

**Í7wa7 i tsikena, aoz kws kats’aqwstaliha i sqáwtsa<sup>1,2</sup>**  
**‘The fried potatoes, even the chickens wouldn’t eat’**

Christiana Christodoulou  
University of British Columbia

**Original<sup>3</sup>**

I kel7án wa7 melyíh, tákem t’u7 wa7 papt wa7 t’iq, i nsésq’wez’a múta7 i nsúq’wez’a múta7 i nsnek’wnúk’w7a t’u7, wa7 t’u7 t’iqstwítas i stsmál’tiha. Nilh t’u7 lhwalenítas, t’ákwit, t’ákwit t’u7 úxwal’ t’u7. T’íqwit aylh múta7 kwánitas lhas lan wa7 tsukw ku *holidáywit*.

Nilh tu7 st’aks tsúwa7s ti nsésq’wez’a *turn* ku t’iq. Mítsa7qlhkalh káti7 k’wezúsem lti tmícwlhkalha nkwtámtsa múta7 s7ents múta7 i núkwa nstsmal’t. Nilh t’u7 stsut.s ti nkwtámtsa, “Nilh t’u7 áma kwásu nas kukw, húz’lhkalh q’a7, q’7ál’men kalálas.” “O”, nilh stsut.s ti nsésq’wez’a, “o, ents kelh ku kukw.” Wa7 tsut, “ents ku nas kukw.” Wá7lhkan kelh k’íxin’ ku sqawts.” Kan tsun “O, wa7 láku7 i *sausagea* nilh shuz’s snúk’wa7s.” Nilh tu7 smaysts. Kéla7 emhál’qwem’ i sk’íxa sqawts smaysts. Húz’lhkalh aylh ts’áqwan’em. Ay t’u7 kats’áqwstum’a tákemlhkalha (t.s)cw7it7úlsa t’u7 i *sálta*. T’anam’ílc ti nkwtámtsa. Huz’ séna7 ts’áqwan’as, ay t’u7. “O,” kan tsun, “um’enéem kelh i tsikena. (Hu)z’ ts’áqwan’ítas klh.” Nilh t’u7 s7úm’enem i tsikena. Í7wa7 i tsikena, ay kws kats’aqwstaliha i sqáwtsa, t.scw7it.sa t’ú7a i *sálta*. O, tqilh ílal ti nsésq’wez’a.

P’an’t.s aylh kw skúl áku7 *Kamloops*. Nilh sqweqwel’mínas. Nilh st’cums ti *first prizea*.

---

<sup>1</sup> I would like to acknowledge SSHRC (#410-2007-1046), awarded to Lisa Matthewson, who provided the funding for much of this work.

<sup>2</sup> I’d like to thank Laura Thevarge for sharing her language with me by narrating this amusing short story to me.

<sup>3</sup> Many thanks to Lisa Matthewson for her indispensable help, patience and advice on an earlier version of the transcription and grammatical analysis of this story.

## English Translation

When I was first married, everyone always came; my sisters and my brothers and relatives, they all brought their children. They brought them, left them there and then they went home. Then they came back and took them, when they were finished with their holiday.

Then my little sister came, it was her turn to come. We were sitting around working on our land, my husband and me and my children. Then my husband said: "It would be good if you would cook, we are going to get hungry soon." "Oh," my sister said, "oh, I will be the one to cook." She said: "I'll cook. I'll fry potatoes." I said, "There are sausages to go with them in there." They got made. At first the fried potatoes that she made looked really good. Then we were going to eat them. None of us could eat them, because there was too much salt. My husband tried them, he was going to eat them, but he couldn't. "Oh," I said, "we will give them to the chickens. They will eat them." So, we gave the potatoes to the chickens. But even the chickens couldn't eat the potatoes, because they just had too much salt. Then, my younger sister almost started to cry.

Then she went back to Kamloops to school. She wrote a story about it, and she won first prize.



- (7) Mítsa7q=lhkalh káti7 k'wezús-em  
 sit=1PL.SUBJ DEIC work-MID
- l=ti=tmícw-lhkalh=a n-kwtámts=a múta7  
 PREP=DET=land-1PL.POSS=EXIS 1SG.POSS-husband=EXIS and
- s7ents múta7 i=núkw=a n-stsmal't.  
 1SG.INDEP and DET.PL=other=EXIS 1SG.POSS-offspring.PL
- ‘We were sitting around working on our land, my husband and me and my children.’
- (8) Nílh=t'u7 s=tsut.=s ti=n-kwtámts=a  
 FOC=just NOM=say=3POSS DET=1SG.POSS-husband=EXIS
- ‘Then my husband said,’
- (9) “Nílh=t'u7 áma kw=á=su nas kukw,  
 FOC=just good DET=IMPF=2SG.POSS go cook
- húz'=lhkalh q'a7, q'7-ál'men kalál=as.”  
 going to=1PL.SUBJ eat eat-want soon=3CONJ
- ‘ “It would be good if you would cook; we are going to get hungry soon.” ’
- (10) O, nilh s=tsut.=s ti=n-sésq'wez'=a  
 oh FOC NOM=say=3POSS DET=1SG.POSS-younger.sibling=EXIS
- “o, ents kelh ku=kúkw.”  
 oh 1SG.EMPH FUT DET=cook
- ‘ “Oh”, then my sister said, “oh, I will be the one to cook.” ’
- (11) Wa7 tsut “ents ku=nás kukw.  
 IMPF say 1SG.EMPH DET=go cook
- ‘She said, “I’ll cook.” ’
- (12) Wá7=lhkan kelh k'íx-in ku=sqáwts”.  
 IMPF=1SG.SUBJ FUT fry-DIR DET=potato
- ‘ “I’ll fry potatoes.” ’
- (13) Kan tsun, “o wa7 láku7 i=sausagea  
 DET say oh IMPF DEIC DET.PL=sausage=EXIS
- nilh s=huz'=s snúk'wa7-s.”  
 FOC NOM=going.to=3POSS friend-3POSS
- ‘I said “There are sausages to go with them in there.” ’

