

SAHAPTIN VERB PREFIXES AND SUFFIXES HERITAGE UNIVERSITY, TOPPENISH CAMPUS Virginia Beavert, Instructor

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Sahaptin Intransitive Verbs

According to linguists curently working with Northwestern tribes in Sahaptin, there is some argument about how to identify pronouns in Sahaptin. We will examine these various terms and continue to work with what we know about our language.

Teacher should be careful about explaining these terms to the students in English. It becomes quite confusing to the first learner. We will be as simple as possible in this introduction of pronouns in the native language, and how it is explained in English.

The pronouns in Sahaptin are clitics, which are suffixed to the first word of the sentence. whatever that is.

The clitics pronouns with instransitive verbs are:

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1<sup>st</sup> person singular (I)
=(n)ash
                        1<sup>st</sup> person plural inclusive 'we' (you and I; including you)
=na
                        1<sup>st</sup> person plural exclusive "we" (not including you)
=(n)atash
-wina-Verb "go";
      imperfective present tense suffix "ing".
-tawn Noun. town
       Prep.. toward/to
-kan
1. Ink nash winasha tawnkan.
                                        I am going to town.
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2. Napinikna winasha tawnkan. We are going to town. (inclusive)

3. Napiniknatash winasha tawnkan. We are going to town. (exclusive)

There are no 3rd person (he, she, it) pronouns.

The agreement prefixes with intransitive verbs are:

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3<sup>rd</sup> person, singular 'he, she, it' 3<sup>rd</sup> person plural 'they'
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The 3rd person singular prefix is 'i-' is usually left off of any verb that starts with a vowel.

There are no prefixes on intransitive verbs with 1st or 2nd person subjects.



So in any intransitive sentence there will be something to tell who the subject is –either a clitic pronoun, if the subject is 1st or 2nd person, or a prefix on the verb if the subject is 3rd person.

i-wina-na.

'He/she went'

wina-na-ash

'I went'

wina-na-pam

'you guys went'