Achumawi Database: Summary for July 2020

The current backup can be downloaded (with instructions) from the usual location at http://zelligharris.org/achumawi-db.html

Working through the lexicon entries has brought me to the initial letter i, but the process of identifying verb roots, working out their ranges of meaning, and assembling examples brings me to analyze many other words that do not begin with i. As soon as a complex word is analyzed, it no longer appears when you right-click its lexicon entry and select Show Entry in Concordance. I delete the lexicon entries for all such words. Eventually, many of these will be put back in the lexicon as examples of specific morphemes that occur in them.

I use my working files in the Analysis folder for quick lookup during my ongoing analysis of verb stems in the database, and to help clarify the semantic range of each of the verb root morphemes. The primary usefulness of these working files is to avoid the distracting complication of going back to Texts and Words, then to the concordance, then back to the Lexicon and the item being analyzed. Because of the ad hoc way I make and use these files, they are incomplete. They overlap because data for many of the CV roots are not yet entered into Template.ods. Despite this, you may find them useful. They may convey to you something of the emerging picture of verb morphology. For examples and current status of a morpheme, look it up in the lexicon, right-click the entry in the list on the left side, and select Show Entry in Concordance. This will display a concordance of all the analyzed forms in which I have identified the given morpheme.

These working files are currently named as follows:

- Template.ods. The CV-CVC-CV template for complex verb stems.
  Three columns in this table are defined with the glosses
  by doing .. do .. while doing ..
  The rows are in labeled sections, one for each CV root. In each row, an example shows the several template positions in which the given root morpheme may occur.
- Root-CV.ods. Roots occurring in the first and/or third (CV) slots of the template. A CV root may occur in the central "do" column, violating the CVC norm for that column.
- Root-CVC.ods. Roots occurring in the central CVC slot of the template. Some have consonant clusters, e.g. *ticasq̇óóti* "smoke a pipe (*sqót*)", *tic̓iqh̓úúti* "crush with foot".

- R-stem.ods. Short root morphemes appearing as verb stem with no modifying verb roots before or after. The form of these simple verb stems is usually VC, e.g. *am* “eat”, but the status of the initial vowel may change as I get a better understanding of the initial vowels of verb stems generally.

CVC roots that have onomatopoeic semantics or sound symbolism may alternatively occur reduplicated before a “do” or “be” verb. Examples:

tikuuẏúúṫi	squish it with hand pressure”
ẏuṫ ẏuṫ tikúúcóo	mash it! (e.g. soft fruit)
ẏuṫ ẏuṫ tuci	it got squished
ẏuṫ ẏuṫ ucí’	it’s soft (e.g. an apple to pick out and throw away)

A supplemental sheet in the Root-CVC.ods file suggests that when a CVC root occurs in the third slot of the template the vowel is lost, leaving a consonant cluster ($C_1VC_2 > C_1C_2$). An epenthetic vowel separates it from the preceding CVC root with C_1 closing that syllable. In e.g. *tilúúṁeeteạta* “run hard after him!”, *ạat* “compress, approach” is reduced to *ạt* after the central CVC root *ṁet* “run hard, run as fast as possible”, and the change of the epenthetic vowel *i* to *e* (assimilating *iqt* to *eqt*) is easily explained. In *tikuutílqíci* “topple, overturn” *laq* “turn, reverse” is reduced to *lq*; the preceding *ti* (or *t* plus epenthetic *i*) possibly appears also in *yántiik^{h}é* “he walks up”, *táák^{h}e wa cwíntiik^{h}é* “he climbed the ladder” but is not yet clearly identified. Of course there are many such open questions.

The assignment of conventional grammatical categories continues to be challenged. For example, after a noun the individuating suffix (or perhaps postposition) *-ca, -can* singles out an individual, or it can indicate the severality of more than one individual, and thence sometimes has been glossed as “plural” instead of the plural postposition *ċó*. In verbs, the verb forms that are glossed as dual are often used as plural, but can have a suffix to assert plurality explicitly. In the volitional mode this suffix is *-ca*. If this is the same morpheme, it challenges the distinction between modifiers of nouns and modifiers of verbs.

The CVC verb roots *ɬeh̓*, *ɬeq̓*, and *teq̓* present a good exercise in pronunciation, with *leq̓* and *yeq̓* nearby.

ɬeh̓	tear	*wacaaɬééh̓í*	he tears it
		wacaaɬéh̓wámi	he tears it apart
ɬeq̓	pile flat objects	*tááɬeq̓l̓íwacóo*	pile up (flat objects)!
		sánaɬeq̓l̓íwací	I'm piling (flat objects)
	stick onto surface	*tɬ́kuuɬéq̓ta*	press it to stick on
leq̓	lateral, broad, flat	*leq̓ leq̓ yuwáwi*	he waves flat object
		ɬ́eeléq̓í tuwáy̓cóo!	make it flat!
		yanaɬééleq̓i	he flattens it
		tiċiiléq̓l̓am	kick (the door) in!
teq̓	lean against	*tikuutéq̓ta*	lean (& press) it against (the wall)
		sáncuutéq̓tí	I leaned it across against it
		táátéq̓táya	lean (heavy object) against it
		láppaẇ u taatéq̓ti	upper arm (= forearm's lean-on)
yeq̓	attach, stick on	*aayéq̓ti*	sticking on, attached, added on

One must be careful not to jump too fast to conclusions. These two verbs look like they contain a similar CVC root—one might guess *ɬeq* "scrape":

saɬéqy̓iicíwí I'm scraping it out
tiɬeqy̓íícíwa! scrape out (the pot)

But this *ɬeq* is in the first root slot where we expect a CV root of the kind that we used to call instrumental prefixes. Searching for qy̓i, we find a larger set:

saɬéqy̓iicíwí I'm scraping it out
tiɬeqy̓íícíwa! scrape out (the pot)
ticúqy̓iicíwá scrape it out by thrusting (with a spoon)
saláqy̓iicíwí I scrape (dish) with spoon
tiláqy̓iicíwá stir up body of water
sacáqy̓iicíwí scratch it out with fingers
tikúqy̓iicíwa wipe basket out pressing with (cloth)

In the lexicon view of the database, right-click the entry for *qy̓i*, select **Show entry in concordance**, and then look at examples under the Analyze tab.