

Le Tu7kwemínem te Melmac

(The Melmac Salesman)¹

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The story is based on reminiscences of the author's family buying dishes from a Melmac salesman in the fifties. It provides an opportunity for language learners of Secwepemctsin to note the use of the applicative suffix within a narrative context, as well as other aspects of word morphology.²

- 1) Pent'lu7 ne 1953;
pent'lu7 ne=1953
then LOC=1953³
It was back around 1953;

¹ Melmac is the name of a kind of plastic dinnerware which was created with the use of melamine in the 1940's, and became popular in the 1950's.

² The author, a native speaker and instructor of Secwepemctsin (Shuswap), used her own writing to track the frequency and range of use of applicative constructions in Secwepemctsin in a course-based literature review of applicatives (Mithun, 1999; Mchombo, 1998; Payne, 1997; and Kiyosawa, 2004). The applicative suffix -min/-men appears in the title and in examples (9), (21), (23), (29), (32), (37), (39,) (40) and (42). Morpheme-by-morpheme glosses were independently provided by Dwight Gardiner and Susan Russell, and then combined and adapted by Henry Davis, who takes final responsibility for the morpheme-by-morpheme breakdown given here. Note that the particular level of analysis given here reflects the use of this text as a teaching tool in language classes; more detailed analyses are possible.

³ The text is written in the orthography developed for Secwepemctsin by Aert Kuipers and now in widespread use. Abbreviations are: APP=applicative, BEN=benefactive, CAUS=causative, CNJ= conjunctive (subjunctive) subject, COMP=complementizer, COND=conditional, DET=determiner, DIR=directional, ERG=ergative (transitive) subject, EVID=evidential, EXCL=exclusive, FUT=future, IMP=imperative, INCL=inclusive, INTR=intransitive, IRR=irrealis LOC=locative, NEG=negative, NOM=nominalizer, PASS=passive, PL=plural, POSS=possessive, PROG=progressive, PST=past, O=object, OBL=oblique, RED=reduplication, REFL=reflexive, SG=singular, ST=stative, TR=transitive, YNQ=yes-no question (interrogative). In the morpheme breakdown, a period [.] marks the position of a reduplicative segment, a dash [-] marks an affix boundary, and an equals sign (=) marks a clitic boundary.

- 2) gwelgwállt te kwalte7úy te cucéw'el
 gwell.gwáll-t te=kwalt-e7úy te=cu.céw'el
 shiny/glittery[RED]-ST OBL=green-real OBL=car[RED]
- tskítsens kucw n tsyémes
 ts-kíts-en-s kucw n(e)=tsyémes
 DIR-arrive-TR-3ERG EXCL LOC=home-3POSS
a shiny green car arrived at our place.
- 3) Est'il' n k'wellyágt kucw... twiwt te sqélemcw...
 est'il' n=k'wellyágt-t-s kucw twiwt te=sqélemcw
 stop LOC=lower.ground-ST-3POSS EXCL young OBL=man
It stopped in our yard...a young man -
- 4) piq re stektíts'e7s, tsexwqwetiýél'eps ell
 piq re=stektíts'e7-s tsxqwetiýél'ep-s ell
 white DET=shirt-3POSS tie-3POSS and
- megmégt re stsyexs...
 még.meg-t re=s-ts-yex-s
 brown[RED]-ST DET=NOM-ST-wear-3POSS
wearing a white shirt and tie and a brown suit...
- 5) w7ec re gw7élles re síllts'u7s n segwsés,
 w7ec re=gw7éll=es re=síllts'u7-s n=segwsés
 PROG DET=shine=3CJ DET=shoe-3POSS LOC=sun
his shoes shone in the sunlight,
- 6) ell mts'ílem t'ucw re qéwtens
 ell m=ts'ílem t'ucw re=qéwtens-s
 and PST=same just DET=hair-3POSS
as did his hair.
- 7) St'7ek te ck'emtsenéllew...
 s-t'7ek te=c-k'em-tsen-éllew
 DIR-go OBL=inside-edge-mouth-building
- ckelltsítscen'...
 c-kell-tsí.ts-c-t-en'
 ST-under-open[RED]- BEN-TR-1SG.ERG
He came towards the door... I opened it for him...

