

SHAHAPTIN INDIAN LANGUAGE I & II
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SP96 WHAT IS INDIAN GRAMMAR?

This instructor is not *learned* in English grammar. I have spoken the Shahaptin Indian language in several dialects and languages as a child. During maturation, I began to concentrate on the Yakima Indian language because this was the dominant language spoken in the home. The grammar we will concentrate our study of Yakima-Shahaptin will cover the elementary part of the language. In the past I have given word-lists to students. I have decided that this does not provide the student with enough information to speak or understand the spoken language while they are learning to read and write it.

Anthropology linguists have classified the native languages, as well as other languages spoken around the world, Eastern Indian and Latin languages as *inflected structural language*. The term used in MORPHOLOGY to refer to one of the two main categories or processes of WORD FORMATION(derivational morphology), the other being INFLECTION(AL). These two terms also apply to the two types of AFFIX involved in word formation. Basically, the result of a derivational process is a new word (e.g. *nation~national*), whereas the result of the an inflectional process is a different form of the same word. The combination of root word and derivational affixes is usually referred to as the STEM of the word, the element to which inflections are attached; that is, the words constitute a single PARADIGM, walk, walks, walked. The word is said to "inflect" for past tense, plural, etc.'

A-watawi-sha I love ..Is defined as: ACTIVE, FIRST PERSON SINGULAR, INDICATIVE.

This is actually an incomplete sentence because it does not tell us who or what he loves.

A-watawi-shaash tiicham-nan. I love the land. LAND (tiicham) is the object of his love.

In this class we will develop simple sentences and analyze the structure of those sentences and learn how to apply the inflections. We have the prefix: e.g. pa-atawi-sha ayatnan. He loves the woman. Pa- is the pronoun marker for HE, verb phrase "loves" present tense, ayat WOMAN, suffix NAN, which makes the woman the OBJECT of the verb phrase, "He loves the woman."

PRACTICE USING PREFIXES AND SUFFIXES

Present tense:

1. Tkw'anati (walk)
2. Wayxti (run)
3. Pnu (sleep)
4. Tkwata (eat)

Past Tense:

Future Tense: