XIth INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

ON

SALISHAN LANGUAGES

The Whaler

An analyzed Nitinaht text

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Nitinaht Lake

and

The University of Victoria

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Introduction

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The literature of the Nitinaht, a Wakashan people of southwestern Vancouver Island, has always been an oral tradition, locked in the minds of native speakers. In this paper prepared by Bernice Touchie, a young speaker of Nitinaht, one small portion of this literature emerges in writing—a story about an unsuccessful whaler who attempts to change his luck by undergoing a test of strength.

The Whaler has literary value. But it is important for other reasons as well. As the author battled her way through an analysis of it, attempting to understand the structure of her native language, the story served as a teaching machine. As it is presented in this paper, it serves as a vehicle to show what she has learned.

To break down the polysynthetic Nitinaht words, built of roots and a multitude of possible suffixes, it was necessary for her to generate a large corpus of additional forms. The additional material raised more questions, which required more examples. Elders were frequently consulted, and because the linguist-informant relationship involved native speakers, explanations were
often highly detailed. Eventually, as notebook upon
notebook was filled, the text was dwarfed by the
analysis.

The Whaler begins with a line by line presentation
of the story as it was initially told by Charlie Jones
Sr. of Port Renfrew, and transcribed by the author.
These lines are given Arabic numbers. Each word has a
literal English gloss given below it. Beneath each
gloss is a morpheme by morpheme break-down of the
Nitinahht word. Finally, each constituent morpheme is
glossed. If a word has been previously analyzed, the
line number where it first occurs is given.

The analysis is the author's own product, and
although there are many things that she does not yet
understand about Nitinaht, her overall grasp of the
structure is impressive and her insights are unique.
Using the principles of structural linguistics she has
segmented words and developed glosses for the parts on
her own. In a few instances I have suggested (after
long discussion) stock Wakashanist glosses for frequently
occurring grammatical elements.

A separate English translation follows the Nitinaht
text. The author has tried to retain the style of the
original story, while making the English flow more
freely. Roman numbers key to sections of the Nitinaht
text. Footnotes are used to clarify and expand upon various portions of the story.

With few exceptions, linguistic (and anthropological) research in the Northwest has been controlled by investigators who do not speak the languages of the people they study. This does not need to be interpreted as a conspiracy of exclusion. But the failure to encourage native speakers to seek linguistic training must be considered a policy of neglect. For Nitinaht and a number of other Northwest languages there are now native speakers who can function as linguists. Research efforts in the Northwest will benefit greatly from their contributions.
<table>
<thead>
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<th>Abbreviation</th>
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<td>art.</td>
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<td>cause</td>
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<td>dem.</td>
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<td>dur.</td>
<td>durative aspect</td>
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<td>loc.</td>
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<td>mom.</td>
<td>momentaneous aspect</td>
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<td>pass.</td>
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<td>poss.</td>
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<td>sub.</td>
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- ' indicates a suffix which adds a glottalic component to certain preceding sounds.

[L] indicates a suffix accompanied by root vowel lengthening

[R] indicates a suffix accompanied by root reduplication
The one who once whaled

1. I. ?aŋki
   ?uyxabsaq
   ?uyac'wa
   this
   information
   it comes from
   ?aŋ-ki

   dem.-particular, it-inform-thing-art. it-comes-it
   from

2. hu?e' y?uy,
   wiki'txa'a
   ta'q
   long ago
   no persons
   exactly
   hu?e' y-?uy

   wik- 'i.t-xa- a'
   ta'q
   long ago-that
   time
   no-existing-while-now
   exact

3. ka'batp
   qa'btuwisi,
   ?a'dsa'a
   knowing
   how it used to be
   now only
   ka'bat'-ap

   qa'a.-bt-uwisI
   ?a'd-s'-a'a
   know-cause
   way-past-quot.
   only-doing-now

4. ka'batp
   yaiaxibtquy
   tapsčiλ.
   knowing
   where one had
   dived
   3

   yaŋ-ax-(i)bt-quy
   taps-(č)iλ
   that -where-past-cond. dive-mom.
   place
5. II. k’i’sasiłax  

trying to change  particularly  
k’is-as-ii-ax[L]  ?u(y)uq  

other-reach-happening,-trying it-with reference to doing  

6. q’aquy  wi’kabi’kqa  yubuļ  

the way he was because he is unlucky unable  

q’a-quy  wik-ap-‘i’k-qa  yub-uļ  

way-cond.  not-cause.-tendency-sub. undesirable-dur. to  

7. hideyp  čitapkw.  III. du’ba’k  

to catch  whale  both had  

hid-eyp  čit(‘)ap-uk  du’b-a’k  

loc.-find  on edge-standing-dur. all-had  

8. ?ala’a’aq  qa’qia’tkw  qa’xa’sa’p  

his two  younger brothers  killing  

?ala’-a’k’-aq  qa’xa’-s-a’p  

two-has-art.  kill-doing-cause  

9. ?uyuq  čitapk  yuwa’  ?a’dsa’  

particularly  whale  then  being the only one  

5  7  yuw-a’  

same, then-then
10. wikiyu, wi·kabik. IV. yuwa·ƛ ʔudxa·ƛ
not yet unlucky then looking for
wik·iyu 6 9 ʔu·i·duւ·'a·ƛ
not-yet finished it-look for-then

11. qaʔukʷat qaʔukta·wakuwis kʰiša ·siʔ
the means the means he has to change
qaʔ·ukʷat qaʔ·ukʷat·a·w·ak·uwis 5
way-manages to way-manages to-should-has-quot.

