

SAHAPTIN INDIAN LANGUAGE 102©  
Virginia Beavert. Instructor-Developer

L2-001            INTRANSITIVE SENTENCES IN SAHAPTIN

**This Unit is to teach intransitive sentences to identify noun and pronoun specifiers and suffixes in Sahaptin to identify the prepositions and prepositional phrases.**

**NOUNS**

| <i>Singular</i> |                | <i>Dual</i> |              | <i>Plural</i> |          |
|-----------------|----------------|-------------|--------------|---------------|----------|
| miyanash        | child          | miyanashin  | two children | miyanashma    | children |
| pt'iniks        | girl           | pl'ilin     | two girls    | pt'ilima      | girls    |
| aswan           | boy            | amiisin     | two boys     | amiisma       | boys     |
| tiin            | Indian/ person | tiinin      | 2 people     | tiinma        | people   |
| ayat            | woman          | ayatin      | two women    | ayatma        | women    |
| ɨwinsh          | man            | awinshin    | two men      | awinshma      | men      |

**VERBS**

| <i>Present</i> |          | <i>Past</i> |              |
|----------------|----------|-------------|--------------|
| ɨk'iwi-sha     | playing  | ɨk'iwishana | was playing  |
| kutkutsha      | working  | kutkutshana | was working  |
| sɨnwisha       | speaking | sɨnwishana  | was speaking |
| naxtisha       | crying   | naxtishana  | was crying   |
| kuukisha       | cooking  | kuukishana  | was cooking  |

**ADDITIONAL EXPRESSIONS**

|        |                             |       |                               |
|--------|-----------------------------|-------|-------------------------------|
| ikw'ak | that                        | ikwma | those                         |
| ichi   | this                        | ichi  | (inanimate)                   |
|        |                             | chɨma | (animate)                     |
| i-     | 3rd person singular pronoun | pa-   | 3rd person dual/plural prefix |
| chaw   | not (negative marker)       | ii    | yes agreement                 |

**All verbs in the vocabulary sections are given in the imperfective (progressive) form.**

**NOTE:** The simplest way that plural forms (for both nouns and verbs) are created by the noun prefix *i-* for 3rd person singular **present tense** ending in *-sha/shana* verb suffix, and *pa-* for the dual/plural noun prefix ending with *-shana*, past tense verb suffix.

**\*English definition:** Verb auxiliary comes first in a verb phrase and helps form the tense, mood, or voice of the main verb, *do, have, may, can, must,* and *will* are examples of auxiliary verbs.

**Sahaptin definition:** The auxiliary that determines the tenses are **suffixes, sha, shan, ta, taxnay.** There are other options that determine the meaning in Indian language, the noun or pronoun prefix before the verb, (*i-*) 3rd person, singular, present tense prefix, and the dual, plural prefix (*-pa*), present tense, future and past tense determiner. This can be problematic at times, but studying and reading,

writing intransitive sentences will help students learn to understand the structure of various forms of Sahaptin language formation.

### SIMPLE INTRANSITIVE SENTENCES

The following examples illustrate intransitive sentences in Sahaptin.

- |    |                            |                           |
|----|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. | Ichi tiin i-s̄n-wisha.     | This person is speaking.  |
|    | Ichi tiin i-s̄n-wishana.   | This person was speaking. |
| 2. | Ikw'ak ayat i-kuuki-sha.   | That woman is cooking.    |
|    | Ikw'ak ayat i-kuuki-shana. | That woman was cooking.   |

All sentences in Sahaptin have an auxiliary. The auxiliary indicates the *on going* in the *present* or *past* tense. A simple intransitive sentence has a **subject**, a **verb**, and an **auxiliary**.

The most important thing to know about Sahaptin is the position of the auxiliary. The sentences in (1) and (2) can also be said in (3) and (4).

