

1: [www.enganchecubano.com](http://www.enganchecubano.com) | The Language of the Inuit (ebook), Louis-Jacques Dorais | | Boeken

*The Language of the Inuit: Syntax, Semantics, and Society in the Arctic (McGill-Queen's Native and Northern Series) [Louis-Jacques Dorais] on [www.enganchecubano.com](http://www.enganchecubano.com) \*FREE\* shipping on qualifying offers. The culmination of forty years of research, *The Language of the Inuit* maps the geographical distribution and linguistic differences between the Eskaleut and Inuit languages and dialects.*

In lieu of an abstract, here is a brief excerpt of the content: Keren Rice bio Louis-Jacques Dorais. The Language of the Inuit: Syntax, Semantics, and Society in the Arctic. Nunavut, a Canadian territory where Inuktitut is an official language, was formed in , with the Inuit much in the news. Yet what do most people know of the Inuit and their language? Some Inuit words are used in English – for instance, mukluk, kayak, igloo – and place names occur, including Igloolik, Inuvik, and Nunavut, but, for most people, there is likely little knowledge beyond this. *Syntax, Semantics, and Society in the Arctic*, aims to address this situation. Dorais was awarded the Canada Prize in the Humanities for this book. Dorais has worked with the Inuit for decades, and this award is a testament to him, his scholarship, and the people he has worked with. Dorais reflects on the Inuit and their language from past, present, and future perspectives. The language family, Eskaleut, has two branches, Aleut and Eskimo, each with sub-branches. Dorais defines seven Eskaleut languages; one, Inuit, is spoken in Canada. Chapter 2 is devoted to Inuit and its dialects sixteen dialects, with nine in Canada. This chapter contains rich linguistic information, comparing sounds and word formation in different dialects. Dorais concludes that the dialects seem superficially different but are actually very similar, with many differences having arisen in recent generations. Chapter 3 is a linguistic study of the Nunavik dialects of northern Quebec. This chapter is an excellent introduction to the linguistic structure of Inuit. These chapters might be hard going, but it is worthwhile to persevere. Chapter 4 addresses prehistory. Dorais reaches back as archaeological and linguistic evidence allow, concluding that Eskaleut emerged from a prehistoric northeast Asian network of languages, arriving in North America some 4, years ago. Dorais introduces the earliest known documentation, a word list compiled by an assistant to Martin Frobisher. Such materials provide invaluable insight into the language of the time and reveal its stability. This chapter contains complex linguistic material, but much is easily accessible. Chapter 6 addresses word meanings, the coining of words, and oral literature. Dorais also discusses new concepts e. The chapter concludes with discussion of oral literature, including myths, legends, songs, magic formulas, and present-day oral literature e. Chapter 7 addresses literacy and formal education, asking how these, and media, can both sustain and change a language and culture. You are not currently authenticated. View freely available titles:

## 2: The Language of the Inuit : Louis-Jacques Dorais :

*Louis-Jacques Dorais The Language of the Inuit: Syntax, Semantics, and Society in the Arctic really liked it* *Rating details* *4 Ratings* *2 Reviews.*

Anyone who does research or policy affecting the north should also buy it, even if they study only ice. In addition, I would recommend it to all Canadian families. This book won the Canada Prize in the Humanities, an outstanding honour and exceptionally rare for a book on the topic of language. The book reaps the benefits of a lifetime of involvement with the language through research, personal experience Dorais speaks it fluently, and keen interest in the work of others in this area. It is an encyclopaedia of the Inuit language, encompassing everything from language history to dialect differences, grammar, writing systems, statistics of use, and so on. Like any encyclopaedia, it will not tell you everything but will tell you enough to get a basic understanding of a topic and where to read more if you are interested. Ideally this book will soon be available as an e-book because it is difficult to carry a hard-covered book around on northern trips. An e-book would also be searchable. In it he details as much as possible about the language, at the same time showing that the language has lost a considerable number of speakers in a number of regions over recent decades, a direction which could, but need not, lead to significant loss of the language. Be forewarned, however; the book will be challenging for non-linguists, Inuit and non-Inuit alike. Rather than reading the whole book through from cover to cover, novices should pick and choose topics that either interest them especially or are not difficult for non-specialists. For example, Chapter 9 surveys the current status of the Inuit language through statistics from a number of census sources. Unfortunately, the first chapter is not one of the easier ones. Although the title of the book is *The Language of the Inuit*, the first chapter aims to situate the Inuit language within its wider language family Eskaleut and to convince the reader that its cousin languages Aleut and Yupik are systematically similar. In this chapter I encountered an orthographic symbol I had never seen before. I hope that in the next edition the symbol will be more familiar. The second chapter discusses the Inuit language family as a whole. The family includes four major dialect groups: The chapter goes into the details of dialects within each of the four groups. Dialect differences are discussed in terms of phonology, lexicon, and grammar. Given the settlement into communities of the last half-century, many of these dialect differences may be in the process of disappearing, as the next generation has grown up together in one place. The chapter gives a good introduction to differences that allow one to gauge how western or eastern a speaker is just by listening to speech, e. While Dorais persists in classifying the Baker Lake dialect as Eastern Canadian, he agrees that it is likely the result of both western and eastern dialects coming together in one place. Dorais shows us that only one dialect has a great number of lexical differences from the others. Despite differences, Dorais makes it clear how similar the dialects are overall. In Chapter 3, Dorais uses the Nunavik dialect to illustrate a mini-grammar. He tries to keep the discussion from getting too technical and he consigns sets of inflectional suffixes to appendices at the end of the book, so that they do not overwhelm the reader. Regarding grammatical terminology, Dorais gives his own terms as well as alternate terms used by other linguists. This is very helpful to the general reader. If one is comparing dialects and grammars, use of different terminology can be very confusing. Chapter 4 discusses the history of the language from a pre-contact perspective. Our knowledge here is informed by archaeology and linguistic reconstruction, where earlier forms of the language are hypothesised based on existing forms. Dorais discusses the Uralo-Siberian hypothesis argued in Fortescue, i. Dorais emphasises that this is a language hypothesis and that genetics are an independent issue. Chapter 5 deals with early post-contact history. Dorais discusses attempts to transcribe the Inuit language by explorers and others. He looks among these materials for evidence of properties of an older language that can only be reconstructed. Unfortunately, the quality of the transcriptions is frequently unreliable for phonological purposes. The grammar seems very familiar, suggesting little change. We know that Greenlandic Kalaallisut has lost the dual over time yet at the same time we do not know the extent of use of the dual across dialects that still have it. My impression is that its use is usually obligatory where it is possible in the Nunatsiavut dialect Labrador, but only optional in Qairnirmiut a Baker Lake dialect. Given that so few languages in the