- 8) le7 ec re squqwlút.ses te m-tsut
 le7 ec re=s-qu.qwlút-s=es te=m=tsut
 good PROG DET=NOM-speak[RED]-3POSS=3CNJ OBL=PST=say
talking very nicely he said:
- 9) “Stu7kwemímensten re le7úy
 s-tu7kw-emí.men-st-en re=le7-úy
 ST-sell-APP[RED]-CAUS-1SG.ERG DET=good-real
 te syelyélt t’7élye te tmicw
 te=s-yel.yélt t’7élye te=tmicw
 OBL=NOM-plate[RED] here OBL=earth
“I’m selling the absolute best plates available around this part of the country.”
- 10) Me7 piqwens en ri7 well
 me7=piqw-en-s=en ri7 well
 FUT=look-TR-3ERG=YNQ it.is those ones
 e qellmín?”
 (r)e=7-qellmín
 DET=2SG.POSS-parents
“Will your parents have a look at them?”
- 11) Tsútsen: “W7ec re élkstes te logging camp
 tsú.tsn(-n)-en: w7ec re=7élkst=es te=logging camp
 say[RED](-TR)-1SG.ERG PROG DET=work=3CNJ OBL=loggingcamp
 nqéq7etse.
 (re=)n-qé.q7etse
 (DET=)1SG.POSS-father[RED]
“My father is working in the logging camp”, I said.
- 12) Séwentem te nkík7ece e sts7ullcws
 séwen-t-em te=n-kí.k7ece e=s-ts-7ullcw-s
 ask-TR-PASS OBL=1SG.POSS-mother[RED] COMP=NOM-DIR-enter-3POSS
 ne k’weltsenéllcws kucw
 ne=k’wel-tsen-éllcw-s kucw
 LOC=cook-mouth-lodging-3POSS EXCL
He was asked by my mother to come into our kitchen
- 13) e sts’excítem kucw
 e=s=ts’ex-cí-t-em kucw
 COMP=NOM=look-BEN-TR-1PL.ERG EXCL

tek syelyélt.s.
 te=k=s-yel.yélt-s
 OBL=IRR=NOM-plate[RED]-3POSS
so we could look at his plates.

- 14) Ts7ullcwst.s re qw7eps te k'weltsenéllcw.
 ts-7ullcw-st-s re=qw7ep-s te=k'wel-tsen-éllcw
 DIR-enter-CAUS-3ERG DET=sack-3POSS OBL=cook-mouth-lodging
He brought his bag into the kitchen.

- 15) Yeri7 stskwens le syelyélt.s
 yeri7 (re=)s-ts-kwen-s le=s-yel.yélt-s
 it.is (DET=)NOM-DIR-take(-TR)-3ERG DET=NOM-dish[RED]-3POSS

te qw7eps.
 te=qw7ep-s
 OBL=bag-3POSS
Then he took his dishes out of his bag.

- 16) Seséle re stsmelmél'qws: kwalt ell
 seséle re=s-ts-mel.málqw-s kwalt ell
 two DET=NOM-ST-colour[REDUP]-3POSS yellow.green and

ts'ílem te kwalte7úy te ...xuxweyúsem
 ts'ílem te=kwalt-e7úy te=xwe.xwyús-em
 same OBL=yellow-real OBL=all[RED]-INTR
There were two colours: yellow and a mixed green set -

- 17) Tsektsk'púpcw... syelyélt... clluqwlúqwmén'
 tsek.tsk'pú.pcw s-yel.yélt c-lluqw.llúqwmén'
 bowl{REDX2} NOM-plate[RED] DIR-cup[RED]

ell ctseqtsqéqpten.
 ell c-tseq.tsq.éqp-ten
 and DIR-put.under[REDX2]-INST
bowls, plates, cups and saucers.

- 18) Yeri7 stsut.s “Well ye7éne te syelyélt...
 yeri7 (re=)s-tsut.-s well ye7éne te=s-yel-yélt
 it.is (DET=)NOM-say-3POSS those ones these OBL=NOM-plate[RED]

ta7 penhén ri7 wes seqsíq'emtes!"
 ta7 penhén ri7=wes seq-síq'-em-t=(w)es
 NEG ever that=3CJN break[RED]-INTR-ST=3CJN
Then he said: “These plates don't ever break!”