- |    |                            |                           |
|----|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 3. | I-s̄n-wisha ichi tiin.     | This person is speaking.  |
|    | I-s̄n-wishana ichi tiin.   | This person was speaking. |
| 4. | I-kuuki-sha ikw'ak ayat.   | That woman is cooking.    |
|    | I-kuuki-shana ikw'ak ayat. | That woman was cooking.   |

The meaning of (1) is the same as the meaning of (3) and the meaning of (2) is the same as the meaning of (4). The only difference between (1) and (3) is the word order. In (1) and (2) the subject is at the beginning of the sentence and verb is at the end. In (3) and (4) the subject is at the end of the sentence, while the verb is at the beginning.

(1) and (2)                      SUBJECT    VERB    AUXILIARY

(3) and (4)                      VERB        AUXILIARY    SUBJECT

In all four sentences above, the aux is (a suffix) at the end of the verb, and it cannot move around to other places in the sentence, not like the subject and the verb. One of the **first** rules of Sahaptin Indian language is the following:

**Rule 1: The auxiliary is a suffix (placed at the end of the verb), is accepted as one concept and cannot be moved around, unlike the verb, noun or pronoun.**

In the example *Ikw'ak ayat i-kuuki-sha/shana*, the determiner *ikw'ak* and the noun *woman* are taken as a whole (together) and, count as one position. It should be noted that a noun and its determine are moved together as a single item when the word order in a sentence is changed.

©

## SPECIFIERS AND POSTPOSITIONS

The following are examples of postpositional phrases:

|                        |                       |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| wat'uychnik ìniitpa    | in front of the house |
| wat'uychnik lataampa   | in front of the table |
| wat'uychnik átmupiilpa | in front of the car   |

Each of these examples contains some noun (ìniit, lataam, átmupiil) preceded by **wat'uychnik** which is the *specifier* of the preposition **-pa** in the prepositional phrase **ìniitpa**, 'in the house'.

**NOTE: Postpositions** in Sahaptin correspond to *prepositions* in English. (In Sahaptin, the preposition indicator is placed **after** the noun or pronoun that shows the relationship, such as location, time, or direction, between the noun or pronoun and another word. (*kan*, toward; *-pa*, at; *yaw*, to; and *-pa*, in.) **Prepositional phrase** in Sahaptin *lataampa* indicates **where** an object is located. In English, *The book is in the library*. 'in the library' is the preposition to indicate where the book is located.

**Ayat (N) itutisha (3d person present tense VP) wat'uychnik (specifier) ìniitpa (preposition)**

The woman is standing in front of the house.

You can say: **Wat'uychnik ìniitpa itutisha ayat** and mean the same thing.

## SHORT SENTENCES

Aswan itutisha xalukt kwaywaychaashpa. The boy is standing under the bridge.

Miyanashma pałk'iwisha xwiimichnik pnut'awaaspa. The children are playing on top of the bed.

Xusaat ila'ayksha aykawaaspa. The old man is sitting in the chair.

## ASSIGNMENT

Take the three sentences and identify the **noun, verb phrase and tense, prepositional phrase**.

**Example: Pt'ilima pałk'iwisha shp'awitpamapa.**

|                |             |  |
|----------------|-------------|--|
| Pt'ilima       | girls       | plural noun                              |
| pałk'iwisha    | are playing | (progressive) verb phrase, present tense |
| shp'awitpama   | ball field  | (place to play ball)                     |
| shp'awitpamapa | preposition | 'at the ball field'                      |

**Pt'ili'in pashp'awisha shp'awitpamapa.**

|              |                    |   |
|--------------|--------------------|---|
| pt'ili'n     | to girls           | (-in) dual indicator                                  |
| pa-          | personifier,       | plural/dual   |
| shp'aw       | ball               |   |
| shp'awi-     | play ball          |   |
| shp'awisha   | are playing ball   | progressive verb phrase, present tense                |
| shp'awitpama | the ball park,     | specifier (place to play ball) of the following.....  |
| -pa          | preposition suffix | for the prepositional phrase: <i>at the ball park</i> |