A note on remote: The temporal enclitic *tu7* in St'át'ímcets

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In this paper we show that St'át'ímcets temporal enclitic *tu7* does not encode either perfect or perfective aspect. We further argue that it does not encode past tense. Instead, *tu7* is a distal demonstrative adverb (i.e., it marks 'remote in time'). This analysis accounts for the usual past tense readings of *tu7* as well as for its co-occurrence with the modal *kelh* 'will, might' to give a meaning of remote future. Our analysis provides indirect support for the idea that St'át'ímcets possesses a phonologically null non-future tense morpheme.

1 Introduction

Van Eijk (1997: 200) gives the following description of the St'át'ímcets temporal enclitic *tu7*, which he glosses as 'definite past'.

The enclitic *tu7* indicates that something is over and done with, that a time period has definitely been concluded:

(a) čak *tu7* 'it is all gone'
(b) *ší̓lpu* *tu7* ni čitxʷ*s-a 'his (-s) house (čitxʷ) burned (*ší̓lpu) down'

This enclitic also indicates that a person or object was here recently but has now gone to perform the action referred to in the predicate. Compare (c) to (d) and (e) to (f):

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Though *tu7* obviously has a temporal effect, it is not clear from the description above and the accompanying examples how exactly this effect is achieved. On the one hand, the gloss 'definite past' would seem to indicate that *tu7* is a (past) tense morpheme; on the other, 'over and done with' suggests an aspectual origin as a completive marker. The 'here then, gone now' meaning associated with the expression *nka7 tu7* further confuses the picture. Is it a secondary meaning which has developed as an offshoot from the main (tense or aspect-related) meaning of *tu7*, or should it be made to follow directly from the core meaning?

In this paper, we will try to get to grips with these questions, which have broader implications in light of the current lively debate over the correct representation of temporal information in so-called 'tenseless' languages — languages, like all those of the Salish family, which lack obligatory tense morphology in finite clauses. See Matthewson (2002, to appear), Shaer (2003), Smith et al. (2003), Wiltschko (2003) for various positions on the issue.

We will argue here for the following points:

(i) *tu7* is not an aspect marker.
(ii) However, it is not a tense marker either (contra Matthewson 2002 and Davis in prep., Chapter 19).
(iii) Instead, it is a distal demonstrative adverb.
(iv) Nevertheless, it must be construed as modifying a tense relation (either past or future), indirectly supporting a 'tensed' analysis of St'át'imcets over a tenseless one.

Points (i) and (ii) will be addressed in Sections 2 and 3, respectively, and in section 4 we will argue for the claims in (iii) and (iv).

2  *Tu7* is not an aspect marker

Speakers of St'át'imcets usually translate sentences containing *tu7* into English using the past tense. Typical examples are given in (1).

(1)  a. táyt-wit *tu7*
    hungry-3PL *tu7*
    'They were hungry /* are hungry.'

    b. say'sez'-lhkán *tu7*
    play-1SG.SU *tu7*
    'I played / was playing /* am playing /* play.'
Occasionally, however, sentences containing tu7 are translated into English in a way which could suggest an aspectual effect. For example, (2a) is translated using the aspectual auxiliary ‘have’ in the present tense, and (2b) uses ‘finished’.

(2)

a. qwatsâts tu7 tâkem i sk'wem.k'dk'wm'í't-a leave tu7 all DET.PL children-DET 'All the children have left.'

b. tsëw'-n-âs tu7 ta mâw-a ta smâlhts-a kick-DIR-3ERG tu7 DET cat-DET DET woman-DET 'The woman finished kicking the cat.'

These sentences suggest an alternative aspectual role for tu7, as a perfect aspect marker (2a) or a completive aspect marker (2b).

Of course, English translations are not reliable semantic diagnostics. We therefore need to develop more accurate tests to distinguish a tense from an aspectual analysis of tu7. In the following subsections, we will do just that. Section 2.1 will be devoted to the possibility that tu7 is a marker of perfect aspect, and Section 2.2 to the possibility that it is a marker of completive aspect.

