

SAHAPTIN INDIAN LANGUAGE 102/109

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WHAT IS LANGUAGE

First: A child becomes aware of language from his first language environment. He learns by listening to adults speak around him. He learns it from the television, or by listening to other children say [túta], dad, [íta] mom, [yáya], older brother, [nána], older sister. In order to have his caretaker fulfill his desires he will learn how to express his needs by learning to use the word that describe what he wants to communicate in indian baby talk: pápa, I want food, lúlu, milk, máma, I want to sleep, ánana, I hurt, pú, I want to/ I have, defecate, háam, I have/want to urinate..

Second: An adult learns grammar from a teacher.

Grammar involves learning the rules of phonology, how sound is made in the oral cavity, tongue, and lips, and how the sound is put together to form words: áyat, woman, íwinsh, man, áswan, boy, pt'íniks, girl tmáma, old woman, xwísáat, old man.

Phonology, is learned when the teacher instructs the student how the sound is made in the letter that forms the word in the Sahaptin alphabet. The student reinforces this when listening, writing and spelling each letter in the word during translation.

Syntax makes rules when the words are put together to make a sentence. The noun is followed by a verb. **Aswan i-wayxtisha**. The boy is running. **Ayat i-kuukisha**. The woman is cooking. Then we can go on and describe how that boy is running, is he running slow or fast. **Aswan kítu iwayxtisha**. The boy is running fast. **Ayat ikuukisha lakamiin**. The woman is cooking lakamiin.

Semantics describes how to interpret the meaning of the words in the sentence. The student is required to learn how to recognize words in Sahaptin that identify parts of speech, **noun, verb, adjective, adverb**, how to recognize, define, and write them down. In addition, the student learns the **time element**, the **present tense, past tense, future tenses**, by the suffix and prefixes in the native language.

1. Sentence , Aswan kítu iwayxtisha íniitkan. This sentence answers these questions. Who How What Where (adverb to where)

The boy fast running to the house..

2. Sentence, **Ayat palalaay ikuukisha nusuxmi lakamiin**

personal noun, adjective, present tense progressive verb, adverb, noun.

who how much doing what of what what

The woman lots is cooking salmon lakamiin.

All of the sentences in the native language are grammatically correct. The English translations are incorrect.