

SAHAPTIN-YAKIMA LANGUAGE 102.

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TRADITIONAL GRAMMAR IN SAHAPTIN

VERBS: A verb is a word that expresses action or helps to make a statement.

There are two main classes of verbs in traditional grammar: action and linking verbs.

ACTION VERBS

The term action refers to the action performed by the subject of the sentence. An action verb states what the subject of the sentence does;

Chaan itúxúna yaamashnan.
John shot the deer.

Tuxuna is the word that tells you what John did.

Aalín itimana timash.
Allen wrote a paper/book.

Tima/write; timana/wrote; timash/paper/book.

Kálin itánshka pinmínk táatpas.
Karen burned her dress.

Tanshk/burn/scorch; tanshka/burned/scorched.

The action in an action verb does not have to be physical action, it can also be thought action.

Aliin ikwyaáama Itwitnan.
Arline believed Ed.

Kwyaam/true; kwyaamt/to believe; kwyaamna/believed.

Shalíl ip'ixna kałapnmi timnanáxt.
Sheryl remembered her grandmother's story.

p'ix/recall/remember; p'ixna/remembered;recalled.

It can also mean; dignity.

Pináp'ixink! Show some dignity! You may have heard this phrase: "Know who you are." Pináp'ixink translates the same, providing you are a dignified person, or come from a family some people regard with respect.

Watch out for this word: P'ix. It describes condition; of being sober, connected by the verb BE.

"Mish nam áv wa p'iix?" "Are you sober now?"

Continue: Thought action.

Litya ishukwáasha ititámat.
Lydia knows how to count.

Shuk/recognize; shúksha/ recognizing.
Shúkwa/know; shukwáasha/knows. In shúkwa, the -wa defines the difference between recognize and know.

Itwit iláakna shápsh. (past tense)
Edward forgot his lunch.

Itwit iláaksh shápsh. (present tense)
Edward forgot his lunch.

I believe this is self-explanatory.

LINKING VERBS

In sentences with linking verbs there is no action. Instead the verb describes the subject of the sentence.

Miyalas isxíxna.
The infant was angry.

Isxíxna The whole phrase "became angry" describes the infant.
Another way: Miyalas isxíxsha. The infant is angry.

Shix itiwasha ilachixi saplíl.
The fried bread smells good.

In Sahaptin we can't say "itiwasha shix" smells good the fried bread. Good smells the fried bread.

Miyánashma pawa lalxsim.
The children are all dusty.

Pawa describes more than one child. If it was one child, the sentence would read: Miyánash iwa lalxsim/The child is all dusty.

Chaw iwa shix Chuu.
Joe is not well.

Shix means "good", but in this case it implies a condition of not feeling good; translation "not well."

Kushuu iwa chilwit tkwátat.
Pork is awful food.
Bacon is bad food.

Chilwit has more than one meaning; it can mean, bad, terrible, awful, not good. Chilwit aswan. Bad boy. Chilwit itiwasha tkwátat. Food smells bad.

CONTINUE VERBS: Sahaptin-Yakima expressions. 3/25/95

Linking verbs are very important because they are used often. The most-used linking verb is be. In English it is used the most. In Sahaptin it is also used frequently.

VERB BE in Sahaptin

PRESENT TENSE:

	Singular	Plural
1st person:	Wash nash	Wash natash
2nd person:	Wash nam	Wash pam
3rd person:	I-wa'	Pa-wa'

PAST TENSE:

1st person:	Wacha-ash	Wacha-nam(tk)
2nd person:	Wacha-am	Wacha-am

EXERCISE 11. Recognizing forms of BE.
Fill-in blanks in Sahaptin.

1. _____ cold yesterday. k'pis watim.
2. _____ all hungry. tl'aaxw anawyí.
3. Chaw _____ any money. tun taála.
4. _____ naughty boy. Kw'ishim aswan.
5. _____ good friends. shix xitway'in.
6. _____ his only child. ilkse pinmink miyánsah.
7. Miimi _____ skinny. Long time ago.....k'áyu.
8. _____ fast runner. ka'aw wayxtiá.
9. _____ fast runner too? ka'aw wayxtitaxi?

MANY LINKING VERBS ARE VERBS OF PERCEPTION: -PA SUFFIX

1. I-SXIXSHA, K'INUPA. SHE/HE LOOKS ANGRY.
2. AYAYAT, YIKTPA WALPTAYKT. SINGING SOUNDS BEAUTIFUL.
3. SHISHU TIWATPA K'USIK'USI. DOG SMELLS PUTRID.
4. PIYAXI' PTL'AK KA'ILAWITPA. BITTER ROOT TASTES BITTER.

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OTHER LINKING VERBS:

Chiyawáw means unworthy, useless.

Chiyawáw iwa iwínsh. The man is no good.

The man is useless.

Chaw ikutkutát'asha. He does not want to work.

Chaw itk'ixsha kutkut. He does not like to work.

Linking: Sxixshaash. I am angry.

Action: Awiinpaash sxixni. I answered her/him angrily.

Linking: Wapasham, laxuyxshaash. Feel me, I'm hot.

Action: Iwapashanaash twati nim. The doctor laid his hand upon me to heal me. Don't laugh.

Sentence: Páwapashana twati'in. The doctor felt her/him.

Do question: Mish pámiya twati'in? What did the doctor do?

Answer: Páwapashana payúyiinan. He felt the sick person.

Sentence: Wapashala iwacha twati. The doctor was a Hand-healer.

Do question: Mish imiya twati. What did the doctor do?

Answer: Iwapashana payúyiinan. He healed the sick person.