

Achumawi Database

Summary of September 2022 work

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I have updated the webonary at

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1. Organizing the lexicon
2. Subordinate clauses
3. qacáy

1. **Organizing the lexicon.** More grunt work in the lexicon. This always brings some puzzles to light, and occasionally brings them to resolution. I wonder if *tisliwci* ‘fighting’ and *wasliw* ‘warrior’ really express communicating at arms length, so to speak, and should be *tisliwci, wasliw*.
2. **Subordinate clauses.** The focus has been on the constructing of roots into stems. I’ve been asked to provide more insight into syntax beyond simple sentences. I have pulled together a variety of compound sentence forms that are translated to English with subordinate clauses. There may be more.

2.1. The first set is with *ka* ‘agentive’ after the verb in the subordinate clause. This may be the bare verb stem, glossed as the English -ing participle:

<i>wisyáámí 'ka 'icusá'ci' twiyí</i>	When she's tired of you, she's leaving
<i>'ó is'c'ó'ó'ci ka mhís.</i>	While talking, we'll drink
<i>qa pálmás it'yí'ci ka cktatíwwalmíwci.</i>	When first setting up homes they were neighbors
<i>kicci mów mámmí iníwíwci ka,</i> <i>máámú'c twiyí iyááhuumí qa iníwíwci ka.</i>	You shouldn't eat while racing each other, it is together (that) two run when racing each other
<i>allu uci' ka smámaati qá pi</i>	This [situation is that] I would go to sleep being hungry. (I don't want to go to sleep when I'm hungry!)
<i>álictíikí' kam qa tóosi, ckááyintíwí tóólollíni</i>	Although she was afraid, she went around everywhere

The verb in the dependent clause does not have to be a participle, it can be inflected with a pronominal subject:

<i>kwán qa tíq'q'á'ati winíy'acwí 'ka</i> <i>má áncá tóólol ckwámmaakántwí.</i>	When he had finished making the earth, Kwan looked around at everything
<i>waasíni qá yassi kam</i>	That's what he said when he sang

When the referent in the main sentence is in the first person or second person, it is striking that a 3rd person pronoun is used in the subordinate clause. For example: *seeqaacíní winíhuumí ka* ‘I met it when going for power’. This seems to be an impersonal 3rd person, being in that role or being ‘that kind’ who does that, something like ‘I met it while I was one who goes for power’. Other examples:

<i>álwi issi wáníhuumí ka séémáalíni qá cimmu.</i>	In midsummer when going for power I hit a wolf.
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páálá, is ikkááci ka, waasiimi ka, sówaasiimíni

The first time in my life when I was a hunter,
I went hunting.

*ámmíikam stisúptaswácóo iléemáqti qa tíqááti
cé stuci qa tilíssuuci, isí tsiyi.*

When I'm eating, [I'm] reciting to the earth "watch over me",
I'm saying "don't reject me as a stranger".

Placing *qa* before a 3rd person verb may have the same 'the kind who' or role semantics:

*amq^há twiciíni qá itt^hú wayi wílóo qá yassi 'kam
Ploq ploq waak^haykíni qá ahti*

But while my late father was singing
blood was spurting down (from his mouth)

An excessively literal translation might be "while he was the one singing" or "while he was the singer".
However, this may be limited to verbs referring to recognized roles. Being tired probably doesn't qualify:

hew uci tkiyi qa yúúwáámi ka

you forget when you're tired.

2.2. The locative *wáté* can designate a location in time or (metalinguistically) a location in the current discourse.

*qá çul uuciçyaki wátém skak skak stawaacúici
uucímci wátém mlúnná.*

When the sun was rising, manifestly I was snoring
even if it rains, I'll come

uucímci wátém aawátca mlúnná.

I'll come only when it rains.

álillaykaciwáté wánéhá ckyúuwi

At early light she had a toothache

p^héé uc^hicyakíwáté ckwińimmátsi qá woh.

When it was almost noon, the bear woke up

kiciwasqaawáté má áncia kicupté

When you shut them in tight, then go.

