

Achumawi Database

Summary of October 2022 work

You can download the current backup from

- <http://zelligharris.org/Achumawi/achumawi-db.html>

I have updated the webonary at

- <https://www.webonary.org/odissi/>

Nothing very dramatic to report, no Halloween surprise, just an interim report of an ongoing analysis task, with a couple of interesting examples along the way.

1. **waci and stative Rp wa, w, u.** On occasion I go back into the audio record to check something. One such word this month I had written as *tykwááyaci* ‘moved around’ in LR: Fox, Coyote, and the Cyclone, sentence 1.39. I realized that this might contain *way* ‘move around, stir’. That would require a vowel between it and the pronominal prefix, so I went to the audio recording, and sure enough, the word is *tykuwááyaaci*.

1.39 Word	amqhá	▼ tykuwááyaaci					
Morphemes	amqhá	▼ tyk-	u	wááy	-aa	c	-i
Lex. Entries	amqhá	▼ ***	▼ wá ₃	▼ wáy	▼ -a	▼ c	▼ -i
Lex. Gloss	but	***	stative	move around	volitional	do	0
Lex. Gram. Info.	coordconn	***	Rp	Vroot	Vstem>v	Rp	Vsfx
Word Gloss	but	▼ moved around					
Word Cat.	coordconn	▼ v					

hééwís	tykánácittáánánwáci					
hééwís	tyká-	ná-	ci	ttáá	nán	wáci
hééwís	***	n-	cí	ta	nánu	wáci
high	***	intensive	use limp material	move in a direction	along ridge	continuously does
adv	***	Vpfx	Rcv	Vroot	Vroot	aux
on top	crawled around					
adv	v					

Free They (locusts) were crawling all around on top of (the sack).

Note Wrote: *tykwá:yaci*, but in audio the *u* is clear and the penult is long; cp. de Angulo *-úyá-*, *-áyá-* ‘to dodge’ (Gr. 108b).

I came to this in the process of separating off *waci* as an auxiliary verb (‘helping verb’), which you see in the last word of this sentence, *tykánácittáánánwáci*. I have not finished carrying out that analysis, there are many other occurrences that I haven’t yet touched. It’s a slow process when I endeavor to analyze the whole sentence. Questions remain, of course. Is that *aa* really a volitional, or the initial stem vowel on the auxiliary root *c* ‘do’ in the bare-stem participle form usually glossed with ‘-ing’? Or might it be *way yaaci*? The auxiliary with *y-* instead of *w-* will be on the agenda for after I finish with *waci*. My analysis of other instances of *a* within a verb stem as ‘volitional’ is certainly open to question; it at least serves as a place-holder awaiting further light.

The peripheral root *wa, w, u* ‘stative’ is also emergent in the analysis. What we have thought of as a 3rd person pronoun with ‘habitual, characteristic, continuous’ semantics (as in *winílláatiwi* and *winíhhaatiwa*) may

actually be that stem-peripheral root at the beginning of a bare-stem participle: *winílláátiwi* ‘repeatedly moving around from place to place’, *winihhaali* ‘heading back again’, *winihhaaliwa* ‘turning-back place’.

We may see this *wa*, *w*, *u* ‘stative’ root also in

- tóqci* ‘defecate (*ápsi*, feces)’
- tisóqci* ‘urinate (*tisóq*, urine)’
- síliisoqpátáké* ‘I get feces all over myself’

At present, the main root appears to be *oq* ‘excrete waste’, with *s* ‘indefinite’ for urine

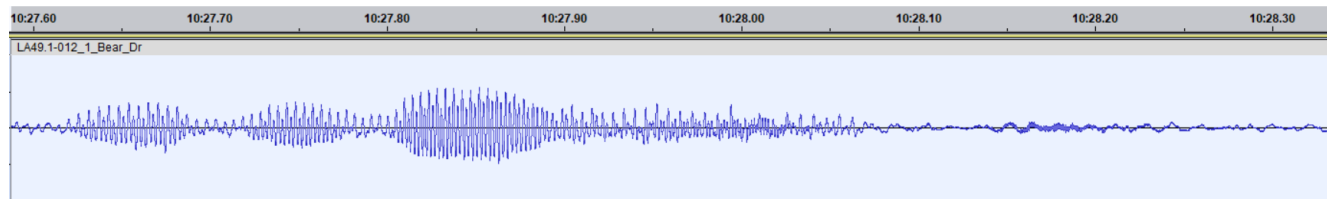
2. **Comparison.** As an addendum to the collection of compound sentences that I presented last month, here is sentence 12 in LR: Bear Doctor cures a thief (LA49.012 = mp3 9:05):

aamim wíccí wá pííniíné wá tupti má tillíwaci .
 ‘To go by wagon is faster than going after someone (on foot)’.

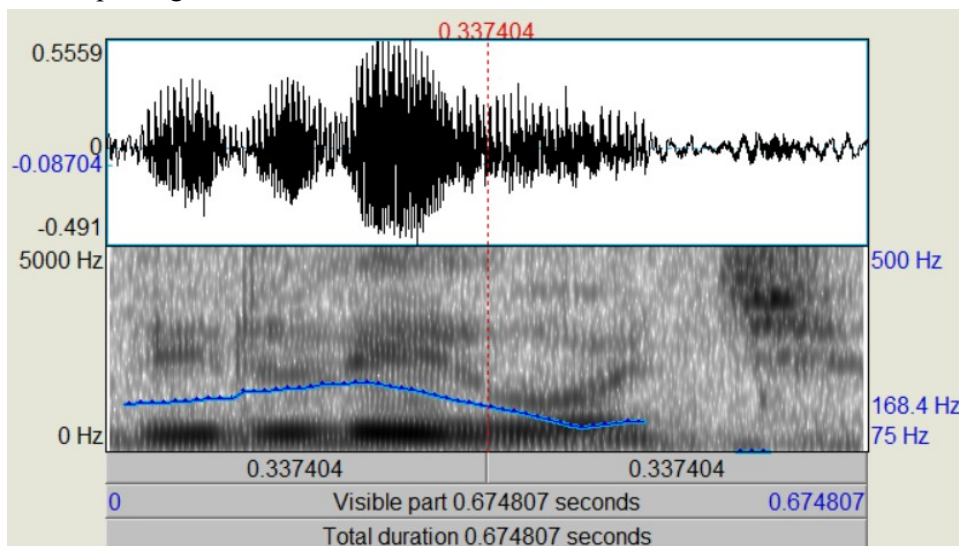
The sentence form can be represented as follows:

aamim wíccí wá t-Vstem₁-i má t-Vstem₂-i
 ‘To V₁ is faster than to V₂.’

As above, I came to this in the course of chasing down verbs ending with *waci*. There is only this one occurrence of *tillíwaci* ‘go after him’, go get him’, but there are numerous occurrences of *titillíwi* ‘call for him’, as for example a doctor calling a spirit helper. Again, I have gone to the audio record. This is how Audacity displays the audio signal:



And here is the sound spectrogram from Praat:



Again, the penultimate vowel is open and long, indicating length. (You can listen to the [audio excerpt](#) yourself.) So the final word in that sentence turns out to be *titillíwaaci* ‘go for someone’ contrasted with *titillíwi* ‘call someone, call for someone’.