5. TÔBATULABAL. (Based on oral report of C. F. Voegelin.)

Tôbatulabal, like Hopi, belongs to the Uto-Aztecan stock, and the two languages have a number of structural similarities, as well as some interesting differences. The morphological processes are the same except that Tôbatulabal is characterized by lacking prefixation entirely, by the fact that compounding is very weakly developed, and by the fact that reduplication is used somewhat more extensively. The most striking characteristic of Tôbatulabal phonology consists of changes (shortening or lengthening) in the length of vowels according to the basic length of the given vowel, the position of the vowel in the word, and the type of consonant following the vowel. Nothing of this sort is found in Hopi. Tôbatulabal is not characterized by pause technique.

The word-classes of Tôbatulabal are the same as those of Hopi, and as in Hopi the noun and the verb are inflected. The Tôbatulabal noun distinguishes three cases, nominative, objective, and genitive, as opposed to the two of Hopi. Distinctions between the absolute and the possessed forms of nouns and between the suus and ejus forms of possessives are made in Tôbatulabal as in Hopi. Some nouns are used only in the absolute (e.g., proper names), and a few body-part terms and all relationship terms occur only in the possessed form. As in Hopi, Tôbatulabal nouns fall into classes (only three, however) differentiated as to types of inflection.

The Tôbatulabal verb is characterized by having two fundamental stem forms, telic (perfective) and atelic (imperfective). Many suffixes require one or the other of these two types, some may be used with either. While Tôbatulabal nouns rarely appear with more than one derivative suffix attached, verbs may be followed by a whole string of derivative suffixes. The voice of a given verb-stem is inherent within the stem itself; in other words a stem is inherently transitive, intransitive, or impersonal.