12. ?uduƛ yuqʷa·baxsa·qa qaʔaqy
because he also wants to be the way
ʔu·duƛ yuqʷa··baxsa··qa 6
it-reason also-want-sub.

13. qaʔqlatkʷ, du·bak ʔuʔutx.
the younger brothers both of his hunters
du·b-a·ƛ ʔuʔu·atax [R]
both-have them-go after

14. V. yuwa·ƛtuw dupisa·ca·ƛ
then was all over
yuw·'a·ƛ·bt·uw dupi·sa·c·'a·ƛ
same,-then-past-quot. all-place-then
then

15. yaʔaxa·wquy ƛiʔis·akidkʷ,
where he might praying
yaʔ-aʔ·a·w·quy ƛiʔis·'a·wk·iʔidkʷ
that place-where-should cond. light-day-together
color
16. hi·dač  q ámbukta·wakuwisi  k·isa·siż,
   ask in prayer  the means he has to  change
hid-ač [L]  11  5
   loc.-be in state of

17. hideyq  ?uyuq  či·tapq'waq.  VI. yuwa·λ
   find  particularly  whale  then
hid-eyp  5  7  9
   loc.-catch,  find

18. q ámbu·xa·λ
   while having done that  that  again
q ámbu·-x-a·λ  ?ax-ci  λa?u
   way-state of having-while-now  dem.-that finished

19. hida·čiλ,  ?u?utx·a·λ,  wi·k
   go out to sea  whale hunting  not
hid-a·či-iλ  ?u?u-atax[R]-'a·λ
   loc.-extend on-mom.  them-pursue-then
     water

20. či·xuksa·p
   having success at getting  particularly
či·x-uk-s-a·p  5
   change in state-dur-doing-cause of affairs
21. či'tapk'waq. VII. qi'ča-da.allocate
the whale after a long time
7 qi'-č-ad-a.allocate
long-while-mom.-toward-now,then time

22. tapatsi.la VIII. ?iyax.a
he thought on his own there
?u-u-k[R]-?a allocate
think-mom. the one(?u)-do[R] at-there-it

23. ča?ak IX. wayaqsti.la
stream,river we call it bubble,whirl
ča'-ak ?u-k'aqiš-ak-id 'bit-qa
flowing-dur. it-named-have-we water coming-dur.
water to surface

24. ča'kaq ?iyax. IX. wayaqsti.la
the river at got the desire to
ča'-ak'-aq 22 wa-(y)aqst-iš-a.allocate
flowing-dur.-art. say-going -mom.-then inside
water

25. tapis?i'-kqa. "?adiyuws?iyisi
that he will dive. maybe then it will
?ad-iw-ux(1)-a.allocate
only-that-maybe-possibly-indef. time
26. kʷisa'siƛ  
change  
5  

hid-e'yip-(š)iƛ  
loc.-find-mom.  

27. ?uyuq  
?uy  qʷisqus." X. "tapsči'ks  
particularly when if I do that I will dive  
5  
qʷis-quy-s  
taps-č-i'k-s  
happen-cond.-I  
dive-mom.-fut.-I  

28. yaiʔaq  
where that the strong river then  

yai-ʔaq  
daš-uk-'aq  
that-art. strong-dur.-art. place  

29. waʔa  
saying the younger brothers don't do it  
wa-ʔaƛ  
say-then wik'-i  
not-imper.  

30. ?ušibaqaqxiš  
it must be dangerous  

?uš-(i)b-aqaq-χ(i)-iš  
troublesome-thing-has characteristic of-must-indef.  
be
31. te'wk'́a ča'kaq dašukxiš.
   *it is heavy* the waters *it must be strong*

te'uk-'a ča'-ak-'aq daš-uk-χ-iš
   *heavy-dur-it* water-dur-art *strong-dur.-must-indef.* be

32. ḫip'xa· q'adu'âuwis bitx'́a·
   *force sucking in* why it does spin

- ḫip'x-a· q'a-du'âu-uwis bitx'́-a·
   *draw in-dur.* way-reason-quot. spin-dur.
   *why* turn

33. ʔiyax ča'kaq, wikxiš
   *at* the river *I guess it is not*

   22  23 wik-χ-iš
   *not-must be-indef.*

34. čačaba xuws q'waqu'suk.
   *may be proper* if that is what you do

čačab-(a)x-uws q'wa-quy-suk
   *correct,-state of-maybe* way-cond-you proper being

35. XII. yuwa'âuw ḡa?ubitšiƛ wa,
   *then he had* again said

   yuw-'a'á-uw ḡa?u-bit-(ƛ)iƛ
   *-quot.* again-past-mom.
36. qixča·da?uk\'a
for a long time
qi-č-a·d-a-uk-'aɁ
long-while-mom.-time-rep.-dur.-then
(time) ? ? ?

