

## Achumawi Database: Summary for May 2021

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

That page now also includes a link to a collection of all my monthly reports and my annual report.

My report this month is mostly subsumed by my annual report for the National Science Foundation, and indeed a great deal of my time went into reviewing my reports for the past year and restating the main results.

I was preparing it in a document of the same sort as this, supposing that it was due at the end of May, and that it even had a grace period following that date. If my memory serves, that was my experience with the prior grant, which was funded through the National Endowment for the Humanities. As I was searching for the grant number to put next to the title, I turned up an email message that had gone unnoticed in gmail's 'updates' folder. Dated 1 May, it said "Annual report is NOW due". There was an elaborate web form to fill out on research.gov, and fortunately I completed it on the 29<sup>th</sup>, with the PDF report attached as a supplemental document for good measure.

All this notwithstanding, I have been able to devote some time to the basic slog of working through the lexicon, analyzing complex forms, and removing them as headwords unless the meaning is unusually important or indirect.

In a story about the Mouse Brothers, they were plodding along as though heavily burdened, *pakay pakay tykitáwáácumi*. The participle *ipkaayî* refers to a broad-shouldered or broad, heavy person. This tells us to look for aphaeresis (vowel loss) beyond the usual CVC canon. It's not quite like the Semitic languages, where e.g. a triplet of consonants remains constant and the presence or absence of different vowels before, after, and between the consonants constructs different but related words, but it's tending in the same direction.