2.1 Tu7 is not a perfect aspect marker

In this section, we will consider the possibility that the English translation of (2a) yields an accurate representation of the meaning of tu7: that is, that tu7 is the St'iit'imcets equivalent of the English aspectual auxiliary ‘have’. We will give three arguments against such an analysis: first, unlike perfect marking, tu7 is insensitive to lexical aspect (aktionsart); second, tu7 occurs in none of the environments identified by Dahl (1985) as prototypical for perfect aspect; and third, that tu7 acts like a tense marker rather than a perfect aspect marker in its interaction with other aspectual auxiliaries.

2.1.1 Absence of aktionsart effects

The most obvious difference between tense and aspect markers is their (in)sensitivity to lexical aspect or aktionsarten. Aspect markers typically have varying temporal effects, depending on the aktionsart of the predicate with which they are associated; tense markers do not. A simple example will serve to illustrate the difference: the English perfect, constructed using the aspectual auxiliary ‘have’, has different effects on stative and eventive predicates:

(3)

a. I have lived here for twenty years. [stative]

b. I have written this paper. [eventive]

The time at which the state in (3a) holds extends into the present (i.e., I am still living here) whereas the time of the event in (3b) does not (i.e., I am not still
writing this paper). On the other hand, the English past tense puts both types of predicate into the past:

(4) a. I lived here for twenty years. [stative]
b. I wrote this paper. [eventive]

Applying this argument to St'át'imcets, if tu7 is a perfect aspect marker, we should expect it to display interactions with the aspectual classes (aktionsarten) of the predicates it attaches to. On the other hand, if tu7 is a tense, it should not display such effects, but should simply place any type of predicate into the past. In this subsection we show that the latter is the case.

Like English, St'át'imcets possesses a set of aspectual auxiliaries (though the English and St'át'imcets sets do not have exactly the same temporal effects). The most common are wa7 'imperfective', plan 'already', and cew 'going to, about to', whose interactions with different aktionsarten are discussed in detail in Davis (in prep., Chapter 18). Here we will focus on plan.

With states and activities, plan allows either a present tense or a past tense reading (as shown in (5a,b)), while with achievements and accomplishments, it induces either a present or past perfect reading (5c,d).

(5) a. plan-lhkan sáy'sez' already-1SG.SUBJ play 'I was already playing.'
b. plan-lhkan t'alál already-1SG.SUBJ tired 'I was already tired.'
c. plan-lhkan qayt already-1SG.SUBJ reach.summit 'I have / had already reached the summit.'
d. plan-lhkan máys-en already-1SG.SUBJ fix-DIR 'I have / had already fixed it.'

Now, compare the temporal effects of tu7 to those of plan. Unlike plan, tu7 has a uniform effect on predicates of all aspectual classes; it invariably places them in the past, as shown in (6a-d):

(6) a. say'sez'-lhkan tu7 play-1SG.SUBJ tu7 'I was playing / played.'
b. t'ald'l-lhkan tu7 tired-1SG.SUBJ tu7 'I was tired.'
c. qáyt-lhkan \(_{tu7}\)  
reach.summit-1SG.SUBJ \(_{tu7}\)  
'I reached the summit.'

d. mays-en-lhkán \(_{tu7}\)  
fix-dir-1SG.SUBJ \(_{tu7}\)  
'I fixed it.'

This is strong evidence against an analysis of \(_{tu7}\) as a perfect aspect marker.

**2.1.2 Prototypical perfect contexts**

A second argument against an analysis of \(_{tu7}\) as a perfect marker can be constructed by showing that \(_{tu7}\) has none of the properties associated cross­linguistically with perfect aspect.

Dahl (1985) gives a set of prototypical contexts for perfect aspect: examples are given in (7).

(7)

a. I have eaten rutabagas since I was a child.

b. I have lived here for five years.

c. Have you been to Seattle?

d. I want to give your brother a book. Has he read this one already?