37. XIII. 'aci·dukša  tapša\baxsa,
became anxious, wanting to dive
determined
'aci·d-uk-(š)iɁ  taps-(č)iɁ-ba\baxsa·
determined-dur.-mom. dive-mom.-want to
dive-mom.-want to

38. k'a-r'ak,  ?uq'wii·yuq  wiya
shy  caused by, because  he never
k'a·r'ak  ?u-q'wii·-(y)uq  wiya-r'a
shy-dur.  it-do (to)-with ref. never-while-he

39. hideyp,  wikqa  qwa\aws
catches  he is not  like that
7  wik-qa  qwa·uwis
not-because he, (sub.)  way-quot.

40. qwaquy  qa\qiatk,  ?ayibitšiɁ\a
way one younger bros. had many times
might be
qwaquy  ?ayi-bit-(š)iɁ-ɁaɁ
way-cond.  many-times-mom.-then
41. ?u·ba·c  
   talk about it
   ?u·uk"idk
   qa·qia·tukquy,
   younger brothers
   ?u·ba·c
   ?u·u-(k)iduk
   it-talk about
   them-with
42. du·bey,
   "wik! wik!
   ?ušibaqka,"
   all the time
   don't do it
   it is dangerous
   du·b·ey
   29
   30
   all-time
43. wa?antquyuw.
   XIV. yuwaļ
   ?uk"abaqla'ya·λ
   he would be told
   then
   after
   wa-'aļ-'it-quyuw
   9
   ?u·k"ab-aql-iy-'a·λ
   say-then-pass.-cond.-quot.
   it-rear-behind-at-now
   that
time
44. wa·λ,
   "šu,
   'aci·duks
   waya·qsļ
   saying
   alright
   I am anxious
   think
   wa·a·λ
   37
   wa-(y)a·qst-iļ
   say-then
   say-going-mom.
   inside
45. šapsčiļqu's."
   XV. waše·ke·kid,
   I may dive
   we will go
   šaps-(č)iļ-quyu-s
   waš-e·k-e·k-id
   dive-mom.-cond.-I
   go-dur.-fut.-we
46. da?uk'aswičis,       ?u'ksička
   you will come with me       you (pl.) carry
   da?uk-iλ-'a-suwič-is       ?u-i'kis-’ička
   accompany-mom.-3d-you(pl)-me it-carry-imper. pl.
pers.

47. subuqa·di.       XVI.  ?ux?a       ?uk'aqi
   whaling rope             it is that       called
   sup-uq-a·di             ?ux'-a       ?u-k'aqiš
   wind-has on-outer        the one-it       it-named
   surface

48. subuqa·di  čistu'paq  qo?acičaq
   whaling rope             the rope          Indian's
   47  čis-tu'p-aq  qo?as-ič-aq
   rope-thing-art          Indian-poss.-art.
   like

49. hawiliy  čistu'p. XVII. "?o, Šu,
   ready made              rope         oh, alright
   hawiliy              45
   complete-dur.

50. q'abašsa'kaši',       qe'has
    that's what he really      you will for a long time
does want
    q'a-bašsa'ak-'a-ši'       qi'-iλ-’as
    way-want-have-he-actually long (time)-mom.-you
51. wa, ku'waie'kas." XVIII. waie'kak.
   say you will just go
   as well
   ku'waï-e'k-'as waie'k-'aak
   just as well-fut.-you go-dur.-seq.
   do

52. hidi'ksiak qa'qia'takquy, cawakak
   taking along his younger bros. one
   hid-i'kis-iak cawak-'aak
   loc.-take-mom.
   with

53. hidi'ks čistupaq, subuqadlaq.
   taking the rope the whaling rope

52  48  47

54. ?iyaqwu, šucas ?ukwaqi
   there is trees called
   ?iyaqwu šuc'as ?u-kwaqit
   at-there-quot. standing-on ground it-called
   ?

55. Atatapt yaqiyou'a'kak
   yeewood that which he has made
   Atatapt yaq-iyo-a'k-'aq
   hard-made of that-done,finished-has-art.
56. di·xuwadu·λ   di·x‘sa·bλ  
    wound around    winding
    di·x‘-awad-u·p-’a·λ   di·x‘-s-a·p-’aλ  
    wrap-middle-cause-then wrap-doing-cause-then
57. qaqača·bičλ  dix‘šiλ  ċistu·paq.
    three times    winding    the rope
    qaqač-a·p-ičiλ  dix‘-šiλ  48
    three-cause -incep. wrap-mom.
58. XX. yuwa·λ  čiyita·bλ  
    then    laid the rope    on ground
    9  čis-’it-a·p-’aλ  
    rope-lay something-cause-then    like on ground
59. ta‘a·saλp  čistu·paq,  yuwaλ  
    have straight    the rope    then
    on ground
    taq-‘a·s-’aλ-’ap  48  9
    straight-ground-now-cause
60. susśiλλ  ya  Ċapščile·saq.
    then swim    that one    the one who was going to
dive
    sus-(č)il-’aλ  Ċaps-(č)il- e·s-’aq
    swim-mom-then  dive-mom.-going to-art.
61. ba-li-yu-xa·a·, haw-liy-a·a 'uyuq
while tied now ready for
ba-li-yu-x-‘a·a hawii-iy-‘a·a 5
tie-done-while-now ready-dur.-now finished
62. q’isi·qaq hidase’kquy
that which he will do when he reaches
q’is-i·a·q hid-as-e’k-quy
happen-fut.-art. loc.-reach-fut.-cond.
63. ?ada·či·dîabaxsa·quy. XXII. yuwa‘a
as deep as he wanted then
?ad-a·či-a·dí-baxsa·quy 9
so much-deep-all along-want to-cond.
64. ?uxa·a qa-la·tk‘aq ?u?awaik‘ ċistuquip,
it was he the younger looked after the rope
?ux-‘a·a qa-la·tk‘-‘aq ?u-awaik‘uk 48
the one-then younger-art. it-tending-dur
brother
65. čawa·k‘a?u?uwaik‘ balayuykaq.
now one looking after that which he has for
čawa·k-‘a·a 64 tying
one-now bal-ayu-eyak‘aq
tie-done-used for-art.
finished
66. XXIII. ciqši'alanw, ?ux ya ?u'awaık'waq

