SAHAPTIN INDIAN LANGUAGE 102/109
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3-2-00   REVIEW LESSONS

Review dipthongs:

Short a~y dipthong Sahaptin is like the long /i/ sound in English, as in the word *python*.
Say the word "*python*" several times and then say "*paysh*" in Sahaptin several times. Can
you distinguish the same short /ai/ sound? A python is a huge snake that inhabits the

Long aa~y dipthong Sahaptin sound is equivelant to the English dipthongs in the words
'*buy*', '*tie*'. Say these words several times to compare the sounds. Say '*yaay*' and '*buy*'
several times.

Short u~y dipthong in Sahaptin is equivelant to the English dipthong /oy/ as in '*toy*'. Say
the word '*ts'muy*' and '*anahuy*' several times, and compare it with '*toy*".

 Long uu~y Sahaptin dipthong is a sound like in the German word *führen* *führlen* — *springtime*
Say the word *puuy* in Sahaptin, and then say the German word several times.
Or you can say the American expletive '*phooy*' to compare this sound with '*puuy*'.

Short a~w dipthong in Sahaptin '*awna*' may sound like English '*pound*', or some other
word you might suggest.

Long aa~w dipthong in Sahaptin word '*chaaw*' and '*waaw*' may sound like English '*cow*',
and the English expletive '*wow!*'.

Short i~w dipthong in the Sahaptin 'ti<u>wi</u>' fight, might sound like '<u>peewee</u>' a slang word to
describe someone who is small of stature. Spelling in Sahaptin is important, the English
words are to compare the sounds. (the underlined dipthongs are comparative.)
There is another word like tenuous, *ten-ye-wes*, meaning flimsy.

Long ii~w   dipthong in Sahaptin 'iiwsh' urine, compared with the English word 'cube'
(kyüb), or *pew*, a place to sit in church, and *teutonic* (t(y)ü-tän-ik) Germanic.

Spelling in Sahaptin is important. When you use write the wrong dipthong the native
language, the sound and meaning is changed. Example:

When you want to spell /*paysh*/ maybe, and you spell it /*pish*/ it has no meaning. It
rhymes with *fish*. Non-speakers of English say /*pish*/ for /*fish*/ because ther is no/eff/
sound in the Sahaptin language.

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a –