink**

I drank.	gee minihkwawn.
They drank.	kee minihkwaywak.
Drank (I)	gee minihkwawn
Drank (you)	kee minihkwawn
Drank (they)	kee minihkwaywak
Drank (we)	gee minihkwawnawn

### **To Finish**

I finish	Booyoonn
You finish	Ki pooyoonn
He/she finishes	Pooyoow
We (not you) finish	Booyoonawnn
We (all of us) finish	Ki pooyoonawnn
You (plural) finish	Ki pooyoonawwow
They finish	Pooyoowak

### **To Get Up**

Get up (to)	pashikoohk
Got up (I)	gee pashikoon
Get up (you=ll)	ka pashikoon
Got up (he/she)	kee pashikoow
Get up (they=ll)	ka pashikoowuk
Get up (I=ll)	ga pashikoon

### **To Go**

Go (you=ll)	ka itouhtawn
Go (I=ll)	ga itouhtawn
Go (he=ll)	ka itouhtayw
Go (they=ll)	ka itouhtaywuk
Go (we=ll, including you)	ka itouhtawnawn

**To Go Home**

Go home  
He/she went home  
I went home  
Come home pay keeway

keeway  
kee keewayw  
gee keewawn

**To Hear**

I heard him/her.  
You heard him/her.  
He/she heard him/her.  
I heard it. Gee payhtaen.  
You heard it.  
She/he heard it.  
She/he heard you.  
He/she heard me.  
You heard me.  
I heard you. Kee paystatin.

Gee payhtawow.  
(Ki)kee payhtawow.  
Kee payhtawayw.  
Ki kee payhtaen.  
Kee payhtum.  
(Ki) kee payhtawk.  
Gee payhtawk.  
Kee payhtawin.

**To Wait**

Wait for him/her.  
Are you still waiting?  
Let=s wait for him/her.  
What are we waiting for?  
What are you waiting for?

Payhah.  
Keeyawpit cheen ki payhoon.  
Payhawtawk.  
Kapayhawnawn  
Kaykwawy ay payhtawyahk?  
Kaykwawy ay payhtawyen?

## 21 Words

Animal fat  
Apron  
Aunty  
Awl  
Axe  
Baby  
Badger  
Bannock  
Baptism  
Bat  
Beads  
Beadwork  
Bear  
Bearskin  
Bedbug  
Beets  
Belly button  
Belt  
Bird  
Biscuit  
Blackfoot  
Blood  
Girl friend  
  
Blood sausage  
Sulky  
  
Boil  
  
Boyfriend  
Bread pudding  
Brother  
Older brother  
Buffalo  
Bull  
Butter  
Milk  
Buttermilk  
Sour milk  
Candy  
Carrot

## *Turtle Mountain spelling*

La gres jur  
Aen tableeyee  
Ma tawnt  
Aen nalen  
Enn hawsh  
Aen pchi baybee  
Aen brayroo  
La galet  
Bacheezee  
Aen shoori shoud  
Lee rasaed  
La garnicheur  
Aen noor  
La poud door  
Enn pinaenz  
Lee batraav  
Li noobree  
Enn saencheur  
Aen nwayzoo  
Aen biskwee  
Lee Pyee Nwaenr  
Li sawn  
ma blonde  
ma jaeng  
Li boudaen  
ay-liboudeehk  
li boudin-ihkeew  
Ousha  
Kaw oushamihk  
Kawvalyee  
La pouchinn di paen  
Mon frayr  
Nishtesh  
Lee bufloo  
Aen tooroo  
Li beur  
Dilet  
Dilet di beur  
Dilet kaayee  
Kawndee  
Enn karot

Catechism	Li katshim
Cattail	Lee kounouy
Cattle	Lee zanimoo
Cattle beast or buffalo stomach	La pawns
Chokecherries	Takwakiminawnaw
Chokecherry	Takwahiminawnaw
Collostrum cake	Li flawn
Cottage cheese	Dilet digoutee
Cousin	Mon kouzaen, ma kouzinn
Male cousin	Mon kouzaen
Female cousin	Ma kouzinn
Cracklings	Lee gortoon
Cree	Lee Kree, Cree
Dance	Enn dawns
Deer	Aen shouvreu
Digging seneca root	Moonahashkwehk
Dishwater	Loo'd visel
Dress	Enn rob
Dried meat	Kawhkehawuk
	La vyawnd shesh