he then spoke the one that the one tending

ciq-(š)iλ-'aλ-unwrap 64

speak-mom.-then-quot.

67. čistupaqa. "hišu, ladi'wiya'pa'!

the rope alright stop it

48 ladi'wiya'-p'-aλ'-i

motionless-to become-cause-now-imper.
different

68. baλš?aq'm" wa'λ ?u'awaık'waq ?u'yuq

tie it said the one tending (ref.to)

baλ-š'-aλ'-i 29 64 5

tie-mom.-now-imper.

69. ya bałapčeyk'waq ?ukwa'i

that that he has tied up on

baλ-ap-čey-a'k'-waq ?u-(k')a'i

tie-upright-resulting-have-art. it-on surface condition

70. šučsaq. či'iq'ii išibi'wiya'p

the tree pull make it tighter

54 či'-išib-i'wiya'-p

pull-mom. tight-to become-cause different
he had just done pull it broke
only, - happened - he just

it was twenty fathoms the rope
20-fathoms, -quot.

yet just it snapped that which was halfway extending of

alright he stood up that one

the one tending rope

like for
76. "ʂu qʰisiʁːa qʰabaχsa·b̥taq.
   alright it has happened that which he wanted
   qʰis-ixɬ'-aɬ'-a qʰa·baχsa·bt-ɬ'aq
   happen-mom.-now-it way-want-past-art.

77. wiktaqsi'kid ?aχci ɬaʔubt
   we will not (again) that person again
   wik-taq-ɬ-i'k-id ?aχ-ći ɬaʔu-bt
   not-leave-mom.-fut.-we dem.-that again-past
   person

78. dačo·ɬ " waɬ qa:iɬa·tuk, hidɬksiʁːa
   see said the younger taking
   dač-o·ɬ 29 hidɬ-kis-iɬ-ɬ'aɬ
   perceive-see loc.-carry,-mom.-then take

79. ñistu·paq. XXVI. hidiʁːa ye·taxquyaɬ
   the rope reaching where they lived
   48 hidɬ-as-iɬ ye-atax-quy-ɬ
   loc.-reach-mom.
   that-to-cond.-they place live at

80. yadi'xaɬ ?ubaɬ.
   right away talking about it
   yadi'x-aɬ ?u-baɬ
   right away-then it-talk about
81. XXVII. wałe-k'å   ?uyxabs   ?uwiy
    went   the news   went to
wał-e·k-'aål   ?u-(y)aχ-(a)bs   ?u-iy
    go-dur.-then   it-inform-matter   it-go to
about.

82. yu'i?uła·tx,   čiša·tx,   hul'aya·tx.
    Ucluelet   Port Alberni   Bamfield
yu’il-?uł-a·tx
    sheltered-place-people
bay   who
live at

83. XXVIII. čapxda'kuw   łuč'u'pquyał
    she had a husband   their sister
čapx-(d)a'k-uw   łuč'u'p-quy-ał
    husband-has-quot.   sister-cond.-their/
they

84. ?usa'c   hupačkt,   yał?iya·λaq
    somewhere   island   where he went
?u-sa'c   hup-äckt   yał'-iy'-a·λ'-aq
    it-place   dome-in water   that-go-then-art.
shaped   place
(there)

85. ?uya'w'e·s   hidasił   ?uya'w'e·s.
    going for that purpose   reaching   going for the
purpose
?u-(y)a'w'-e·s   79   85
    it-do for-going to
that
86. XXVIX.  ya'quy  ya  xa'да'каq
where may be  that  the lady
ya'quy  xa'да'к-'аq
that-cond.  lady-art.
place

87. Č�apxada'к  љuчu-'рquy  ya  qаxšьlaq.
having husband  his  sister  that  that died
one
83  83  qаx-(_$)и-'аq
die-mom.art.

