

SAHAPTIN INDIAN LANGUAGE 107/109
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Introduction to Kinship Terms

The Native American languages are rich in expressions of relationships. Men and women often use entirely different words for the same degree of animate relationship. These words cannot be interchanged. The children of a family apply the word (*tuta*) father/dad when addressing their (*pshit*) real father. The (*miyanashma*), male children are addressed by both parents as (*tita*), "my son", and the daughter is addressed as (*isha*) "my daughter". In like manner, the children address their biological (*pcha*), mother, as (*ila*), "mom".

The brother of one's father is (*pimx*), paternal uncle, and addressed as (*mixa*), and brother of one's mother is (*pitx*) maternal uncle and is addressed as (*kaka*) by the children of the parents.

The sister of one's father is your (*pishish*) paternal aunt, and is addressed as (*shisha*). The sister of the mother is your (*paxax*) maternal aunt, and is addressed as (*xaxa*).

Particular attention is paid to maternal and paternal side of a family, as shown when a child or member of the family address the Elder [grandfathers and grandmothers] of a family. On the male side of the family (father of your father) is addressed as (*pusha*), paternal grandfather. On the female side (mother of your father), paternal grandmother, is your (*ala*). The (mother of your mother) maternal grandmother is your (*kala*), and your mother's father is your maternal grandfather (*tila*).

Continued: KINSHIP TERMS IN SAHAPTIN 107/109 Fa98
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Key to kin relationship abbreviations *dictionary

Mo=mother	Mn=man	Mat=maternal
Fa=father	Wo=woman	Pat=paternal
Br=brother	Ol=older	
Si=sister	Yo=younger	
So=son	Hu=husband	
Da=daughter	Wi=wife	
Ch=child	Pa=parent	

Examples: MnBrCh=man's brother's child
WoBrSo=woman's brother's son
MnYoBr=man's younger brother

When a child is talking **about** his immediate family member, he will say:

Na-ilas i-wanik-sha Maali. My mother's name is Mary.

Na-tutas i-wanik-sha Taam. My father's name is Tom.

Na-tilas iwa miima ttawaxt. My (Mat) grandfather is ancient.

Na-kałas iwa mayk-laymut natilasmiyaw.
My (Mat) grandmother is slightly younger than grandfather.

Na-pusas iwa kaatnam. My(Pat)grandfather is tall.

Na-alas iwa k'puuł. My (Pat) grandmother is short.