## 22 More words

Drops of brandy  
Dumplings  
Easter  
Eat  
  
Eggs  
One egg  
Elk  
Ember  
  
Farmer  
Father, dad  
Priest  
Fiddle  
Fire  
Fish  
Fisherman  
  
Fried bannock  
Fry  
  
Girlfriend  
  
God  
Goose  
Gooseberries  
Grain  
Grandfather  
Grandmother  
Grass  
Hay  
Grasshopper  
Gray squirrel  
Gunpowder  
Head cheese  
Heart  
Hen  
Rooster  
Little chickens  
Horse  
Horses  
Hunter

## *Turtle Mountain spelling*

La dawn di kroshay  
Lee grawnpayr  
Li Zhoor di Pawk  
Meetshou  
Mawnzh  
Lee zaf  
Aen zaf  
La bish  
Aen cheezon  
Enn brayz  
Aen farmyee  
Pawpaw  
Moon payr  
Aen vyeloon  
Aen feu  
Li pwasoon  
Lee pwasoon kaw pakatawawchik  
awiyek lee pwasoon kawkaatisinaat  
Lee beng  
Shawsha  
Shawshishikayhk  
Enn jaeng  
Ma blood  
Li Boon Jeu  
Aen zway  
Lee groo zel  
Li graen  
Ni moushoom  
Nouhkoum  
Li fwaen vayr  
Di fwaen  
Enn soutrel  
Enn swiss gree  
La poud a feezee  
La tet di framawnz  
Li keur, li choer,  
Enn poul  
Enn kok  
Lee pchi poul  
Aen zhwal  
Lee zhvoo  
Aen sasoer

Intestines	Lee trip
Jesus	Li pchee Zheezeu
Lard	Li saendoo
Larder	La hawngar
Leaves	Lee fy
Lent	Li karem
Liver	Oushkwan
	Li jeur
Log cabin	Enn maenzoon di log
Meat pie	La tawrt di vyawnd
	Lee torchayr
Meatball	Lee boulet
Medicine	La michin
Métis	Lee Michif
Métis flag	Li paviyoon di Michif
Métis Language	La lawng di Michif
Métis songs	Lee shawnssoon di Michif
Milk cow	Enn vawsh a let
Mint	Li pchee boom
Moccassins	Lee souyee moo
Molasses cake	Li kayak di milas
	Li gato di milas
Mother	Mawmaw
Mudhen eggs	Le zaf di pouldoo
My grandchild	
First generation	Nooshishim
Second generation	Nawshkoopichikawn
Third generation	Kischi nawshkoopichikawn
Name	Soo noo
His/her name is	Shinikhawshoow
New Year's Day	Li Zhour di Lawn
Oak	Li shenn
Owl	Aen yeeboo
Pemmican	Li tooroo
Pie	La tawrt
Pincherry	Li mireez
Porcupine	Aen portipik
Pork	Di lawr
Pork hocks	Lee pat di kwashoon
Porknpuffs (cracklings)	Lee gorton
Potato	Enn patak
Potato soup	La soup di patak
Prunes	Lee prenn

Pudding	La pouchinn
Rabbit	Li lyayv
Rabbit soup	La rababoo di 1yayv
Red river cart	En shawret
Dances	
Reel of eight	La ril a wit
Reel of four	La ril a kat
Rhubarb	La roubarb
Ribs	Lee plakootee
Rice pudding	La pouchinn di ree
Rice soup	La soup di ree
Roast	Aen rouchee
Rooster	Aen kok
Roots	La rasinn
Digging Seneca roots	Lee rasinn kaw moonahaskwayhk
Sash	Saencheur fleshee
	Saencheur di flesh
Saskatoons	Lee pwayr
Sioux	Lee Sioux
Sister	Ma seur
Younger sister	Nisheemish
Older sister	Nimish
Skunk	Shikawk
Skunk glands	La meus di shikawk
Snake	Koulayv
Sour cream	La krem seur
Sour milk	Dilet kawyee
Square dance	Aen square dance
	Enn kwadril
	Enn dawns rond
	Kawwashkeeshimohk
Squirrel	Enn swis
Steer	Aen beu
Ox	Aen beu
Tongue	La lawng
Trap	Aen pyeezh
Trapper	Aen sasoer kaw ouhpayekayt
Tripe	Li dibree
Tripod	Aen tripyee
Trousers	Enn kilot
Truck	Aen trok
Turtle	Enn torcheu
Uncle	Mon nonk



Wagon  
Wild turnip

Aen wawgoon  
Lee navoo

**23. Enn kont/ A story****Turtle Mountain spelling**

*This Michif fairy tale was recorded on April 1 1989 by Julius ASonny@ Grant in Moorehead, Minnesota, on April 1 1989. It was part of a set of stories that he recorded for his wife Loretta Keplin and Vanessa. His stepson Michael K. Keplin was there. The family lived (and still lives) in and around Belcourt in the Turtle Mountain Reservation in North Dakota. The story teller had learned this story and others from his grandfather ALe Vieux Batoche@, John B. Houle (who died in 1940 or 1941). The family gave a copy of the tape to Peter Bakker in 1990. The spelling used here is the one developed by the Turtle Mountain Michif speakers. The story was transcribed by Ida Rose Allard, with corrections by Rik van Gijn and Peter Bakker. The storyteller Julius Grant passed away some years ago. First the story is given in Michif with a rough word-by-word translation under each word or word groups, and after that in an English translation.*

*This is a tribute to a great story teller, who will be dearly missed.  
Peter Bakker*

**Trwaw lee noor/ The three bears.**

*By Julius Grant/ keeachimow*

Mafway, kayawsh ilavay trwaw lee noor.  
*My goodness, long ago there.were three bears*

Li Pawpaw, la Mawman, aykwa li ptsi baybee oohin lee noor.  
*Father, mother, and thesmall baby, those (were) the bears*

Kaytahtaway aen mataen, la mawman awa keeshtaypow.  
*one.time on a morning, mother this she was cooking*

li oatmeal kee-keeshisham ooma pour li manzhee, li breakfast.  
*The porridge she-prepared-it this for food the breakfast*

Ke-wiyashtawshoow mawman.  
*She.set.the.table mother*

Tout paree kee-ashtaw dan la tab.  
*Everything ready she-put on the table*

Trwaw lee zasyet plaen li oatmeal.  
*Three plates full (of) oatmeal*

Abaen tout ashtaw itwayw, li manzhee  
*Well, all placed, she said, the food*

Aah cheepatapiwak mwaenhchi aywee-meechishouchik.  
*They.sat.down, just.ready to-eat*

Nawachikou sitay shoo ooma.  
*Sort-of it-was hot this*

Ekwayawk kee-pooni-keeshtaypoow ooma  
*Just finished-cooking this*

Ilitray trou shoo  
*was too hot*

Pamoyaen kaw-meechishouchik  
*Impossible that-they.eat.it.*

Ahawn, itwayw Pawpaw, itwayw:  
*OK, said papa said*

Abaen, iprawn en pchit walk, itwayw.  
*Well will take a small walk he.said*

Kapapawmouhtanawn li shmaen ooma, itwayw.  
*We'll walk the road this, he.said*

Li tawn mawka nawachikou ilite fret nawat kaw- meechiyawhk, itwayw.  
*The time however sort-of It-is-cold more, we will eat, he said*

Ahawn, ati-shipwayhtaywak.  
*Ok, they began walking*

Nakatamwak li mawnzhee.  
*They.left.behind the food*

Shipwayhtaywak.  
*They left*

Dan li bwaw ooma pawpawmouhtaychik.  
*In the woods this they went walking*

Chaen, tawn shipwayhtaychik ooma,  
*Well Time they.left this*

Ilavay enn pchit feeyi,

*There was a little girl*

La feeyi lii zhveu awn lor.  
*The girl the hair of gold*

Kee-ishi-itaywak, sitay soo noo aykwawnima.  
*They say that was her name that*

Ah, paytakouhtayt la ptst feeyi awa, lee zhveu awn lor.  
*Ah she arrived the little girl this the hair of gold*