88. XXX.  hidawиьл  yuwa'Ь  љu-'yaxukЬ
arrived  then  then gave news
hid-awiь-'аЪ  9  љu-(y)аx-ук-'аЪ
loc.-incept.-then  it-tell-dur-then

89. "qаxšьa,  xaчibisiqsa'kti'к,"  wa'Ь
he died  the  brother  that  you  had  saying
qаx-(_$)и-'а  xaчibisiqs-a'k-bt-i'к  29
die-mom.-he  the  brother-had-past-you

90. љuyuq  xa'да'каq,  "qаxšьa,  pawaišьa."
to  the  lady  he  died  he  is  lost
5  86  89  pawai'(_$)и-'а
lost-mom.-he

91. XXXI.  yuwa'Ь  љa'diwe'sapsuw
then  she  only  let  him  say  that  much
9  љa'di-we's-ap-s-uw
so  much-going  for-cause-?-quot.
92. xa'da'kaq, yuwa'la 'axabši'll.
the lady then burst out crying
86 9 'ax-ib-(i)l-'a'll
cry-cause-mom.-then

93. XXXII. "ka'batps, ka'batps, qašši'llqa
I know I know that he has died
ka'bat'-ap-s qaš-(i)l-qa
cry-cause-I die-mom.-sub.

94. hide'yib'id, ?iyaxa'la ?axki," wa'll.
we have found him he is now here she said
hid-e'yip'-a'll-id ?iy-aχ'-a'λ-a l 29
loc.-find-now-we at-there-now-he

95. XXXIII. wa'scu'tidaš ?aχci
which one (I) wonder
wa's-cu't-idaš 18
where-one or other-wonder

96. hupačkt yašaxibtuwis qisità?
islend where it had happened
84 yaš-aχ-(i)bt-uwis qis-iš
that place-at-past-quot. happen-doing

97. ?uyuqa'laś ?aχc haya'k.
I refer to that do not know
?u-(y)uq'-a'laś 18 haya'-ak
it-relative-now-I to not knowing-dur.
98. ŝaša·kuw hupačkt yaštaqoli·a·quy
   it has a name, an island where one could see
   it is said
Šaš-(d)a·k-uw 84 yaš-bt-(q)i-i·a·k-quy
name-have-quot.
   that-past-see-seq.-cond.
   place

99. huʔa·bi bašayu, tucqiyu
   still the same tied torn
hu-a·bi baš-ayu tucq-iyu
   same-manner,type tied-finished, torn-finished, done
done

100. čistu·paq. ?ačc ?u·ba·ks ka·batp.
the rope that as far as I know
48 18 ?u·b-a·k-s
   far-have-I
Translation

I. This story originates from long ago, no persons being exactly sure how it actually occurred, only knowing where he had dived. II. Trying to change his condition because he was unsuccessful in catching whale. III. Both his younger brothers were killing whales and he being the only one not having done so as yet, an unfortunate. IV. Then looking for a means which he might have of changing because he also wanted to be like his younger brothers, both being whale hunters. V. Then he was everywhere where he should pray, to ask the great one for strength for whatever means he might have to change, to catch whale. VI. Then while in that state he again went out to sea, began whaling, but still no success with the whales. VII. After much time an idea occurred to him. VIII. There is a flowing of water which we call a whirlpool at the river. IX. Getting the desire that he would like to dive. "Maybe then it will change I will begin catching whales if I should do that." X. "I will dive where the strong flowing waters are." XI. Then the younger brothers said, "Don't! Don't! It must be hard to do, the water is strong. There must be a strong suction perhaps that is why it spins at the waters,
it must not be proper if you should do that." XII. Then he would say it again, doing so for a long time. XIII.
He became anxious in his desire to dive, shy, because he never had success in the catch, because he is not like
his younger brothers, having many times talked about it with those who were his younger brothers, all the time
(saying), "Don't do it! Don't do it! It is dangerous to do," they would say to him. XIV. Then he would say
right after, "Alright, I am anxious that I might dive." XV. "We will go, you two will come with me, you two
carry the whaling rope." XVI. That which is called subuq' didi is the Indian's prepared rope. 4 XVII. "Oh, alright, that is what you really want, you will say that for a long time, you might as well do it." XVIII. He then went, taking his younger brothers, one taking the rope, the whaling rope. XIX. There is it is said, a tree called natapt 5 which he has used to wrap around (the tree) winding the rope three times. XX. Then placing the rope on the ground straight he then swam, the one who was going to dive. XXI. Already tied, ready for that which he was going to do when he reaches the depth that he wanted to go. 6 XXII. Now it was the younger brother who was tending the rope, then one tending that which was for tying. XXIII. He then spoke,
the one (brother) tending the rope. "Alright, stop it! Tie it!" said the one tending (the rope) referring to that (rope) which he had tied on the tree. Pulling it to make it tighter he (the other brother) had just begun to pull and it broke. XXIV. The rope was twenty fathoms deep yet it still broke halfway along the rope. XXV. "Alright." He stood up the one who was tending the rope. "Alright he (the one who dove) has done that which he wanted. We will never again see him again," said the younger brother, taking the rope.

