A thumbnail sketch of SHASTA (by Shirley Silver)

Typologically, Shasta, though somewhat analytic in grammatical structure, is primarily synthetic. Affixation, compounding, reduplication (limited), and suppletion represent the grammatical processes which occur. These processes are distributed as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Process</th>
<th>Verb</th>
<th>Non-verb:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Noun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prefixation</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>[x]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suffixation</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>[x]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postfixation</td>
<td>[x]</td>
<td>[x]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suppletion</td>
<td>[x]</td>
<td>[x]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reduplication</td>
<td>[x]</td>
<td>[x]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Compounding</td>
<td>[x]</td>
<td>[x]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Of the types of affixation, postfixation, which occurs with all the tactic classes, functions in the main to mark intensification and emphasis. Prefixation and suffixation, obligatory in the verb, comprise the basis for establishing two major classes: verb and non-verb. Suffixation, together with position, is the basis for the distinction between the non-verb classes: noun, adverb, adjective, particle. Reduplication, when the analysis is complete, may turn out to be a diachronic, not synchronic process.

Although there are dependent predications and minor sentence types, the major grammatically significant combination in Shasta is a sentence containing an independent predication (IP). Such a predication in its simplest form (i.e. without expansions) is outlined below:

**IP**

1. [Seventitive]
2. Predicative
   a. Verbal
      1. Verb
      2. [Particle]
   b. [Adverbial]
      1. Adverb
   c. [Nominal]
      1. Noun
      2. [Adjective]
As the use of brackets indicates, a predicative, which can also be an independent predication, may be a verb only.

The affixes relevant to the verb are inflectional and derivational; those relevant to the non-verb classes, syntactical and derivational. Although a fundamental grammatical arrangement is stem plus affix, an unmarked stem may be a member of any one of the non-verb classes. The noun and adverb classes are defined by distinctive sets of suffixes; the adjective and particle are unmarked. At the moment the existence of the latter classes is not adequately accounted for. They have been set up on the basis of position. The adjective is in immediate constituency with the noun; the particle, with the verb or predicative. Those stems which are now considered particles may finally be included in the adverb class.

Adverbs can roughly divided into two types: those adverbs which have a direction, location, manner relationship with the verb; and those which have a time, aspect, mode relationship. These two types differ grammatically in potential range of syntactic position.

There are three main subclasses of noun: general noun, pronoun, and deverbalative noun. The deverbalative noun is marked by a prefix added to a stem complex containing verb suffixes. The pronoun is marked by a person/number distinction and occurs only with certain syntactic suffixes. The general noun can be further subdivided into classes. Among other suffixes which mark the noun class, there are those for definite subject, vocative, addressive, possessive and comitative.

At present nothing informative can be said about the possible verb classes. To give some indication of the seeming complexity of the verb system, I quote from an unpublished description of Shasta: "...the total number of different sets of 'fundamental' suffixes is over fifty. ...This enormous number of conjugational patterns is a characteristic of Shasta...Still it is possible to make some kind of grouping. Thus, we have been led to make six large groups. Within each group there are several subtypes of patterns."

Besides verb affixes for person, tense, mode, aspect, etc., there are a number of directional and locational verb suffixes. The distinction between singular/plural is made both by suffixes and by suppletive stems: the most common pattern being the marking of plural subject by suffixes of suppletives, the plural object by suffixes.

A description of Shasta grammatical structure includes a certain number of morphophonemic statements. These statements are primarily concerned with length, consonant assimilation (limited), vowel assimilation, consonantal loss, vocalic contraction, and pitch displacement.