19) “Ta7 me7 sxilt.s e síqenc
 ta7 me7=s-xilt-s e=síq-en-c
 NEG FUT=NOM-do-3POSS COMP=break-TR-2SG.ERG

we7 késtcwes.”
 we7 kés-t-c-wes
 whatever do.with-TR-2SG.ERG=3CNJ
“You can’t break it no matter what you do with it”.

20) Yeri7 t’ucw mstsún’mect.s kucw
 yeri7 t’ucw m=s-tsún’-m-c-t-s kucw
 then just PST=NOM-show-INTR-BEN-TR-3ERG EXCL

t’hé7en k ts’ilm (w)es k sq’ixt.s
 t’hé7en k=ts’ilm=(w)es k=s-q’ixt-s
 where IRR=same=3CNJ OBL=NOM-strong-3POSS

ri7 tek qwémqwent
 ri7 te=k=qwémqwen-t
 that OBL=IRR=material-ST
Then he began showing us exactly how strong the material was.

21) Mtseq’míns re nek’u7 te tsk’pupcw nxlílep ell
 m=tseq’-mín-s re=nek’u7 te=tsk’pu.pcw n=xlílep ell
 PST=throw-APP-3ERG DET=one OBL=bowl[RED] LOC=floor and

mtsútes:
 m=tsút=es
 PST=say=3CNJ
He threw one bowl onto the floor and said:

22) “Yúmell e xménkes k stem... ta7
 yúmell e=xménk=es k=stem ta7
 but COMP=heavy=3CNJ IRR=thing NEG

me7 stúpemt.s tspíqwste ye7éne.”
 me7=s-túp-em-t-s ts-píqw-st-e ye7éne
 FUT=NOM-smash-INT-ST-3POSS DIR-look-CAUS-IMP this
“Even if something is heavy it won’t smash it to smithereens... Watch this.”

23) Tllgwílcmen le tsk’pupcw ell mtúpemtes.
 t-llgw-ílc-men-s le=tsk’pu.pcw ell m=túp-em-t=es
 on-jump-body-APPL-3ERG DET=bowl[RED] and PST=smash-INT-ST=3CNJ
He jumped onto the bowl and smashed it to bits.

- 24) Tseqwús le sqélemcw... te mtsut “Ta7
 tseqw-ús le=sqélemcw te=m=tsut ta7
 red-face DET=man OBL=PST=say NEG

k sts’xwenéten

k=s-ts’xwen-té.t-en

IRR NOM-do.on.purpose-TR[RED]-1SG.ERG

The man blushed and said: “I didn’t mean to do that

- 25) e stsútsen e stúpemt.s
 e=s-tsú.tsn-(n)-en e=s-túp-em-t-s
 COMP=NOM-want[RED](-TR)-1SG.ERG COMP=NOM-BREAK-INT-ST-3POSS

ell e sq’weycltmen te ck’méles-emp.”

ell e=s-q’wey-c-t-lm-en te=ck’méles-emp

and COMP=NOM-dirty-BEN-TR-2PL.O-1SG.ERG OBL=floor-2PLPOSS

or want it to smash up and dirty up your floor for you.”

- 26) Tskwékwen le íxwle7p ell m7i7xwen
 ts-kwé.kwn(-n)-en le=íxwle7ep ell m=7i.7xw-(n)-en
 DIR-take[RED](-TR)-1SG.ERG DET=broom and PST=sweep[RED](-TR)-1SG.ERG

le túpemt te tsk’pupcw te xlílep.

le=túp-em-t te=tsk’pu.pcw te=xlílep

DET=break-INT-ST OBL=bowl[RED] OBL=FLOOR

I brought the broom and swept up the broken bowl off the floor.