XXVI. Reaching wherever they lived they immediately began talking about it. XXVII. The news then went to Ucluelet, Port Alberni, and Bamfield.7 XXVIII. Their sister had a husband it was said, (she lived) somewhere on an island, where they then went to tell the news. XXVIX. Wherever the married lady was, the sister of he who had just died. XXX. Having then arrived then told the news. "He died, the brother that you had," they said to the lady, "He has died, he is now lost." XXXI. The lady let him say only that much, then she burst out crying. XXXII. "I know, I know, that he has died, we have found him, he is now here," she said.8
XXXIII. I wonder which island that is where that happened? It is that particular thing I do not know. It is said there is an island with a name where one sees the rope still tied, torn. That is as far as I know.
GLOSSARY

ROOTS

?ab, ?ap  middle

?abxtač  break in half

?a(·)d(i)  only, so much

?adiyuq  do to only that

?aλ  two

?aličq  two o'clock

?at  yet

?atubtiš  yet it had

?ax  demonstrative root

?ayi  many

?aya's  many on the table

baλ  tie

balšia  to tie

bitxʷ  turn, spin

bitxšia  to turn around once

caqi·c  twenty

ciq  speak

ci·qci·q  to be speaking

ča  flowing water

čalə·t  water spilling downward
čawa'k  one
čawaʔak'  one did then
čis  rope-like, stringy
či'sap  hanging lines, telephone wires
čab  correct, proper
čabacpa  right hand
čap  husband, male
čakup  husband
či·  pull
či·kis  to be pulling
ča  water
čaʔak  water
čiša'tx  people of Port Alberni
čit  flat object on edge
či·x  change in state of affairs
     (not due to a person's own control)
či·xukš  whole situation turns for the
     better with signs forecasting success
či·x'atš  to become afraid
či·x'u?  monster
daʔuk  accompany
daʔuk'ɑ?  You go with!
dač  perceive
daʔa  hear
dašuk strong
dašk'íla it will be strong
di'x̂̂ wrap
di'x̂̂cib diaper
du'b, du'p all, both
du'baχawa'í using all
hawiči ready, complete
hawiči to be ready
haya'k not knowing
haya'a'aks I don't know.
hi(·)d, hi(·)t locative root
hišu, šu alright
hu same
hu'?e'y long ago
hu'?e'yackw from a long time ago
hup dome-shaped
hupabí bent, crippled
hupa'sib pot
hu'aya'tx people of Bamfield
?iy at (there)
?iyax'a It is there.
ka(·)bat  know
   ka·batps  I know.

ku·  just as well
   ku·waika  Go ahead just the same!

k'u·is  other, different
   k'u·istu·p  of a different kind

ka·  shy
   ka·?aks  I'm shy.

ïib  tight
   ïibi·pika  Make it tight!

ïipx·  draw in
   ïipxši·a  inhale

ïuč?u·p  sister (man's)

ãa?u  again, other
   ãa?u?aq  the other one

ãad  motionless
   ãade·i  stay home

ãaki  standing
   ãakišpiž  standing on floor

ãat  hard

ãis  light of color
   ãis:ak  daylight
?o  oh!
pawaʔ  lost
qaqač  three
qala'tk  younger brother
qa'qala'tk  younger brothers
qax  die
qaxkwača  all died
qe', qi'  long time
qe'kwača  gone for a long time
qi'čiθ  for a long time
qoʔas, qoʔac  man, Indian
qwa(')  way
qwaʔaq  the way it is
qwis  happen
qwisil  to do
sub, sup  to wind (?)
supsiya't  cedar boughs
supsiθ  to wind rope
sus  swim
susa'  to swim
šaʔ  name
šašitaq  it's name
šu, hišu alright
šučas tree(s)
ter heavy
ter-yuk heavy
tucq tear
tucqšila to tear
tapat suddenly think of
taps dive
tapsšila to dive
taq exact, straight
taqšabika Make it straight!
?u he, she, it
?uwiyʔesid daʔkaq We are going to the moon.
?ub far
?uš troublesome
?ušibsidak to have troubles
?ux the one, the situation (?u+? being)
?uxaʔak Is that you?
?uy when, if or
wa say
waʔas you will say
wai go
waišila to go home
wa's where
wa'subti Where was it?
wik not, no
wike't not existing
wiy never
wiyubta he, it never did
xa'da'k lady
xačibisiqs older brother (woman's)
xačičx brother or sister
ya that
yadič right away
yai that place
yaiubtaq place where it was
yaq that which
yaqxtid that which was used
ye' that place
yub improper, unable, bad
yubes'i y bad person
yuš Sheltered bay
yuq'a' also (prob. yuw same, q'a' way)
yaq'xa he will also
yuq'a'bašsa to want to do also
yuw same, then
yuwe'ka then it will
\acr  determined
\acr  skilled
\acr  cry
\acr  cry easily
\acit  water coming to surface
\acitqa  water bubbling, whirlpool
SUFFIXES

-a' durative

huksa' to count

-'a third person singular indicative

Indicative Paradigm

-s I
-'as you
-'a he, she, it

-'id we
-'asu' you (pl.)
-'ai they

lixwa's I am laughing.
lixwaa?as You are laughing.
lixwa?a He is laughing.
lixwa?d We are laughing.
lixwa?asu' You folks are laughing.
lixwa?ai They are laughing.