łhilúllayco 'óóyá

I used to lullaby you

má lhooqántiwó 'óóyá

and I used to carry you around on my back

itt^húuni tatyí ú túúsaayiyáté

while our mothers were digging

pálmás alillaykiiwáté

At first light,

amq^háawáté ckamáátuuwaayini

that's when he woke them

kitím ckwaméétéwkaswaci

just whenever the sun was shining

amq^háawate aamá kitím ckááwaati.

she was only around

(She was only around just when the sun was shining.)

2.3 *Amq^há, amq^háka(m), amq^háawáté*. In my July report, I said that the basic function of *amq^há* is as a deictic 'that, that one' referring to something in the prior context. When it refers to a noun, it's glossed as a pronoun. When it refers to a time, it can be translated "when". When it refers to a verb or a clause, with a sense of 'on the other hand' or contrast, it can be glossed as a connective such as "but", "although", "however".

amq^há tíimaami qa mahíkcawí çul wimééláqsaswaci, tóólol inúumáámo'oyi 'kam.

When we look at the moon it returns bright light even though it was all burned up

(all having been burned up). We can change the word order in the English translation:

The moon reflects bright light to us although it was all burned up.

amq^háawáté úúsaayi', tyúniini qa waslíw

While we were digging, soldiers came.

amq^há qa úúsaayi' tínisúuci.

while she was digging, he caught her.

yaat^huumiwci palá' sápte amq^háawáté

they arrived while I was leaving

pálmás ulúpçiciwáté, amq^háawate ckyañaapáámuk

When [the sun] was starting to go down, then he woke up

amq^hááwáté aníúyíilámí aamáy^tu qa sát wíçíilúúyí’ aka ckwaacúúci.
 Meanwhile, inside (the house), Pumice-stone-man was busy too

áliihúk^waci ka amq^hákam tinimác kú styóówáátumá But when the evil one will find us
hay^t tinúúci tucciwáté when [we’re] not thinking [about him]
amq^há tíit^huk kú yuwá then he will return

2.4. The future/potential with *ku* can be glossed as a ‘when’ clause. In my early field notes I recorded Craven Gibson saying *sáák^hát ku* and glossed it as ‘when I cut’, evidently omitting some context.

má áncá qa wátwat yuut^hum ku ma kícíiwóh^hci. And then when the rabbits get here then you should shout.
káákuuw^wac kúci itt^hú tíni kúci wítáç. Be there when I come.
híi’í, m^huukuuwá. Yes, I’ll be there.

This *ku* with a conditional or irrealis pronoun like 3rd person *m-* in the main clause can be translated as an if/then construction:

yuuçimci kú má áncá mlúnná. If it rains I’ll come.
çé yucci kú tuuçimc mámm mlúnná. If it doesn’t rain, I’ll come.
páálá muwí tyímuup^hita pííniiniíwa It used to take a long time to travel by wagon,
má tinmákcú kú tyánciíni when you had far to go

2.5. A participle adjoined to a sentence can be translated as a subordinate clause:

tóóqⁱikántiwi aawátca macwá suwí. it only hurts when I walk around

Using the article *qa* before the participle may strengthen this effect. The subject of the subordinate clause must be inferred from context.

qa táát^huumaci ckwinceep^haahí kac^hú áásá When he got close, he shut his eyes
qa tím^maami cyééwa tyikusástaçcíní állistáté When he looked that way, she was sitting on a rock
qa tím^maqacáyáké while looking ahead of himself [he saw] ¹
astaymi pakay pakay ckitáwáácumi. they were slowly plodding along
álictikwáci’ tyíiciíni qá kac^hú timáçci, Looking fierce while traveling,
má áncá we téét^huumácé icáácámci. stopping when almost home
qá c^haawámcan upté’, Whenever she was going someplace particular,
tisúpháánini upté’, going in a hurry,
álahta tíimaaki [she] appeared as a bear

The *qa* construction and the *amq^hááwáté* structure can be combined:

qa alilláq^tí ’ka aawátca c^hú sa amá içi mim, Doing only just whatever she likes,
amq^hááwáté alilléq^tí çé mów uukuuwáci twiyí whenever she cares to she might stay home

2.6. When two sentences are simply combined, one can be translated as a subordinate clause:

pálmás yuut^huuki Mak^háát^há wáy^tu When he arrived from MacArthur
sháácáálátiwí t^háwn. we were standing around town.
qa q^hé winéemacwí tiniíyaymi qa q^hé qa yályú When he finished eating, that man got sick
qa ís q^hám ó issí twiyí qa ís ú taamát^yí people talk a lot when they get together

¹ For *qacáy* in *tím^maqacáyáké* see the next section.

