Achumawi Database

Summary of May 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/

1. **Expanding the project**
2. **Subclasses of roots**
3. **wá / óó and accidents**
4. *íntʰééyóóqi* 'feeling sorry, sad'

1. Expanding the project. A good deal of time this month has gone into writing and revising the "Description" section of a DEL proposal for submission in September. This is posted at https://zelligharris.org/Achumawi/d.Description.pdf for those in this limited distribution who would like to look at it. I am proposing an extension of the project to support a linguistics student working with Leonard Talmy to get all of his field record into an Atsugewi database comparable to our Achumawi database, in addition to completing the Achumawi analysis and producing a grammar, texts, and dictionary. No pressure! But activists in the ILN are expected to take over more of the work of producing pedagogical materials and activities drawing on the DB. Already, this requires less of my time and energy.

2. Subclasses of roots. A brief review first, for context. The basic verb stem template for Achumawi is currently understood as:

Periphery	By doing X	Do Y	While doing Z	Periphery
	CV	CVC	CV	

This template has been useful for sorting out the distributional ranges of Achumawi verb roots, and it gives a general sense of the construction of Achumawi verb stems. Important matters are relegated to the 'periphery'. In the left periphery are the pronominal prefixes, the intensive/iterative *n-*, a *w-* prefix that (suwááśá 'I sang' sóósá 'I drank')and perhaps a *y-*

It provides three template locations or 'slots'. Each slot has a distinctive semantic contribution to the meaning of the stem; or to put it another way, the semantic range of (the English gloss for) a given morpheme changes depending upon its location in the template. Omitting some detail, a stem with fewer than three roots leaves one or two slots empty; the central slot is always filled, and if a CVC root is present it goes there. Additional complexity in the 'periphery' is not considered here. The two examples below have roots in all three slots:

1. *wacasṗutċíci*   'hand or wind tore the top off'
2. *wacasṗutċúci*   'hand or wind uprooted it, tore it up by the roots'

Table 3. Two examples illustrating the Achumawi verb template

Periphery	By doing X	Do Y	While doing Z	Periphery
wa- '3rd person'	*ca* 'grasp'	*sṗút* 'pluck'	*ċí* 'be upon, on top'	*c -i* 'do'
wa- '3rd person'	*ca* 'grasp'	*sṗút* 'pluck'	*ċú* 'lift, rise, move upward'	*c -i* 'do'

In the approach which has become familiar in the literature, the morpheme *ca* in the first slot might well be classed an instrumental prefix and glossed "with the hand". However, morphemes that occur in the first slot, even those like *ca* which seem most 'instrumental', can also occur as the main root of a verb: *icááci* "grasping, holding"; and we can say not only e.g. *sacaaṫásci* "I shake it out" but also *ṫas ṫas sacááci* "I smooth it, stretch out wrinkles".

In the third slot, the morphemes *ċi* and *ċu* have 'traditionally' been considered direction/location suffixes, but they can also occur in the central slot as the main root, e.g. *ċi* in *sayyi yááċiitánki* "falling star" (with *tán* "down from above" and *k* "hither"), in *sááċiimí* "I fell" (with *m* "down to surface"), and *saaċiimiiẏáámí* "I made it fall"; likewise e.g. *ċu* "lift, rise", in *kip kip tiċuumí* "skip", and an allomorph of *ċu* in *tóóċi* "build" (e.g. lifting the members of a permanent winter house, vs. *tánámmáɋci* "put together" a temporary summer shelter with *maɋ* 'touch, assemble').

Even what seemed to be a directional *im, mi* "down to surface" can be the main root: *wamííci* "it's on the ground", *wámíícaswaci* "it's loaded down" (i.e. of a tree with fruit to the point of branches near breaking; *s* 'indefinite', *waci* the *c* auxiliary with stative 3rd person *w-*).

What carries the semantics of instrumentality is not a class of morphemes, the instrumental prefixes; it is a property of the first slot position, whichever root falls there. In e.g. *saċiiɋááli* "I kick it" *ɋal* "hit" is the main root and *ċi* 'upon, atop' has the appearance of an instrumental prefix 'with the foot/feet' (feet being what we stand upon and what places us atop things).

Hitherto, every root has been classed as Vroot. Now that this much is clear, I am starting the process of subclassifying the roots According to their privileges of occurrence and some aspects of morphophonemics.

R = CVC roots which occur only in slot 2 (the main slot).

Rcc = CVC roots that are reduced to CC when the occur other than in slot 2.

R2 = CV roots that occur in slot 1 or 3, or in slot 2 in the absence of R.

Rp = roots that occur in the near periphery.

This will make it easier to sort and analyze roots of each type.

Lexicon	Entries			
Lexicon Edit	Headword	△ Lexeme Form	Glosses	Grammatical Inf...
Browse	Show All	Show All	Show All	Vroot
Dictionary	allu	allu	hungry / hungry	Vroot / Adjective
Collect Words	ám	ám	eat	Vroot
Classified Dictionary	asya	asya	cooperate	Vroot
Bulk Edit Entries	c	c	do	Vroot
Reversal Indexes	ċ	ċ	bite	Vroot
Bulk Edit Reversal Entries	cˑca	cˑca	interlace	Vroot
	ḣaw	ḣaw	light (weight); agile	Rcc
	ḣáẇ	ḣáẇ	constrain	Rcc
	ḣċ	ḣċ	tangle	Vroot
	ḣi	ḣi	use head / head toward / lead / put head on	Vroot / Vroot / Vroot / Vroot
	ḣluṗ	ḣluṗ	strip loose / strip off	Vroot / Vroot

This process has only begun. Other work cleaning up the lexicon proceeds with it.

3. wá / óó and accidents.

