

Lucy Thomason earned an A.B. in Folklore and Mythology in 1990 from Harvard-Radcliffe University, where she specialized in ancient Celtic mythology and in a variety of dead Celtic and Germanic languages. She earned a Ph.D. in Linguistics from the University of Texas at Austin in 2003, with a dissertation about obviation in Meskwaki, an endangered Algonquian language of the north-central United States. She has done fieldwork and dictionary work on Bitterroot Salish and Pend d'Oreille, two endangered varieties of Salish spoken in the northwestern United States, since 1982. Since 1992 she has done dictionary work, narrative analysis, and morphological analysis of Meskwaki, working primarily with a collection of more than 27,000 pages of Meskwaki texts on a variety of topics, written in the early 1900s in Great Plains Syllabary by some 35 largely monolingual speakers of Meskwaki. She has been an employee of the United States' Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History's Department of Anthropology since 1998.