# SHAHAPTIN INDIAN LANGUAGE \& \& \| Virginia Beavert, Developer-Instructor Heritage College, Toppenish, WA 98948 

## Sp96 5 SHAHAPTIN STUDY OF MORPHOLOGY

What is morphology? According to science of language study, it is the study of the internal structure of words. The basic entity in the study of morpholgy is the morpheme, which can be defined as the smallest unit of language which has meaning. You will remember, during the orientation when we discussed the suffixes and prefixes, that root words cannot stand alone.

There are three acriteria which the morpheme meets: (1) it is a word or part of a word that has meaning; (2) it cannot be divided into smaller meaningful parts without violating its basic meaning or leaving meaningless remainders; (3) it recurs in different words with a relatively stable meaning.

Aswan means "a young human male"
Amiisin means more than one, but less than three.
Amilsma means more than two or more than three.

## Ayat means "a female adult"

Ayatin means more than one female adult, but less than three.
Ayatma means more than two, and sometimes more than three.
Additional morphemes can be added to these nouns so that two units of meaning will be present. For example, when we add : -in to aswan to make more than one boy and less than three of whatever is mentioned.

Similar to when we add and -ess- sound to "iwaxi-" (he wait) "waxi-xa" (he walts); "waxi-sha" (he is waiting), which means "third person singular, present tense."

When we convert " $1 \underline{\mathrm{k}}$ 'wi" (play) to " $1 \underline{\mathrm{k}} \mathbf{\prime} \mathbf{W}$-shana" (played) we add a second morpheme /shana/ which means :"past tense" or "past tense participle." These aditive morphemes recur with a stable meaning in many words in Shahaptin.

Some morpheme are free and some bound. Free morphemes may be used freely as single words, whereas a bound morpheme is never used by itself but only in conjunction with another morpheme. For example: "waasha" is a free
morpheme (dance) which occurs by itself, but "waasha- I a" (dancer) is a bound morpheme which must be attached by another morpheme, 'Sapsikw'a l a, ; winanii-la; wayxti-la, etc. "

## EXERCISE

VERBS: Convert to bound morpheme.

1. WALPTAYK
2. WAASHA
3. TIMA
4. SHI MNATI
5. WASHA
6. WAYXTI

SING
DANCE

WRITE
SWIM (USING STROKES)
RIDE

RUN

## BASES AND AFFIXES

Words that are composed of two or more morphemes usually have a base and one or more affixes. The base carries the principal meaning of the word, whereas the prefixes and suffixes adda dditional meaning to the base. Bases may be free or bound.

TIWI FIGHT
SUFFIX TIWI-SHA FIGHTING
TIWI-TA WILL FIGHT
TIWI-TA-T'A-SHA WANTS TO FIGHT
PREFIX AND SUFFIXES:
PA-TIWI-SHA HE IS FIGHTING HIM
PA-TIWI-TA-TASHA HE WANTS TO FIGHT HIM/HER
PA-T I W I-LAM ONE WHO FIGHTS PEOPLE
A BULLy
TRANSLATE TO ENGLISH:
PA-TIWI-L AM- IN PA-TWI-TA-T'A-SHA.
I-TIWI-SHANA ASWAN K'USIK'USI-NAN.
PA-PA-TIWI-SHANA-AWINSH-MA.

## SPECIMEN TEXTS AND ANALYSES

## KLIKITAT TBXT*