- 27) Mtsúntem te nméme7:
 m=tsún-t-em te=n-méme7
 PST=say-TR-PASS OBL=1SG.POSS-mum

My mum said to him:

- 28) “Ta7 kucw pyin me7 stéwentem re syelyélt,
 ta7 kucw pyin me7=s-téw-nt-em re=s-yel.yélt
 NEG EXCL today FUT=NOM-buy-TR-1PL.ERG DET=NOM-dishes[RED]

heqen t’ri7 penhén.”

heqen t’ri7 penhén

maybe around.then later

“We won’t buy the plates today, maybe sometime later”.

- 29) Le tu7kwemínem te syelyélt yeri7
 le=tu7kw-emín-em te=s-yel.yélt yeri7
 DET=sell-APP-INTR OBL=NOM-plate[RED] then

mskwens xwexwéyt te m s7élk'wens
 m=s-kwen(-n)-s xwe.xwéy-t te=m=s-7élk'w-en-s
 PST=NOM-take(-TR)-3ERG all[RED -ST] OBL=PST=NOM-store.away-TR-3ERG
Then the salesman took all of his wares and put them away.

30) Yeri7 m sqwetséts.s... tsqwit's ey
 yeri7 m=s-qwetséts-s ts-qwit'-s ey
 then PST=NOM-leave-3POSS ST-smile-face still

le qwetsétses.
 le=qwetséts=es
 DET=leave=3CNI
Then he left, still smiling as he left.

31) Te nststut lu7 tsets'écem enke
 te=n-s-tsu.tst lu7 tse.ts'éc-em=enke
 OBL=1SG.POSS-NOM.-say[RED] then ashamed[RED]-INTR=EVID

te síq'ens le tsk'pupcw
 te=síq'-n-s le=tsk'pu.pcw
 OBL=break-TR-3ERG DET=bowl[RED]
I think he was embarrassed about breaking the bowl.

32) Qwenmen7úymens lu7 le syelyélt
 qwen-men-7úy-men-s lu7 le s-yel.yélt
 poor-APP-really-APP(-TR)-3ERG then DET=NOM-plate[RED]

nméme7...
 (re=)n-méme7...
 (DET=)1SG.POSS-mom
My mum really wanted the plates

33) k'emell ta7 kucw k pllsqlew's
 k'emell ta7 kucw k=pll-sqlew'-s
 but NEG EXCL IRR=have-money-3POSS

e stéwentem kucw.
 e=s-téwen-t-em kucw
 COMP=NOM-buy-TR-1PL.ERG EXCL
but we had no money to buy them.

34) Tsútsentsems t'7éne:
 tsú.tsen(-t)-tsem-s t'7éne
 say[RED](-TR)-1SG.O-3ERG this.at.that.place
She said to me:

- 35) “Yegwyéygtwen ske xwent ke ns7é7lkst
yegw.yé.ygw-t-wen=ske xwent ke=n-s-7é.7lkst
hard[REDX2]-ST=1SG.CNJ=COND hard IRR=1SG.POSS-NOM-work[RED]
t’ri7 t’hen.
t’ri7 t’hen
here (or) somewhere
“If I were stronger I would be able to work somewhere.”
- 36) Yeri7 ske k mstéwentem le syelyélt.
yeri7=ske k=m=s-téwe-nt-em le=s-yel.yélt
it.is=COND IRR=PST=NOM-buy-TR-1PL.ERG DET=NOM-plates[RED]
“Then we could surely buy the dishes
- 37) Yumell t’ri7 e teg’wmentsútst wen
yumell t’ri7 e=teg’w-men-(t)-tsú.tst=wen
but here COMP=run-APP(-TR)-REFL[RED]=1SG.CNJ
ne k sq’weléwem tek tseqwtsqóqwse7
ne=k=s-q’weléw-em te=k=tseqw.tsq(w)ó.qwse7
IRR=NOM-pick-INTR OBL=IRR=red[RED]-round[RED]
even if only I could move about to the best of my ability picking tomatoes,
- 38) n Tk’emlúps... xwent ske ke nsxílem.
n=tk’emlúps... xwent=ske ke=n-s-xí.xl-em
LOC=Kamloops fast=COND IRR=1SG.POSS-NOM-act[RED]-INTR
in Kamloops, I would do that.”
- 39) Ta7 k sq’e7és t’ri7 mqeqnímentmes kucw
ta7 k=s-q’e7és t’ri7 m-qe.qním-ent-m=es kucw
NEG IRR=NOM-long here PST-hear[RED]-TR-1PL.ERG=3CNJ EXCL
le nk’úy’e le Suzy.
le=n-k’úy’e le=Suzy
DET=1SG.POSS-auntDET=Suzy
It wasn’t a long time after that, we heard about my aunt Suzy.
- 40) Mtéwm ekwe tek syelyélt tek melmac
m-téwm=ekwe te=k=s-yel-yélt te=k=melmac
PST-buy=EVID OBL=IRR=NOM-plate[RED] OBL=IRR=melmac
te tu7kwemínem.
te=tu7kw-emín(-n)-em
DET=sell-APP(-TR)-PASS
She had bought some plates from the melmac salesman.

