

POSSESSION IN TWANA

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Possession in Twana is expressed by morphemes of three types: 1) possessive roots, 2) pronominal possessive affixes and 3) a possessive prefix.

1. Possessive Roots

One such root is #da?, POSSESS. It may be accompanied by a pronominal affix plus a nominal prefix, resulting in forms such as dIsdə'?, "(it is) mine." It may combine with lexical suffixes, such as +aqs, POINT, in sda'qs, "a point along a shoreline." It can also appear with only the nominative prefix, as in the reduplicated form sda'də, "money." Or it may combine with the possessive prefix, as in the form bəsda'b', "having power from a guardian spirit owner," which may be literally translated "he has what is possessed by him."

A 'triple possessive' construction can be used for emphasizing possession. Thus dIsdə'? tidba'd, "he's my father," contains not only the possessive root #da? but also two occurrences of the pronominal possessive prefix d-, 'my'.

Another root, #tač^v, exhibits temporal, physiological condition possession. The conditions seem to be of an internal order.

asta'č^v sʔəXo'čId I have a cold.

Compare with biəXo'čId, "I'm coughing."

asta'č^v Xa'Xa?čId I'm having a menstrual period.

Compare with Xa'Xa?, "sacred, taboo."

The data suggests that external conditions cannot be formed with this root.

asXa'qčId I have a sharp, localized pain.

This is perhaps better translated as "I am pained."

*asta'č^v sXa'qčId

Like English, Twana expresses types of change in possession by use of differing verb roots. Examples include:

//Xuyub	SELL
//ayaq ³	TRADE
//čIləʔoɪ	STEAL
#ca ^v	GIVE.

The concept OWN is expressed by use of the root #daʔ.

2. Pronominal Possessive Affixes

As seen above, these affixes may co-occur with possessive roots. They however may not co-occur with the possessive prefix. This is not a restriction on possessives but rather one governing affixes. Forms containing these affixes appear to be nominative in nature, for example:

dɪsdə'ʔ	(it is) mine
dəba'd	my father
sq ^w əba'yas	his dog
sq ^w əba'yas təstibʔa't	the man's dog.

Instead of attaching to the possessor as in English, the third person possessive affix attaches to the object.

d- 1st person singular

This may be the first person marker which also occurs in the pronominal suffix -^vcɪd.

is- 2nd person singular

The second element is perhaps the nominative prefix.

-as 3rd person singular

-ɪ 1st person plural

This is merely the plural possessive suffix.

-ləp 2nd person plural

This is the plural possessive suffix
plus the second person plural marker.

past. verb

-sʔəɪ 3rd person plural

This is the third person possessive
suffix plus the plural possessive suffix.

3. Possessive Prefix

This morpheme appears as bɪs- or bəs-. It is perhaps the continuative aspect marker, bi-, plus the nominative prefix, s-. As forms constructed with this prefix are verbal in nature they are modified as to person by pronominal suffixes rather than pronominal possessive affixes. Thus bɪsq^{wə}ba'y^vɪd is "I have a dog" and bɪsba'd^vɪd is "I have a father." Certain forms constructed with this prefix function as nouns however. Compare the set ba'^vcad, "testicles," and bɪsba'^vcad, "stallion."