-ab causative cf. -ap

-a·bi manner, type, condition

kwi'sa·bi of different manner, type

-(y)ack' comes from

?uckwi?a he comes from (?u it)

-ač [L] be in state of

wi·dač to be scared

-a·či extend on the water, depth

hida·čiḥ go out to sea (hid loc.)
-aći̱l inceptive cf. -awi̱l, -i̱ci̱l

This suffix sometimes changes certain preceding fricatives to glides.

?i’waći̱l to get big (?i’x big)

λuyući̱l to get better (λuž good)

-aćkat on the water

hidaćkat something on the water (hid loc.)

-a’d toward

-a(‘)dž all along, outer surface

λu’ža’dž smooth (λuž good)

‘ak durative

qačak needle

-(d)a(‘)k possessing, having

?ušibsidak he has trouble (?ušibs trouble)

’až third person plural indicative cf. -ʔa

-(k”a(‘)ž on surface

λužaž clean (λuž good)

’a(‘)ž now, then

-(‘)ap standing, upright (?)

čitapк’ whale

’a(‘)p, -a(‘)p, ab causative

qaqača’p to allow three times

(qaqač three)
-apt made of

wika'wapt bad person or thing, made out of
(wika'w bad)

-aq article

ha?u?aq the other one

-aqaq has the characteristic of being, very

'ušibaqxaqxiš it is too hard to do (?ušib
trouble)

-a(·)qaš (has) under, behind, within

-u?a'qš inside (?u it)

-(y)aqst (going) inside

hitaqstup putting in (hit loc.)

-as you (sg.) indicative Cf. -'a

-as on the ground

'til'aš sit on the ground (tiqʷ sit)

-a(·)š reach

hidas reaching... (hid loc.)

-a·tax([R]) go after, pursue

ha?uba·tax to fish, go fishing (ha?ub fish)

-a·tax to live at

di·ti·da·tax people of Nitinaht

-(y)a·w should, do for that

qwisəwa way it should happen (qwis happen)
-a(·)wad middle or center from ends

tapa'wadib a belt (tap tied around)

-awał taking care of, tending

cə?awał' fisheries officer (cə- flowing water)

-awił inceptive cf. -ičił, -ačił

-(y)aχ tell, inform

?uyaxuk to inform (?u it)

-aχ where (location)

-aχ [L] trying

hi·de'yibəx trying to catch find

-ayu, iyu finished, done

bałiyu, bałayu tied (bał tie)

-bač talk about

baqabačik What are you talking about? (baq what)

-baχsa· to want or wish for

tapsčəlabaχsa· wanting to dive (taps dive)

-(i,u)bit past, times

?iyaχubt were there (?iyaχ there)

?aəibt twice, two times (?aə two)

-(i,a)bs, (i)b bunch, thing

pacabs foam

subcibs gravel, sand

-ci(·) that person, thing, way (there)
cu't one or the other
?
uucu't (toward) that side (? u it)
č momentaneous cf. (č, ², k')iš
čey to be in resulting condition
kiščey broken up (kiš break)
ču' (having gotten) in that state
daqčju' drunk (daq drink)
duša reason, because
q'waduša that reason why (q'wa way)
e'k future -iš
-e(·)k durative
walešk to go
(!)e's going (intending) to do
áix'wa'se'sak Are you going to laugh?
-e vision (at that) time see -iy
-e yak use for
ha'uba'tšeyk for fishing
-e yip catch, find
wikeyips I didn't catch anything.
(Wik no, not)
i'c possessive, belonging to
xadaki'c the woman's, that which belongs to the woman
'i(ka) imperative singular
wik, wikika Don't do it!
'ič(ka) imperative plural
wikička Don't (you folks) do it!
-iči̱a inceptive cf. -ači̱a, -awi̱a

'ti̱a·ti̱či̱a' to get wet (tī wet)

-id first person plural indicative

cf. -'a

-idaš wonder

?ačk'aq̱idaš (I) wonder what it is called

-(ḵ'i̱d)iduk together, accompanying, with

?u·k'iiduk' to be with, accompany (?u he,she)

-i·duł' look for

?u·duł' to look for, search for (?u it)

-i·k, -e·k future

wiktaqši̱·kid we will not again

yuwe·kid then we will

-'i(•)k given to, tendancy to

?ač'i·k cry baby (?ač cry)

-i·kis take with, carry

či·kis dragging, trolling (či· pull)

-i̱ fathom, length

λači̱ə̱ ten fathoms (λač ten)

-i̱ happen, doing

hitx̱suwi̱t go downstream (hitx̱su downstream)