world have a productive dual, this extent of use would be a good thing to find out soon. Sometimes language change leaves behind relics. In some dialects, only a few words show the older plurals, e. Particularly interesting was the discussion on pp. Dorais shows that dialects have changed in different ways in response to the same problem. We might wonder whether these different responses themselves may lead to yet further dialect distinctions. Chapter 6 deals with some semantic topics and cultural generalisations. Dorais talks about the number of words for snow. His count is around 25â€”more than in English but not in the hundreds. Dorais also points out that much of Inuktitut is based on binary opposition, which he calls dual; things are X and things that are not X. Finally, he discusses the rich oral literature of Inuktitut, some forms of which seem to have disappeared, e. Yet there are new forms of cultural expression, such as through music and film. In Chapter 7 Dorais provides an overview of the history of literacy and written literature. Writing systems have long raised challenging issues, with Inuit and linguists discussing which set of symbols is most appropriate. Dorais provides a good overview of the history of writing in the Inuit language and why there are three different writing systems just within Canada. He also points out the effects of different technologies. While syllabics is easy to learn and to write by hand, typewriters and computers initially made it more difficult. Some Inuit write this sound as ng in syllabics, but this is confusing to non-speakers because it is distinct from the real ng, a velar nasal. Dorais discusses Inuit written literature, which is rich in Greenland but more rare in Canada. Chapter 8 is the most depressing. It is about language contact and bilingualism but really describes the Anglicisation of the Arctic. As Dorais points out, the next step must be for the school systems to provide a full range of education in Inuktitut so that there will not be numerous important areas where Inuit are effectively obliged to speak English rather than Inuktitut. The topic of Chapter 9 is the current status of Inuktitut across the Arctic, especially Inuit Nunaat, the areas in Canada where the language is spoken. Dorais uses census results from Statistics Canada and other sources to probe for changes, all the while reminding the reader that individual statistics are possibly faulty for a number of reasons. Still trends can be gleaned from them. He zeros in on home use of the language as a key indicator. In this chapter Dorais also surveys the political status of the language in different regions. Most Canadians are unaware that in the Nunavut government passed the Official Languages Act, which makes the Inuit language official along with English and French, and the Inuit Language Protection Act, which affords support for the Inuit language. Dorais suggests that even though much political talk supports the language, there is lack of substantive political action in this area. He concludes that only with genuine political autonomy will language thrive as part of a package of overall socio-economic improvement. Chapter 10 concludes with some wonderful and thoughtful descriptions of the role of human language in Inuktitut by Taamusi Qumaq , translated by Dorais. Dorais ponders the relation between language, identity, and culture. Can a culture be maintained if the language is lost? Dorais hints that the answer is no. Yet a substantial number of Inuit have already lost their language, especially in the west. Its ultimate fate will probably depend on how Inuktitut-speaking Inuit will interact with English-speaking Inuit. Reappraising the archaeological and linguistic evidence, London, Cassell Academic.

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*Louis-Jacques Dorais Introduction Over the last two decades, relationships among language, culture and identity have become a favourite topic in social science.*

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5: Quaqtâq: Modernity and Identity in an Inuit Community - Louis-Jacques Dorais - Google Books

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### 7: Association Inuksiutiit Katimajit - Canadian Arctic

*Louis Jacques Dorais. Tukilik: An Inuktitut Grammar For All. Inuit Studies Occasional Papers 2. Quebec: Association Inuksiutiit Katimajit Inc. and Groupes d'Études Inuit et Circumpolaires.*

### 8: DORAIS, Louis-Jacques, The Language of the Inuit/Études/Inuit/Studies - Études

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