Some differences in the speech of a Lummi brother and sister

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1. Phonological Differences

Brother

Less glottalization of stops and weaker glottal stop after vowels

*he?kʷ "remember"

Sister (4 yrs. younger)

Strong glottalization of stops and strong glottal stops after vowels. There is also an echo vowel after glottal stops not found in the brother's speech.

*he?kʷ

2. Morphological Differences

Brother

Uses -ønes, -ønəl as person affixes

Uses -ønat reflexive affix

Uses/reduced transitivizer with 3rd person: leŋ-ne-s-

Uses reportative with 1st person.

ye?-xe-sən

Uses -tøŋəl hortative

ye?-tøŋəl "let's go"

Sister

Uses nekʷ, ?es; does not like -ønes.

Uses -eséo reflexive

Uses unreduced transitivizer with 3rd person leŋ-øxʷ-s

Won't accept reportative with 1st person *ye?-xe-sən

Doesn't like -tøŋəl hortative

*ye?-tøŋəl
3. Lexical Differences

Brother

swi?qo?æy "boy"

χqin "straight, true"

-ç- Modal, "possibility"

æy "when, whenever (hypothetical)

Sister

wey?qe "boy"

χqin (used as intensifier)

"really"

âu modal, "possibility"

æy not used

4. Syntactic Differences

No hesitation in usage of two NP's in sentences

Translates different positions of subject marking in negatives as differences in control

?æw?-sæn kW s-len-nexW ce swey?qe?

"I didn't see the man" (He was in the next room)

?æw? kW ne-s-len-nexW ce swey?qe?

"I didn't see the man" (He wasn't there that night)

Avoids using two NP's in sentences

Translates different positions in negatives as differences in certainty or tense

?æw? kW ne-s-len-nexW ce swey?qe? "I didn't see the man (a long time ago)

?æw?-sæn kW s-len-nexW ce swey?qe?

"I can't see the man" o:

(more recently)

5. Stylistic Differences

Brother

Will never put a recent English word into a Lummí sentence. May resort to kënnings.

len-nexW-sæn ce kWelen šxwool

"I see the airplane"

kWelen šxwool "flying vehicle"

Sister

Does not hesitate to use an English word when there is no English equivalent.