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SAHAPTIN INDIAN LANGUAGE II
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Sp98

Introduction to Practical Language

There are verb-roots in Sahaptin used in various ways. We have introduced the students to basic word roots, nouns, pronouns, adjectives and adverbs. The student learned how the suffixes and prefixes provide meaning regarding manner, number and time.

In this unit we will discuss a word that we could not define in Sahaptin. The way the rattle snake travels. The instructor remembered this word and it will be discussed here.

A snake travels by propelling itself along the ground. The Sahaptin word for that action is *Sunati*-. Let us examine other ways this root word can be used.

- 1. Waxpush i-sunati-xa tiicham-pa. The rattle snake crawls on the ground.**
- 2. Spilyay i-tsunati-sha ishchit-pa. Coyote is walking along the trail.**

(Explanation about two actions)

- 3. Ayat i-tsa'sunati-sha k'usi-ki wawtukt-pama patunpatun. The woman is dragging with the horse the camp supplies.**

(illustrate on the blackboard...travois.)

- 4. iwinsh yats'aamki pina-sunata amchan iniit-knik. The man quietly stole out of the house.**

The Indian structure is 'understood' by the native speaker and the native recipient, but translation is difficult. We are working on the Wh- words. Who-*shin*, What- *tun*(there are many different *what* Indian words), when-*mun*, where-*minan*.(Shin, Tun,Mun,Minan)

14. Tun ichi iwa? What is this?
13. Tun ikw'ak iwa? What is that?
14. Tun lkw'i iwa? What day is it?
15. Tun (nam) atk'ix-sha? What (do you) want?
16. (idiom) Tun nam? What do you want?

WA- is the verb 'have'

17. Tun mash wa? What do you have?
 (mash is possessive form *do you*)
18. Tun a'wa. What does (he/they) have?
19. Tun natash wa? What do we (inclusive) have?
20. Tun matash wa? What do you folks have?
21. Tun natk wa? What do we(exclusive) have?

Tuun is a *selective* adjective term

- 22.. Tuun nam atk'ixsha? What(which one)do you want?
23. Tuun nam a'latk'i-sha? What are you looking at?
 Examine: What do you see? *tk'i(to see)*
 waach- (to watch), *latk'i(look at)*
 *a-*before the verb see, is the object indicator.
24. Tuun nam a'waachi-sha. What are you watching?
25. Tuun nam a'tk'i-sha? What do you see?

I tell my students not to spend too much time analyzing each word or sentence, but try to memorize the meaning.