If \(_{tu7}\) were a perfect marker, we would expect it to be present in the St’át’imcets versions of these sentences: but in these contexts, speakers always volunteer utterances without \(_{tu7}\), as shown in (8-11). Sometimes, as in (8) and (9), \(_{tu7}\) is rejected on the relevant interpretation; in other cases (10-11), it is simply dispreferred.

(8)

a. wa7-lhkan ts’áqw-an’ i ts’wán-a  
IMPF-1SG.SUBJ eat-DIR DET.PL dry.salmon-DET  
lhel-n-s-wa7 sk’ulk’wm’it  
from-1SG.POSS-NOM-IMPF child  
'I have eaten dried salmon since I was a child.' [VOLUNTEERED]

b. ? wa7-lhkán \(_{tu7}\) ts’áqw-an’ i ts’wán-a  
IMPF-1SG.SUBJ \(_{tu7}\) eat-DIR DET.PL dry.salmon-DET  
lhel-n-s-wa7 sk’ulk’wm’it  
from-1SG.POSS-NOM-IMPF child  
'I have eaten dried salmon since I was a child.'

Consultant’s comment: “Awkward.”
(9) a. plan wa7 tsilkst s-máqa7 kw-en-s
   already IMPF five NOM-year DET-1SG.POSS-NOM
   wa7 its7a
   IMPF DEIC
   'I have lived here for five years.' [VOLUNTEERED]

b. tsilkst tu7 máqa7 kw-en-s wa7 its7a
   five tu7 NOM-year DET-1SG.POSS-NOM IMPF DEIC
   'It was five years that I was here.'

Consultant's comment: "But not just the previous five years."

(10) a. plan-lhkacw ha tsicw áku7 Seattle-a
   already YNQ get.there DEIC Seattle-DET
   'Have you been to Seattle?' [VOLUNTEERED]

b. tsicw-kacw há tu7 áku7 Seattle-a
   get.there-2SG.SUBJ YNQ tu7 DEIC Seattle-DET
   'Have you been to Seattle?'

(11) cúy'-lhkan úm'-en ku pukw
going.to-1SG.SUBJ give-DIRDET book
ta qétxek-sw-a ...
   DET older.brother-2SG.POSS-DET
   'I'm going to give your older brother a book ...'

a. ...kán-as k'a ts7a kw-s plan-s
   YNQ-3CONJ APPAR DEM DET-NOM already-3POSS
   áts'x-en-as see-DIR-3ERG
   '..has he seen this one already?' [VOLUNTEERED]

b. ...kán-as k'a tu7 ts7a kw-s áts'x-en-as
   YNQ-3CONJ APPAR tu7 DEM DET-NOM see-DIR-3ERG
   '..did he see this one?'

We take the data in (8-11) to be further evidence against an analysis of

\( tu7 \) as a (perfect) aspect marker. Notice that in fact the pattern displayed by \( tu7 \)
is quite similar to the behaviour of the English plain past tense, as illustrated in

\( (8'-11') \).

(8') ?? I ate dried salmon since I was a child.

(9') I lived here for five years.

(= not the immediately preceding five)

\(^2\) (10b) was volunteered by the consultant in the context of being asked for other ways to say (10a).
(10') Did you already go to Seattle?
   (grammatical; more neutral / better to use the perfect)

(11') I want to give your brother a book. Did he read this one already?
   (grammatical; more neutral / better to use the perfect)

This suggests that tu7 may be a marker of simple past tense, an analysis that we will discuss in Section 3 below.

2.2.3 Interaction with other aspectual markers

Yet further evidence against an analysis of tu7 as a perfect aspect marker can be found when we look directly at its interaction with other aspectual elements, in particular the auxiliary cuz’ ‘be going to’. In English, a language with both past tense and perfect aspect, we can combine either one of these with ‘be going to’, with the results in (12):

(12) a. I was going to fix the fence. PAST > GOING TO
   b. I have been going to fix the fence. PERFECT > GOING TO
   c. I am going to have fixed the fence. GOING TO > PERFECT

In (12a), there is an implicature that I am no longer going to fix the fence (I have changed my mind). That this is an implicature rather than an entailment is shown by its cancelability: ‘I was going to fix the fence; in fact, I still am.’ In (12b), on the other hand, I am still planning on fixing the fence. There is no combination ‘GOING TO > PAST’, for the simple reason that tenses are structurally higher than aspects (see Kratzer 1998, Demirdache and Uribe-Etxebarria 2000, among others).

