

## POSSESSIVE TERMS IN SHAHAPTIN

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A possessive word in Sahaptin will usually end with *-mi*, *-nmi*, after *1st*, *2nd*, *3rd person noun* or *pronoun*.

|                                      |                                |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| "I-nmi taatpas."                     | My shirt/dress.                |
| "John-mi taatpas."                   | John's shirt.                  |
| Ichi iwa inmi taatpas.               | This is my dress.              |
| Ichi iwa inmi mixish taatpas.        | This is my yellow dress.       |
| Ichi iwa John-mi chmuk takmaal.      | This is John's black hat.      |
| Ichi iwa John-mi nch'i luch'a kapuu. | This is John's big brown coat. |

*pinmink*, *piinamink*, *piimink*, are the pronouns that expresses possession in *2nd and 3rd person*; combined with the dual and plural possessive verb [awa] 'to be'.

|                                     |                                |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <i>ikw'ak awa John-mi timash.</i>   | "That is John's book."         |
| <i>ikw'ak awa pinmink timash.</i>   | "That is his book."            |
| <i>ikw'ak awa piinamink timash.</i> | "That is their (dual) book."   |
| <i>ikw'ak awa piimink timash.</i>   | "That is their (plural) book." |

[*inmiish*] mine (pronoun) "one belonging to me."

|                                 |                      |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|
| <i>Inmiish wa timash.</i>       | "The book is mine".  |
| <i>Inmiish wa ikwak timash.</i> | "That book is mine." |

Question: *Shimin ichi awa timash?* Whose book is this?  
Answer: *Inmiish wa.* "It is mine."

In the first person, present tense, the verb is preceded by [*i*] *wa*  
It is incorrect grammar in Sahaptin to say: *timash iwa inmiish/* or *ikw'ak timasha inmiish.*

*Inmiish* mine always precedes (goes before) the dual and plural verb *wa*.