-(č,š,ḵ'i̱)i̱, č, š momentaneous

-i·λ future

dačo·ti·λi̱d we will see
-is first person singular object
haʔukaʔpsuwičis you folks fed me
-iš indefinite
qʷabtuwiš the way it was
-iʔ existing, having
ʔušiʔa hidadă He has a good personality. (ʔuš good)
-it lay something on the ground
ʔyaʔiʔita'b
-it passive
weʔiʔa someone told him
-iʔw(iy) to become different
ʔušiʔuwiʔap to make it one way rather than another (ʔuš the one, situation)
-iy, ?uy, ?ey (at that) time
ʔixʔuy now
ʔuyiy that time
wiktsheɣ wrong time
-iy durative
hawʔiy ready, finished
-(')iy go to
yaʔiʔiyaq that place where he went (yaʔ that place)
-iyu, ayu finished, done
ʔušiyu dried (ʔuš dry)
-k [R]  do
-ki  here, particular
-kab  rear
Aiča kab  stern of canoe
-kaqiš  named
?aqišik  What is your name? (ač how)
-(q)o(·)i  see
?uqo·i  to see it (u it)
-qa  subordinate, because
wikqas  because I'm not (wik no, not)
wikxsuk  because you're not
wikqa  because he's not
wikqid  because we're not
wikqasu  because you folks are not
wikqaž  because they're not
-qa'  durative
čixqa·  pouring out
-quy  conditional
čišičaqu's  when I sweep
čišičaqu'suk  when you sweep
čišičaquy  when he sweeps
čišičaquyid  when we sweep
čišičaquyaksu  when you folks sweep
čišičaquyaž  when they sweep
-q\\i\'i· do

baq\\i\'i·yuqik What are you referring to?

-s first person singular indicative/conditional/
  subordinate cf. -'a, -quy, -qa

-s doing (?)

\~uqsa\'p spilling

-sa\'c place

\?usa\'c someplace (?u it)

-si\~i happened cf. -i\~i

baqsi\~i what happened. (baq what)

-suk second person singular conditional/
  subordinate cf. -quy, -qa

-suwi\~i second person plural

ha\?uka\'psuwi\~i\~s you folks fed me

-x momentaneous cf. (\~i,\~i,k\"i\~i)

-xi· actually, really

da\~uka\~i\~i· it really is strong
  (da\~uka it is strong)

-taq leave

wiktaq\~i\~i left without doing (wik no, not)

wa\'staq\~a\~i\~ik Where do you come from?
  (wa\'s where)

-tup kind, type, thing made of

huktup bird (huk fly)
-uk, k(") durative
  te'yuk heavy
-"uk'at manage to
  ba'uk'iti by what means would one manage
to? (baq what)
-už durative
  čabuž able
-"už place
-u(·)p causative cf. -ap
  hitaqstup putting in
-uq has on (?)
  ?uqa·dž has on surface (?u it)
-(y)uq' do to or with reference to
  ?uyuqika Give it to! Do it to! Say it to!
  Cause it to! etc... (?u it)
-uw(is(i)) quotative, 'it was said'
  ?uk'í·iubtuw it used to be made
  (?uk'í·iubta it was made)
-u(·)vs maybe, might
  kiša'puwsas you might break it
-?uy at that time see -iy
-waž go do
  ku'wažika You go ahead and do!
  (ku' just as well)
-we's go for cf. "a·w, -(')e's
-(a) while, state of being
hidaqíš while in the woods
-χ(i) maybe do, possibly do, must be
q'axiš/q'axiyiš possibly that's what it
does (q'wa way)
te'iixiš maybe he did while being sick
(te'ii sick)
-χad made of
-xt part extending
?abxtačá to break halfway (?ab middle)
-ş.a·wk day
lis:a·wk daytime (lis light (of color))
FOOTNOTES

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2 Sometimes, lengthening of a root/stem vowel indicates a change in aspect. It seems to show that something is being done (or perhaps initiated), is in process, or is actually occurring, although perhaps gradually.

qa'xsa'p to be killing (now)
qa'xsa'p did kill
'u'ya'xk to begin telling
'uya'xuk to inform

There are other alternations involving vowel length which are not completely understood at this time.
Much preparation took place before the actual hunt for the whale. The people took part in whaling songs and dances while the hunter sought strength from a great spirit, doing so in isolation, fasting and cleansing himself for months.

Then for a long time of preparation getting stronger, bathing and rubbing

Hidaqis wiy aawe'iy, ?u?i?

In the woods never going near living with

Yaqca'quy qi' CIA ñawa:čaxča.

His mate for a long time for as long as one year

Now tied made out of sinew from

Hitape'tau čita p'aq, ya'qk'iubtau hisi'ubtau, that which they pounding used to make

dudu'kx, ?uda'kaduk.

While singing it has a song

(The following song was sung by Ida Jones)
yuq'a uxtild cistupaq tasa'di išiči'ptaq

also made of the rope has rubbed that which was on pitch

hiyoɬquy čitka či'stupi'lit iuscukubtuw,
when finished winding making rope it used to be hard

xa, uk'i'li't. o'diituwik išičiyip wikxač
that making it used to have on pitch so as not to
caxišiš, išičiyip, tasa'dža'aqiuyul bašiše'saλquyul
unravel the pitch it would be rubbed when it was to on be tied

iili bi'wλ.

it became tight
The eldest brother chose a yew(wood) to anchor the rope. The ropemanship planned here was probably quite commonplace for anchoring canoes or moving heavy objects (whales, logs). The use of the tree as a leverage point could be primarily intended for the return haul as well as the quick anchoring.

It was the diver's intention to pull on the rope when he wished to return.

Any news, especially news of deaths or marriages, travelled very quickly up and down the coast, as relatives were widespread. A chief might have many wives from various regions of the coast.

Apparently the whirlpool extended downward and spilled out at another island where he was found drowned with the rope still on his waist.