I bit off more than I could chew this month, embarking on a chase after some of the morphology in the left periphery between the pronominal prefixes and roots in the verb stem template. Not too much is yet ready to report. This investigation started with glosses that say something happened 'by accident'. For years, I've puzzled over this. There was no obvious morpheme that meant 'accidental'. So I decided to pull together the examples with "accident" in the gloss. This set stood out right away:

sinaaqístumi   'I step on it accidentally'   *sawaaqístumi*   'I step on it'

ckyáása, yáása   'he sang'   *ckyáwáása*   'he sang hard/purposefully'

Aha! If *wa* means 'purposeful', is everything without *wa* accidental? Going back to the set of "accidental" glosses was discouraging. There are twice as many examples with intensive/iterative *n*-marking the 'accidental' forms and no 'purposeful' *wa* (still a very small example set):

	Accidental			**Purposeful**

n-

síncuuqʰóóɋátí	I accidentally punched a hole	*ticuuqʰóóɋa*	punch a hole in it!
sinkúúyááɋatí	I accidentally Bumped it w/ s.t.		
sincaċíílláyláqci	I accidentally twist it in two	*sakuċíílláyláqci*	I twist with hand pressure
tykwíntuuťíísi	he accidentally shot him	*sátuuťiisi*	I shot him

Worse, here is a contrary example with *n-* on the 'purposeful' side:

	Accidental		**Purposeful**
tilííqaci	meet by accident	*tínálííqaaci*	meet, encounter

Others are even less clear.

y- / e-	**Accidental**		**Purposeful**
séémáálíní	I accidentally hit him	*támmááli*	hit (with something)
wíluutuupí	pulls weeds all the time/accidentally	*wáluutúúpí*	pulls weeds
sálúúṁaymí	I accidentally spill	*sálúúṁááṁí; sálúúṁámcí*	pour; spill nuts
sľ'ííċííyáq	I might accidentally hit one		

Two of these might involve the *y- / e-* morphemes, which are somewhat parallel to *wa / o-*, and the third has *y* in the right periphery rather than the left periphery. All of this is so far quite inconclusive.

After some discouragement, I returned to the verbs with *wá* after the pronominal prefixes. In many verbs, *wá* and *ó* alternate:

tóósiimi	'go out hunting'	*sáwaasiimí*	'I go hunting'	*lhóósicka*	I hunt you[1]
tóóɋistumi	'step on something'	*sawaaɋístumi*	'I step on it'	*lhooɋístumá*	I step on you
tóóɋiċci	'step over'	*sawaaɋíċci*	'I step over it'	*lhooɋíċci*	I step over you

To discern its semantic contribution, I found some verbs with and without a preceding *wá*.

		wa	**'intentional, for a purpose'**
yátẁi	'he kills'	*yáwatẁa*	'murderer'
ckyáása	'he sang'	*ckyáwáása*	'he sang hard'
táálooɋi[2]	'peel'	*táwaalooɋi*	'peel bark off tree'
saakʰááti	'I'm dead (cut off)'	*sánwaakʰááti*	'I cut it (with a blade)'
sáápá	'I throw'	*siwáápá*	'I throw and hit'

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1 With the directional *m* 'thither' this would be *lhóósiimicka*. *Lhóósiimi* 'we go hunting' has the alternate gloss 'I hunt you, especially with volitional *-a* in *lhóósiimá* 'I hunt you'. Conversely, the explicit 2nd person patient *-icka* may be avoided when cumbersome, as in *lhóóɋístumicka* 'I step on you', *lhóóɋiċcicka* 'I step over you'. There may be some pitch changes here that I've missed.

2 Incidental peeling; *yáálooɋí* 'it's easy to peel', *witáálooɋí* 'he's peeling it'.

In the last two examples, *siwálléą́ą́í* and *siwálléą̀mící*, a prior purpose is restored (the cover is supposed to be on, so put it back on).

		wa	'intentional, for a purpose'
sááléą̀mící	'I put it down'	*siwálléą̀mící*	'I put the cover back down'
sááleą́ą̀i	'I covered it'	*siwálléą́ą́í*	'I covered it back up'
			(not supposed to be open)

   A supposition from this is that the class of verbs with initial *tóó-* and *sáwá-* express a particular exercise of will, intention, or purpose, whether or not a corresponding verb with *ti- / si-* or *ta- / sá-* can be found in the database. Thus, for example, there are no trivial or purposeless dreams (*tóósáqcámi, sáwaasáqcami*). This remains to be followed up.

   The differentiation of *siší* 'I said'; *suwáásá* 'I sang'; *sóósá* 'I drank' will be interesting to figure out.

4. *ínt^{h}ééyóóqi* 'feeling sorry, sad'

The *yóq* root appears reduplicated in *yóqyooqí* 'smooth, slick', and in

- *ticuuyóóqi* 'ironing'
- *tilúúyóóqi* 'pluck feathers', *ílúúyóóqaké'* 'plucked'
- *silúúyóóqumá* 'he's pulling my hair'

There's a similar root, *ẏoq*, with glottalized *ẏ* and low pitch:

- *tílíẏẏ̀ooqí* 'stir, thresh (grains)'
- *tálíẏẏooqé* 'rake, stirrer, thresher'

This seems to be a metaphor on the 'pluck, pull hair out' meaning, where *li* 'extend hand/arm' might be a pointing finger:

- silííyóóqumá 'he scolded me, he bawled me out'

Back to *ínt^{h}ééyóóqi* 'feeling sorry, sad'. The *t^{h}i - t^{h}e - t^{h}a* family of roots generally has to do with making noise, hearing, and obeying. Seems like it more specifically means feeling sorry about something you heard, or after being chewed out.