

Achumawi Database

Summary of June 2023 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/>

The difficulties with software tools seem to be getting sorted out, though some may be in this Dell computer that I bought during the big supply-chain crunch. It was back-ordered and delivered six months late. Their quality control may have slipped.

This month brings a lot of small detail down in the weeds, rather than shiny things to hold up and look at. One example is *qót tíísi* ‘axe’. On 5/21/73 I transcribed Grandma Lela’s pronunciation as *qóttíysi* with a note saying that it “sounds like glottalized /s/”, which at the time I didn’t think could occur in this language. Immediately after, she offered *qót* ‘make a hole in something hard (rock, tree, log)’ and said she didn’t know a word with this, evidently meaning an example of this root within the stem template with other roots. The root *qót* ‘make hole in hard object’ must be an onomatopoeic root, for the construction with *tíísi* ‘talk, say, utter’ to make sense. Usually, when something is named for the sound it makes, the *issí*’ participle is used: *toy’ toy’ issí* ‘valley quail’, *as lil lil issí* ‘Roaring Creek’. (This usage for animals is more common in Atsugewi.)

It is a fairly recent surprise to recognize how these roots can stand alone glossed in English as nouns, adjectives, and adverbs. The *qót* above is an example; another is where *Céémol* sees locusts escaping from *Kwán*’s sack, *Kwán* calls them *wut*, ‘escape’.

“*Wút tyánuwí, qá piqhá wút.*”

“*Hehe hehe!*” *ckíši qa Céémol. “Wút wút wút wút sísi má ánca sámí qá pi tánci” ckiši.*

Another example is the CV root *pi* ‘set upright, set in place, set in ground’. “*Pi!*” *ckíši*. “Here!” he said; *Qá pi qa áliste* ‘This rock’.

I’ve started separating the morphemes in various demonstrative constructions such as *qhá* and *pi*. Here, you can see how one thing leads to another:

<i>qhá; qhé</i>	that
<i>qháhé, qhé</i>	that one; that one over there
<i>qháá wa</i>	some of them (‘with those, for those’)
<i>amqhá</i>	that one; thus, therefore, so, but, ...
<i>pi</i>	this; here!
<i>pi qhá</i>	this nearby
<i>pi qhá wa</i>	with this one; for this
<i>táq</i>	Stretch, extend
<i>pi táqca</i>	this size one
<i>pi táq yé</i>	this size
<i>pi tánci</i>	this kind
<i>pi ya</i>	those

I may have more to say about this in July’s report, but mostly it will be about updating the lexicon and reanalyzing occurrences in texts and examples. And that’s the character of this report for June as well.