Paytakohtayw.  
*She walked*

Keewanishin dan li bwaw.  
*She was lost in the woods*

Nanahitawk kee-pay-mishkam la ptst maenzoon ooma.  
*Just in time she found the little house this*

Wawpahtam la ptst maenzoon doowawpahchikayw.  
*looked at the little house went to look at things*

Madoon awayna oota weekit.  
*Let's see who there lived*

La port pakamaham aninaway  
*The door she knocked*

Namawiyek.  
*No one*

Aah peehtikwayw.  
*OK she entered*

Peehtikwayishoow la ptst feeyi lee zhveu awn nor  
*She let herself in the little girl with hair of gold*

iyavay deu ou traw zhour keewanishihk dan li bwaw.  
*Two or three days she was lost in the woods*

Nawachikou kee-ayayshkoushiw.  
*Sort of she was tired*

Kee-noohtayhkatayw.  
*She was hungry*

Mufway li mawnzhee wawpahtahk.  
*Well, the food When.she.saw.it*

Ah, mon jeu. Li promyee nasyet kouchistam, wahwa ilitray trou shoo.  
*Ah, my God The first dish she started oh my it.was too hot*

Nakatam aykwawnima.  
*She.left that.one*

li deuzyaem zasyet aymishkahk aykwawnima kouchistam.  
*The second plate when.she.found that.one she.tasted.it*

Itray trou fret aykwawnima itwayw.  
*It.was. too. cold that.one she.said*

Ilavay aen nout asyet ay-wawpahtahk.  
*There.was a other plate that.she.saw*

Aykwawnima yeah nimiyeuhtam ekwanima li ptsi tasyet itwayw.  
*That.one yes I-like-it that.one the little plate she said*

Tout keekitaw ekwawnima.  
*All ate.it that*

Aykee-keeshpout cheepatapiw.  
*When.she.was.full she.sat.down*

Huh, ilavay trwaw sayz anda itwayw.  
*Oh, there.were three chairs there she said*

Li promyee dookouchitapiw, aah ilitray trou jeur itwayw.  
*The first went.and.tried.sitting, ooh it.is too hard she.said*

Litray trou hoo itwayw.  
*It.is too high she.said*

Aah, loot, aah nawachikoo namoo miyeu-apiw itwayw.  
*Oh, another oh sort of didn't good sit she said*

Lout sayz dookwashkwatapiw.  
*Other chair threw.herself.into.it*

Ay dyawb miyeu-apiw.  
*oh devil good sit*

Aycheepatapit, mafway pinipayin la sayz.  
*When.she.sat.down My it.fell.down the chair*

Peekonam la sayz.  
*She broke the chair*

Ashpin dan li plawnshee.  
*Gone on the floor*

Aah pashikoow ekouta ouhchi.  
*she got up there from*

Nawachikou nouhtaynipaw.  
*Sort of feel sleepy*

La feeyi lee zhveu awn lor.  
*The girl with hair like barley*

Nawachikou kee-nouhtaynipaw.  
*Sort.of she.felt.sleepy*

Aen lee ekouta ashtayw dookoucheeshin dan li lee ooma.  
*A bed there was went.and.lay on the bed this*

Ayhay ilitray trou loon.  
*OK it.was too long*

Pashikoow aah lout lee itouhtayw.  
*She.got.up the.other bed she.went*

Anda dookouchishimoow.  
*There she.tried.laying.on.it*

Nawachikou ilitay jeur itwayw.  
*sort.of it.is hard she said*

Pamoyaen kouchishihk.

