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*.

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, *tykánácittáánánẃací*. 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 *winílláátiwí* and *wínihhaalíwa*) may

actually be that stem-peripheral root at the beginning of a bare-stem participle: *winílláátiwí* 'repeatedly moving around from place to place', *wínihh̓aali* 'heading back again', *wínihh̓aalíwa* 'turning-back place'.

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

tóqci	'defecate (*ápsi*, feces)'
tisóqci	'urinate (*tisóq*, urine)'
sil̓iisoqpátáké	'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):

aamím wíccí w̓a p̓íín̓iin̓é w̓a tupti má tílllíwaci .
'To go by wagon is faster than going after someone (on foot)'.

The sentence form can be represented as follows:

*aamím wíccí w̓a t-*Vstem$_1$*-i má t-*Vstem$_2$*-i*
'To V$_1$ is faster than to V$_2$.'

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 for 'go after someone, go to get him':
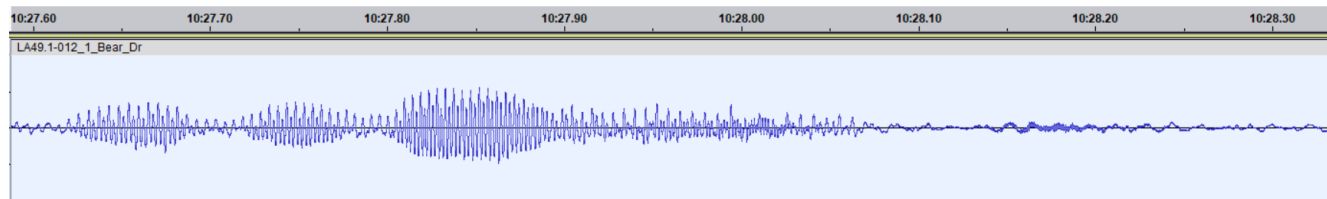
And here is the sound spectrogram from Praat:
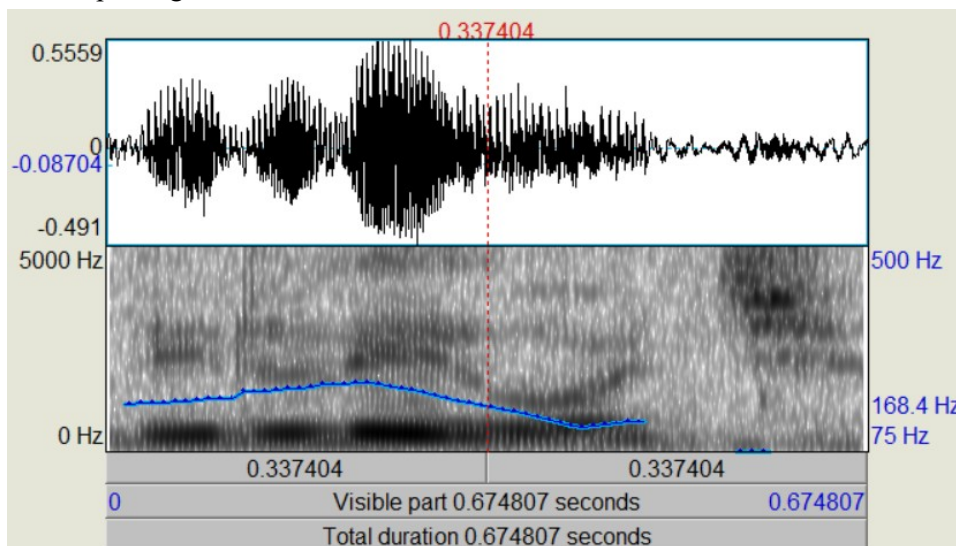
It begins with two short syllables titi, and again the penultimate vowel is open, indicating length, as well as long in duration, though devoiced at the end. (You can listen to the audio excerpt yourself.) So the final word in that sentence turns out to be titilíwaaci 'go for someone' contrasted with titilíwi 'call someone, call for someone'.