- 41) Ell ta7 cú7tsem k sq'7est.s ttri7
 ell ta7 cú7tsem k=s-q'7est-s ttri7
 and NEG again IRR=NOM-long-3POSS here
And it wasn't long after that
- 42) mséswentsem ses nméme7
 m=sé.swen(-t)-tsem-s=es (re=)n-méme7
 PST=ask[RED](-TR)-1SG.O-3ERG=3CNJ (DET=)1SG.POSS-mum
 e stágwenmen le nk'úy'e Suzy
 e=s-tágwen-men(-n)(-n) le=n-k'úy'e Suzy
 COMP=NOM-VISIT-APP(-TR)(1SG.ERG) DET=1SG.POSS-aunt Suzy
my mum asked me to visit my aunt Suzy
- 43) e suséswen t'hé7en k tsxíll.ses
 e=su-séswe(-n)-n t'hé7en k=ts-xíll-t-s es
 COMP=ask[RED-X2]-TR-1SG.ERG where IRR=HAB-do-TR-3ERG
 e pllsyelyélt.s.
 e=pll-s-yel-yélt-s
 COMP=have-NOM-plate[RED]-3POSS
to ask her how she was able to get the plates.
- 44) Seséle nke put tek mile re mútes re Suzy
 seséle=nke put te=k=mile re=mút=es re=Suzy
 two=EVID just OBL=IRR=mile DET=live=3CNJ DET=Suzy
Suzy lived about two miles away.
- 45) Yeri7 t'ucw t'k7élye nsrelélc.
 yeri7 t'ucw t'k7élye (re=)n-s-rel-élc
 then just there (DET=)1SG.POSS-NOM-rush-body
So then I rushed off for there.
- 46) Mtsútsentslem e sta7s
 m=tsú.tsn(-n)-tsl-em e=s-ta7-s
 PST=tell[RED](-TR)-1SG.O-PASS COMP=NOM-NEG-3POSS
 e nsw7e7c wel me7 relmán.
 e=n-s-w7e.7c wel me7=relmán
 COMP=1SG.POSS-NOM-PROG[RED] until FUT=sundown
I was told not to stay until it was after sundown.
- 47) Re nméme7 mtsútsentsems
 re=n-méme7 m=tsú.ts(t)-n-tsem-s
 DET=1SG.POSS-mum PST=want[RED]-TR-1SG.O-3ERG

e séswen:
 e=sé.swen(-n)(-n)
 COMP=ask[RED](-TR)(-1SG.ERG)
My mum wanted me to ask her:

- 48) “K’winc k stscem’téps re syelyélt?”
 k’winc k=s-tscem’tép-s re=s-yel.yélt
 how.much IRR=NOM-COST-3POSS DET=NOM-plate[RED]
“How much did the dishes cost?”

- 49) “K’winc ec k s7éys es nek nek’u7
 k’winc ec k=s-7éy-s=es ne=k=nek’u7
 how.much PROG IRR=NOM-pay-3POSS=3CNJ LOC=IRR=one

tek mégcen?”
 te-k=mégcen
 OBL=IRR=month
“How much did she pay each month?”