Now let us turn to St’át’imcets. Sentences containing both tu7 and cuz’ ‘be going to’ only have the reading corresponding to (12a); that is, they unambiguously mean that something was going to happen, rather than that it has been going to happen, or that it is going to have happened. Some simple examples are given in (13).

(13) a. cuz’ tu7 qwatsáts ti sqáycw-a
going.to tu7 leave DET man-DET
   ‘The man was about to leave.’ (Davis in prep.)

   b. cuy’-lhkan tu7 guy’t3
going.to-1sg.subj tu7 sleep
   ‘I was about to go to sleep.’ (Davis in prep.)

(14a,b) illustrate the implicature of cuz’ tu7 that the action is not going to happen. The clause ‘I was going to fix the fence’ must be joined to ‘I’m going to fix it now’ by t’u7 ‘but’ rather than by the neutral conjunction nilh.

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3 cuz’ often surfaces as cuy’, particularly in Upper St’át’imcets.
Consultant’s comment: “You’ve got two separate sentences there because you put nilh. But if you wanted to join them then you’d use tʼu7.”

In short, the results presented in this subsection show once again that tʼu7 does not have the meaning of a perfect aspect marker, since it combines with ‘be going to’ to create a past tense combination ‘was going to’ rather than an aspectual combination like ‘have been going to’ or ‘going to have been’.

2.3 **Tu7 is not a completive aspect marker**

An alternative aspectual analysis for tu7 reflects the English translation of (2b), where it seems to mean ‘finished’. Under this analysis, tu7 would be a marker of completive aspect, entailing that the predicate which it is associated with denotes a completed or ‘over and done with’ event.

It is easy to show that this is an inaccurate characterization of the meaning of tu7. There is no entailment of completion in sentences with tu7, as can be seen from the examples in (15-16):

(15) a. pulh.elh tu7 ta qʼú7-a
    boil(REDUP) tu7 DET water-DET
    ‘The water was boiling.’ (hadn’t finished boiling yet).

    b. s-pulh tu7 ta qʼú7-a
    STA-boil tu7 DET water-DET
    ‘The water was boiled.’ (had finished boiling).

(16) a. wá7-lhkan tu7 mets-cál ta
    IMPF-1SG.SUBJ tu7 write-ACT DET
    n-púkw-a i-zánucwm-as
    1SG.POSS-book-DET when(past)-year-3CONJ
    ‘I was writing my book last year...’

    b. ...wá7-lhkan hém’ tʼu7 mets-cál lhkúnsa
    ...IMPF-1SG.SUBJ ANTI still write-ACT now
    ‘...and I'm still writing it now.’
In fact, *tu7* can occur in sentences which specifically state that an event has not been completed (17), or hasn’t even been started (18):

(17) plan *tu7* cuz’ tsu-7-c na máq7-a
already *tu7* going.to melt(INCH) ABS.DET snow-DET
i-tscw-wit-as qit’-am
when(past)-went-3PL-3CONJ hook-MID
i ucwalmicw-a
PL.DET native.person-DET
‘The snow was already starting to melt when the people went fishing (with hook and line).’

(18) nilh s-e-s *tu7* cuz’ tsunam’-en-tumultu-as
COP NOM-IMPF-3POSS *tu7* going.to teach-DIR-1PL.OBJ-3ERG
kw-et-wá n-q’ay-loc
DET-1PL.CONJ-IMPF LOC-jump-AUT
‘So she was going to teach us to swim.’

And finally, when asked to translate English sentences where an event has been completed into St’át’imcets, speakers invariably use an aspectual predicate such as *tsukw* ‘to finish, to stop’ rather than (or sometimes in addition to) *tu7*.