*couldn't try laying on it*

Aah pashikoow oota ouschi.  
*She.got.up there from*

Aen ptsi lee anda wawpahtam.  
*a small bed there she.sees.it*

Ekouta dookoushin  
*There she tried laying on*

ay nimiyeushin itwayw.  
*Oh, I.lay.good she said*

Ay no kinwaensh kee-kawhkwashiw ekouta.  
*Oh, not long she.fell.down.exhausted there*

Ma-miyeu-ihkwawmiw ooma.  
*Very-good-sleep this one*

Lee zoor takoupahtawwak weekiwawhkiwaw itwayw.  
*The bears arrived at their home she said*

Abaen, ka-meechishounawn, itwayw Pawpaw noor.  
*Well, we'll eat said Papa bear*

Hawn, itwayw mawman. Cheepatapiwak.  
*OK said mama they sat down*

Aah, itwayw oumawmawa la viyay awa.  
*Oh said his.mama the old.lady this*

Awiyek keekoutishtam moo oatmeal,  
*Someone tasted my oatmeal*

Chiwayr ma chouyayr plaen d'oatmeal itwayw  
*Look my spoon (is) full oatmeal she.said*

Aah li vyeu  
*Oh the old*

Neeshta itwayw, awiyek kee-koutishtam moon oatmeal itwayw.  
*Mine.too he said someone tasted my oatmeal he-said*

Chiwayr      ma cheuyayr.  
*Look.at      my spoon*

Li ptsi baybee brawi ekouta.  
*The little baby cry there*

Kaykway      kawmoohikawtaman?  
*What      makes-you-cry*

Awiyek      kee-koushtam moon oatmeal  
*Someone      tasted      my oatmeal*

Tout keekitaw  
*All      is-eaten*

Aahawn  
*Yes.*

Abaen kawya mawtou, mawman itwayw.  
*Well don't cry      mama said*

Keyawpit      geeshtaypoun aen ptsi braen.  
*Still      I'm cooking      a little*

Abaen      tawn kimawman ay-doo-keeshtaypout  
*Well      time      your.mother      go.and.cook*

Outa ka-apinawn dan noo shayz.  
*Here we'll sit      on our chairs*

Aah itwayw manman awiyek kee-koutapiw dan ma sayz.  
*Oh, said mama      someone      tried.sitting      on my chair*

Chiwayr.  
*Look*

Moo tet daryee akoutee ashtayw.  
*My head pillow      to-the-side      it-lays*

Aah itwayw pawpaw neeshta awiyek kee-koucheen dan ma sayz.  
*Oh said Papa      mine.too      someone      tried      in my chair*



Aw li ptsi babyee noor mafway waen!  
*Oh the little baby bear MyLord, was crying*

Kaykwawy moohkawtaman?  
*What are.you.crying.for?*

Awiyek kee-koutapiw dan ma sayz.  
*Someone tried.sitting on my chair*

Chiwayr keepeekounam.  
*Look that.person.broke it.*

Aah kawya mawtou.  
*Oh, don't cry*

Dan noo lee ka-doo-pimishinawn itwayw  
*On our bed we'll go lie down he.said*

zeuskatawn manman ayphoonikeeshtaypout  
*until mama is.done.cooking*

Ahawn, dan leu lee itouhtaywak.  
*Okay to their beds they went*

Chiwayr manman itwayw.  
*Look mama said*

Aret, aret awiyek dan moon lee kee-koutishin.  
*Wait, wait someone on my bed tried laying.*

Tawnaenhki?  
*Why?*

Chiwayr moo drawd lee itwayw.  
*Look, at my sheet she.said*

Mashinawshin awiyek oota aykee-pimishihk itwayw.  
*His body outline some one here had lain she said*

Aa pawpaw chaen neeshta itwayw, moo tet daryee itwayw  
*Oh papa well, me.too, he said my head pillow slip he said*

dan li milyeu li lee oota ashtayw itwayw

*in the middle the bed here it.is he said*

Aen gran lee loon kee-ayaw.  
A big bed long he had

Mafway, keepoonimawtow.  
Well, he.stopped. crying

Chiwayr, itwayw, awiyek kee-kouchishimoow dan moo lee.  
Look he said someone tried.laying.down on my bed

Oota kawpimishihk itwayw  
Here she lies he said

Koushkoupayiw la feeyi zhveu awn loer  
She.woke.up the girl hair of gold

Shaykishiw kee-tapashiw  
She-was-scared she ran away

Ashpinaen kiyawpit araw a Dunseith.  
Gone yet near Dunseith

ashpenaen kee-tapasheew tawnde aykee-wawpamak deryaer fwe  
since shed-fled there that.I.saw.her last time