- 50) “Necwentés en k wenécwems k ta7s wes
 necw-nt-és=en k=wenécwem-s k=ta7-s=wes
 believe-TR-3ERG=YNQ IRR=really-3POSS IRR=NEG-3POSS=3CNJ

k síq’emtes?”
 k=síq’-em-t=es
 IRR=break-INTR-ST=3CNJ
“Did she believe that they never get broken?”

- 51) Le kiktscwen te tsitcw m tá7 us ey
 le=ki.ktsc=wen te=tsitcw m=tá7=us ey
 DET=arrive[RED]=1SG.CNJ OBL=house PST=NEG=3CNJ still

k sk’lucws re skwek’w7es.
 k=s-k’lucw-s re=skwek’w7es
 IRR=NOM-set-3POSS DET=sun
When I got home the sun had not yet set.

- 52) Yeri7 t’ucw le nméme7 re suséswentsems
 yeri7 t’ucw le=n-méme7 re=su.sé.sw-n(t)-tsem-s
 then just DET =1SG.POSS-mum DET=ask[REDX2]-TR-1SG.O-3ERG

cu7tsem te xwexwéyt te stem.
 cu7tsem te xwexwéy-t te stem
 again OBL=all-ST OBL=what

So then my mother asked me again about everything.

- 53) M yews le sllwélstens mpelqíq'elc wen
 m=yews le=s-llwélsten-s m=pelqí.q'lc=wen
 PST= then DET=NOM-fall-3POSS PST=return[RED]=1 SG.CNJ

te *Residential School* n Tk'emlúps...
 te=*Residential School* n=Tk'emlúps
 OBL=*residential school* LOC=Kamloops
When it was fall I returned to Residential School in Kamloops.

- 54) Tá7a ey k mstscucwyéyut.s
 tá7a ey k=m-s-tscu.cwyé.yut-s
 NEG yet IRR=PST-NOM-get.on.credit[REDX2]-3POSS

tek syelyélt tek *melmac*.
 tek=s-yel.yélt te=k=*melmac*
 OBL=IRR=NOM-plate[RED] OBL=-IRR=*melmac*
She had not yet got any melmac dishes on credit.

- 55) Nek'welltyéncwem lu7 tlri7 le pelqíq'elc wen
 nek'well-tyéncwem lu7 tlri7 le pelqí.q'elc=wen
 one-year at.that.time then DET=return[RED]=1 SG.CNJ

n *vacation*
 n=*vacation*
 LOC=*vacation*
A year later when I when I returned for vacation

- 56) le mwiwkctn es te syelyélt.s
 le=m=wí.wk-c-t-n=es te=s-yel.yélt-s
 DET=PST=see[RED]-BEN-TR-1 SG.ERG=3CNJ OBL=NOM-plate[RED]-3POSS

te *melmac* n cyelyél'tens le nméme7.
 te=*melmac* n=c-yel.yél'ten-s le=n-méme7
 OBL=*melmac* LOC=in-cupboard[RED]-3POSS DET=1 SG.POSS-mum
I saw my Mum's melmac dishes in her cupboard.

- 57) Mtéwm enke te kwalt te syelyélt.
 m-téwm-m=enke te=kwalt te=s-yel.yélt
 PST=buy-INTR=EVID OBL=YELLOW OBL=NOM-plate[RED]
She must have bought the yellow plates.

- 58) Le mwiwkctnes te syelyélt.s
 le=m-wí.wk-c-t-n-es te=s-yel.yélt-s
 DET=PST=see[RED]-BEN-TR-1 SG.ERG-3CNJ OBL=NOM-plate[RED]-3POSS

- 63) Le séme7... m yews re sxwq'úsens
 le séme7... m=yews re=s-xwq'úsen(-n)-s⁴
 DET=white.guy PST=then DET=NOM-pack.up.in.bundle(-TR)-3ERG

te msendens.

te=m-send)-n-s

OBL=PST=send-TR-3ERG

"The white guy bundled it up and sent it."

- 64) Yeri7 stsukws
 yeri7 s-tsukw-s
 that NOM-finish-3POSS
That's all.

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⁴ A more detailed breakdown would give (Dwight Gardiner, p.c.):

re s-x-q'7-éw's-n-s

DET=NOM-in-tie-middle-TR-3ERG