(19) *tsukw* kw-n-s mets-ciil
finish DET-1SG.POSS-NOM write-ACT
‘I’ve finished writing.’

(20) plan *wa7* *tsukw* kw-s qelh-n-ás i
already IMPF.finish DET-NOM put.away-DIR-3ERG DET.PL
s7áy’-tscwq-wá n-skícez7-a cuz’
raspberry-DET 1SG.POSS-mother-DET going.to
qwez-en-ém lh-sítik-as
use-DIR-1PL.ERG HYP-winter-3CONJ
‘My mother had already finished putting away the raspberries that we were going to use in winter.’

In summary, there are compelling reasons to assume that *tu7* is not a completive aspect marker. Since we have already shown that it is not a marker of perfect aspect, we can safely conclude that it is not an aspect marker at all.

3 *Tu7* is not a tense marker

As mentioned above, Matthewson (2002, to appear) gives a formal analysis of *tu7* as a past tense morpheme, following the descriptive/pedagogical account in Davis (to appear, Chapter 19). Matthewson argues that St’át’imcets has two tense markers: *tu7*, which is lexically restricted to pick out a past reference time; and a zero (phonologically null) tense morpheme, which denotes a reference time provided by the discourse context, and does not restrict the reference time with respect to whether it precedes or overlaps with the utterance.
time. This means that while tu7 can only have a past tense reading, null tense is compatible with a time either in the present or in the past. For details, see Matthewson (2002).

This analysis accounts for all the data we have seen so far. However, there are some additional data which suggest that it is not quite right. The relevant construction is the combination of tu7 with the modal kelh ‘might, will’. If tu7 were a past tense marker, we would expect the combination kelh tu7 to mean something like ‘was possible’ or ‘would’, as illustrated for English in (21):

(21) a. Last week, it was possible that I would go to France.
   b. A week ago, Ann said that she would meet Sue in two days.

This is not the meaning that obtains for kelh tu7. Van Eijk (1997:210) observes that sentences containing kelh tu7 ‘generally express a more remote possibility than kelh by itself.’ In terms of translations into English, there is often no detectable difference between plain kelh and kelh tu7; both are translated as ‘might’. Examples are given in (22).

(22) a. aolsehm-lhkâlh kelh tu7 sick-1PL.SUBJ MODAL tu7 ‘We might get sick.’ (van Eijk 1997:210)
   b. qyax-kal’âp kelh tu7 drunk-2PL.SUBJ MODAL tu7 ‘You folks might get drunk.’ (van Eijk 1997:210)
   c. qwatsatâ kelh tu7 ti sqâycw-a leave MODAL tu7 DET man-DET ‘The man might leave.’ (Davis in prep.)
   d. guy’t-kan kelh tu7 sleep-1SG.SUBJ might tu7 ‘I might go to sleep.’ (Davis in prep.)
   e. wâz’am kelh tu7 knâku7 ku sqâxa7 bark-MID might tu7 around.there DET dog ‘A dog might bark over there.’ (Davis in prep.)

Further support for the claim that there is no past tense component to kelh tu7 comes from what happens when one tries to elicit sentences that express ‘past possibility’. kelh tu7 is not used in these situations, as illustrated in (23). (23a) was volunteered by the consultant (without kelh tu7); when asked whether (23b) (with kelh tu7) would be possible, she corrected it to (23c), which again does not contain kelh tu7.