### **The three bears**

My goodness, long ago there were three bears.  
Father, mother, and the little baby, those were the bears.  
One time, one morning, the mother was cooking oatmeal.  
She was preparing this porridge for food, as breakfast.  
Mother set the table.  
She put everything ready on the table  
Three plates full of oatmeal.  
Well, she placed all the food.  
They sat down, just ready to eat  
It was kind of hot.  
She had just finished cooking this.  
It was too hot.  
They could not eat it.  
AOK,@ papa said.  
AWe will take a small walk,@ he said.  
AWe will walk down this road,@ he said.  
ABy the time however it has cooled off more, we will eat,@ he said.  
AOk,@.  
They began walking.  
They left their food behind.  
They went away.  
In the woods they went walking.

Well, while they were away, there was a little girl,  
the girl with the golden hair.  
They say that was her name.  
And she arrived there, this little girl with golden hair.  
She had arrived walking.  
She was lost in the woods.  
Just in time she found this little house.  
She saw the little house and went to inspect things.  
ALet=s see who lives there.@  
She knocked on the door.  
There was no one.  
OK, she entered.  
She let herself in, this little girl with golden hair.  
For two or three days she was lost in the woods.  
She was rather tired.  
She was hungry.  
My God, when she saw the food, she started the first dish.  
Oh my, it was too hot.  
She left that one alone.

When she found the second plate, she tasted that.  
AIt is too cold,@ that one, she said.

There was another plate that she saw.  
AYes, that one I like, that little plate@.  
She ate all of it.  
When she was full, she sat down  
Oh, there were three chairs there.  
She went to try and sit on the first one.  
AOoh it is too hard,@ she said.  
AIt is too high,@ she said.  
Oh, another.. AThat sort of didn't sit well,@ she said.

She went and sat on the other chair.  
Aoh devil , this sits well.@  
She sat down in it.  
My God, the chair fell apart.  
She broke the chair.  
Gone, on the floor.  
She got up from there.  
She felt sort of sleepy, the girl with hair like gold.  
She wanted to sleep.  
There was a bed and she went and laid on this bed.  
Oh, it was too long.  
She got up and went to the other bed.  
She tried laying on it.  
AIt is a little hard,@ she said  
She couldn't lay down on it.  
She got up from there.  
There she saw a small bed.  
There she went and laid down.  
Oh, this is good to lie down on, she said.  
Oh, not long after she fell asleep there.  
She slept well.

The bears arrived at their home.  
AWell, we=re going to eat,@ said Papa bear.  
AOK,@ said mama.  
They sat down.  
AOh,@ said mama, this old lady.  
ASomeone tasted my oatmeal,@ she said.  
ALook, my spoon is full of oatmeal,@ she said.  
AOh,@ the old man said.  
AMine too,@ he said, ASomeone tasted my oatmeal,@ he said.  
AJust look at my spoon.@  
The little baby was crying there.

AWhat are you crying for?@  
ASomeone tasted my oatmeal,@  
AEverything is eaten.@  
AAh! Well, don't cry,@ mama said.  
AI will cook a little more.@  
AWell, while your mother will go and cook, we will sit in our chairs.@  
AOh,@ said mama, ASomeone tried secretly to sit in my chair.  
Look. My head pillow lays aside!@  
AOh,@ said Papa, AMine too! Someone secretly tried my chair!@  
Oh, the little baby bear, my Lord, he was crying.  
AWhat are you crying for?@  
ASomeone tried sitting in my chair.  
Look, they broke it.@  
AOh, don't cry.  
We'll go and lie down on our beds,@ he said.  
Auntil mama is done cooking@.  
Okay, they went to their beds.  
ALook,@ mama said.  
AWait, wait! Someone tried laying on my bed. Why?  
Look at my sheet,@ she said.  
AIt can be seen that someone had laid down there,@ she said.  
AOh mine too,@ papa said, AMy head pillow slip is here in the middle of the bed.@ he said.  
He had a big, long bed.  
Well, the little bear quit crying.  
ALook,@ he said, someone tried laying down on my bed!  
There she is!@, he said.  
The girl with the golden hair woke up.  
She was scared. She ran away.  
She is gone. She fled and it was around Dunseith that she was last seen.