<i>tinihúúmá nam lóqmim,</i> <i>Nam lóqmim kahpááci</i>	Seek power when it's still early in the morning. swim when it's still early in the morning
<i>waasiimo 'ooyí mám tyatwíini.</i>	While he was out hunting, he killed him

In the last example the context makes clear that the 3rd person reference is different in the second sentence. It would be more explicitly so with *amq^há*, or of course with an explicit noun:

<i>waasiimo 'ooyí mám tyatwíini amq^há.</i>	While he was out hunting, he killed him
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Atemporal relative clauses have this form:

<i>q^hám sínámmacqáti winilláátiwi I</i> <i>wímmacqáti qa tiiqóoli.</i>	I know many white people who know how to gamble (hand game)
<i>mí tkiyí kápté</i>	Was it you who went?
<i>té wiší aamá tkiyí</i>	You're the kind that only talks that way.
<i>q^hé kítim suwá sóóciiláké</i>	I am indeed the one who owns them
<i>iniíwíwci ka yáamá tkiyí</i>	You are one who eats while racing
<i>tsuwíumá qa wiyáacáalu wámmáq miší</i>	Did you say I'm the old woman who travels around?
<i>ckwinámmacqáti kac té ticci</i>	He knew who did this

This can be just a kind of emphasis:

<i>q^hé ka kámmáálicka</i>	Is that the one who hit you?
<i>q^hé ka týíwáátumá iyámmáalumá qa q^hé có</i>	Those are the ones who hit her.
<i>mimééka ya má tkiyí kááwá</i>	You're the one who gave it
<i>mimééka ya má tskiciyí skicáwwíumá.</i>	You're the one who gave it to us.

Other constructions may turn up which are translated as subordinate clauses in English.

3. An example above includes *tímmáqacáyáké* 'look ahead (of oneself)'. On formal grounds, given the CV or CVC shapes of other roots, the element *qacáy*, glossed 'move forward', is probably two roots, but it has not yet been possible to identify them. There are no easily identifiable occurrences of *qac* or *qc*.

There is only one other clear occurrence, *yálulqacaymi* 'it rolled ahead' (recorded as *yálulqatcai'mi* by Radin). De Angulo has *-ò qa dzè-* 'drive hither' in his grammar, which conceivably might be 'move forward hither', but this is almost certainly a mishearing of *ka* 'collective action; herd or drive (animals)' plus *cay* 'cross; mix' (see below).

Another possibility is to parse it into *qa* (no identified occurrences) + *cay* 'cross; mix', which occurs with *-m* 'thither' in these participles used as nouns:

<i>álista tíicaymáké</i>	stone footbridge
<i>timáácaymi</i>	lintel
<i>ticpúúicayme</i>	joists

With the 'make a line' root *la* it refers especially to a crossing flow of water:

<i>iipác' ilaacaymí'.</i>	flowing strongly
<i>astaymi wálacaymi</i>	it ripples
<i>tíllaacaymo 'oyáté</i>	where (water) used to run

twacúúyiscaymi water is washing away bank

With other roots we see other specializations of the ‘cross’ semantics:

<i>titaacááyi</i>	mix it
<i>tičwacáyi</i>	mix (mush + meat) w/ teeth
<i>tíncaacááyi</i>	shuffle
<i>tíncílú^hcááyi</i>	play handgame
<i>sawamacaymáké</i>	I crossed my feet
<i>toomaacáyami</i>	rungs, put sticks across
<i>toomaacáyam</i>	rungs