- (14) Nílh=tu7                    s=mays=(ts)<sup>4</sup>.  
 FOC=then                    NOM=make=3POSS  
 ‘They got made.’
- Kéla7    emh-ál’qwem’    i=s=k’ix=a                    sqawts  
 first    good-appear    DET.PL=NOM=fry=EXIS    potato
- s=máys=ts.  
 NOM=make=3POSS  
 ‘At first the fried potatoes that she made looked really good.’
- (15) Húz’=lhalh                    aylh                    ts’áqw-an’-em.  
 going.to=1PL.SUBJ            then                    eat-DIR-1PL.ERG  
 ‘Then we were going to eat them.’
- (16) Áy=t’u7                    ku=ka-ts’áqw-s-tum’-álh<sup>5</sup>-a.  
 NEG=just                    DET=CIRC-eat-CAUS-1PL.ERG-CIRC  
 ‘None of us could eat them.’
- (17) (T.=s)cw7it-7ul=s=a=t’ú7=a                    i=sált=a.  
 (DET=NOM=)much-too=3POSS=EXIS=just=A            DET.PL=salt=EXIS  
 ‘because there was too much salt.’
- (18) T’anam’-ílç                    ti=n-kwtámts=a.  
 try-AUT                    DET=1SG.POSS-husband=EXIS  
 ‘My husband tried them.’
- Huz’    séna7                    ts’áqw-an’-as,    áy= t’u7.  
 going.to COUNTER            eat-DIR-3ERG    NEG=just  
 ‘He was going to eat them, but he couldn’t.’
- (19) “O”,    kan                    tsun                    “um’-en-ém=kelh  
 oh    1SG.SUBJ            say(DIR)            give-DIR-1PL.ERG=FUT
- i=tsíken=a.  
 DET.PL=chicken=EXIS  
 ‘“Oh”, I said “we will give them to the chickens.”
- (20) (Hu)z’    ts’aqw-an’-ítas=klh.”  
 going.to eat-DIR-3PL.ERG=FUT  
 ‘They will eat them.’

<sup>4</sup> The consultant actually said *mays*.

<sup>5</sup> *alh* here seems to be a speech error. Lisa Matthewson suggested that it could possibly be a doubling of the 1PL subject marking.

- (21) Nílh=t'u7                    s=7úm'-e(n)-em                    i=tsíken=a  
 FOC=just                    NOM=give-(DIR)-1PL.ERG                    DET.PL=chicken=EXIS  
 'So, we gave the potatoes to the chickens.'
- (22) Í7wa7    i=tsíken=a,                    ay  
 even    DET.PL=chicken=EXIS                    NEG  
  
 kw=s=ka-ts'aqw-s-táli=ha                    i=sqáwts=a,  
 DET=NOM=CIRC-eat-CAUS-TOP=EXIS                    DET.PL=potato=EXIS  
 'But even the chickens couldn't eat the potatoes.'
- (23) t.=s=cw7ít.=s=a=t'ú7=a                    i=sált=a.  
 DET=NOM=much=3POSS=EXIS=just=A                    DET.PL=salt=EXIS  
 'because they just had too much salt.'
- (24) Tqilh    ílal            ti=n-sésq'wez'=a.  
 almost    cry            DET=1SG.POSS-younger.sibling=EXIS  
 'Then, my younger sister almost started to cry.'
- (25) P'an't.=s            aylh    kw=skúl            áku7    *Kamloops.*  
 return=3POSS    then    DET=school            DEIC    Kamloops  
 'Then she went back to Kamloops, to school.'
- (26) Nílh    sqwe•qw•el'-mín-as.  
 FOC    tell•CRED•RED-3ERG  
 'Then she wrote a story about it.'
- (27) Nílh    s=t'cum=s                    ti *first prize*=a.  
 FOC    NOM=win(MID)=3POSS                    DET=first.prize=EXIS  
 'She won the first prize.'

Christiana Christodoulou  
 Department of Linguistics  
 University of British Columbia  
 Totem Field Studios  
 2613 West Mall  
 Vancouver, B.C  
 V6T 1Z4

cchristy@interchange.ubc.ca