## **24. Generic Prayer. *Turtle Mountain spelling***

Li Bon Jeu, not Createur, li kourawzh miyinawn, paray chee itayhtamawhk, kwayesh kapimouhtayhk, marsee chee itwayawhk ka kishcheetayimoyawhk.

*God, Our Creator, give us courage, let us be of one mind, make us righteous, thankful and proud.*

Lee Michif weechihik awnsawmbl chee atoushkaychik, sourtoo lee vyeu chee awpachihayawhkouk li zhen chee kishinamawachik pour li tawn ki vyaen.

*Help the Métis to work together especially utilizing our Elders as teachers and preparing our youth for the future.*

Li Bon Jeu la direksyoon miyinawn, itayhta chimiyoutayhtamawhk, li shmaen chee oushtawyawhk pour la Nawsyoon dee Michif ota dans not Piyee.

*Lord provide us with direction and inspiration as we build a road for the Métis Nation in this Country.*

Sa prawn lee famee di Michif chi shoohkishichik kishpin la Nasyoo di Michif chi shoohkaw.

*We must have strong Métis families in order to have a strong Métis Nation.*

Marsee ditwawn.

*Thank you and Amen.*

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this money to distribute CDs and cassettes for free among Metis and others who want to learn this fascinating language.

The following persons all volunteered to help to produce this CD:

Norman Fleury of the Michif Language Program of the Manitoba Metis Federation, who is the main speaker on this CD;

Julius Grant-*ipan* of Turtle Mountain (North Dakota);

Peter Bakker of Aarhus University for production work (recording, editing, transcribing);

Heather Souter for sponsoring minidisks and editing;

Torkil Østerbye and Anette Nissen of Aarhus for technical support with sound files;

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Rita Flamand and Bob Papen for inspiration;

and finally all the Michif speakers who have continued to speak the language of their forebears.

If you like to have the sound files on cassette, please find someone to copy the CD to a cassette, or send a message to:

linpb@hum.au.dk

We appreciate any voluntary contributions to cover the costs.

If you like this CD, please send a voluntary contribution to .....

Additional CDs are being planned, among others with stories and Michif language learning computer games.

If you want to remain informed, please send an email to:

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This CD is only the first step in learning Michif.

The following resources are easy to obtain, and will help you to deepen your knowledge of Michif.

(1) Norman Fleury. *La Lawng. Michif Peekishkweewin. The Canadian Michif Language Dictionary (Introductory Level)*. Winnipeg: Metis Resource Centre and Michif Language Program of the Manitoba Metis Federation. 42 pages.

(Some of the texts on this CD are also found in this booklet).

(2) A new book will be out in spring 2004:

Fleury, Norman, Rita Flamand, Peter Bakker & Lawrence Barkwell. 2002. *La Lawng: Michif Peekishkweewin. The Heritage Language of the Canadian Metis*. Winnipeg: Pemmican Publications.

(3) A course in Michif, with two CDs, was prepared by Rita Flamand.

Rita Flamand. *Michif conversational lessons for beginners*. Metis Resource Centre.

This is for sale from the Metis Resource Center (for address see below).

(4) Lawrence Barkwell, Leah Dorion & Darren Préfontaine (eds.) *Metis Legacy. A Métis Historiography and annotated bibliography*. Saskatoon: Gabriel Dumont Institute & Winnipeg: Pemmican Publications.

This impressive book contains a list of publications on Michif.

(5) Bonny Murray, Rita Flamand. 2001. Li Minoush. A reading book for children in Michif and English. Available from Pemmican Publications.

(for address see below).

(6) The Alfred Series. Try to order from the Gabriel Dumont Institute (address, see below)

(7) Peter Bakker. 1997. "A Language of our Own". *The Genesis of Michif - the Mixed Cree-French language of the Canadian Métis*. New York: Oxford University Press. 316 pp. \$ 45, paperback. ISBN 0195097122.

This academic book describes where the language comes from, and provides background information on Michif.

<http://www.oup.com/us/?view=usa>

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