(23) kâñem-lhkâcw i t’aq’em’kst-âsq’et-as
do.what-2SG.SUBJ when(past) six-day-3CONJ ‘What did you do on Saturday?’
a. nás-kan sêna7 tawn, t’u7 wá7-lhkan
    go-1SG.SUBJ CONTRAST town but be-1SG.SUBJ
    t’u7 l-ta n-tsîcwa-a
    just in-DET 1SG.POSS-house-DET
    ‘I could maybe have gone to town, but actually I stayed home.’

b. ?? nás-kan kēlh tu7 tawn, t’u7 wá7-lhkan
    go-1SG.SUBJ might tu7 town but be-1SG.SUBJ
    t’u7 l-ta n-tścwa-a
    just in-DET 1SG.POSS-house-DET
    ‘I could maybe have gone to town, but I stayed home.’

c. ka-nás-kan-a sêna7 tawn, t’u7
    OOC-go-1SG.SUBJ-DET CONTRAST town but
    wá7-lhkan t’u7 l-ta n-tścwa
    be-1SG.SUBJ just in-DET 1SG.POSS-house-DET
    ‘I could maybe have gone to town, but I stayed home.’

The data in (22-23) suggest that tu7 is not a past tense marker after all. However, there is a possible objection to this conclusion: it might be that the combination kēlh tu7 has been lexicalised, and its meaning is therefore not created compositionally from the meaning of kēlh plus the meaning of tu7. Evidence against the suggestion that kēlh tu7 has been lexicalised comes from the fact that for at least some speakers, the antithetical enclitic hem’ can be inserted between kēlh and tu7, as illustrated in (24-25):4

(24) tś7as kēlh hem’ tu7 āts’x-en-ts-as n-stūn’c-a
    come MODALANTI tu7 see-DIR-1SG.OBJ-3ERG 1SG.POSS-niece-DET
    ‘My niece will come to see me.’

(25) nás-kan kēlh hem’ tu7 āta7 Kamloops-a
    go-1SG.SUBJ MODAL ANTI tu7 to.there Kamloops-DET
    ‘I might be going to Kamloops.’

We conclude from this that kēlh and tu7 are acting separately when they appear in combination, and therefore that the meaning of the combination should be compositionally derivable from the meanings of kēlh and tu7 in isolation. This in turn militates against a past tense meaning for tu7, since in (22a-e), there is no past tense effect. On the contrary, tu7 seems to make a future event or possibility even more remote.

4 There is some speaker variation on the preferred relative order of kēlh and hem’: van Eijk (1997: 210) gives the following example from the Lower St’át’imcets speaker Adelina Williams, with hem’ preceding kēlh:

(i) wá7-lhkan hem’ kēlh t’u7 āts’ixwa7a, wá7 malh wá7-wi
    IMPF-1SG.SUBJANTIC will just DEC IMPF ADHORT be-PL.IMP
    ‘I’ll just stay here, you folks go right along.’
4  *tu7* is a demonstrative adverb meaning 'remote in time'

If *tu7* is not a past tense marker, yet nearly always has the effect of putting a sentence into the past tense, then what is it? In a nutshell, we claim that *tu7* is a distal demonstrative adverb which is associated with a null tense morpheme. In other words, we are analysing *tu7* as meaning something similar to English 'then'. We will spell this out in more detail below.

In support of this analysis, the first thing to note is that the form and the syntactic behaviour of *tu7* are similar to other demonstrative elements in St'át'imcets. More importantly, the analysis enables us to account for all the data given above about the semantic contribution of *tu7*. We will deal with these different types of evidence in the following two sub-sections.

4.1  **Formal reasons to analyze *tu7* as a demonstrative adverb**

Phonologically, *tu7* is very similar to the demonstrative *t7u* 'that one over there'. In St'át'imcets, as in other Salish languages, there is a close formal correspondence between temporal and locative demonstratives; other examples of the same phenomenon can be found in the demonstrative adverb paradigm, where the adverbs *lānt7* 'then, at that time' and *pindni7* 'in those days, around that time' are clearly related to locatives such as *lāt7* 'there'. While a distinction must still be made between elements with purely temporal reference and those with locative reference, the former clearly derive from the latter. See van Eijk (1997: 171-176), Davis (in prep., Chapter 20) for further discussion.

Syntactically, *tu7* is one of about fifteen second position enclitics (also including *kelh* and *hem*') which follow the first predicative element of a clause (either an auxiliary, if there is one, or the main predicate, if not) in a more or less fixed order. The clitics and their ordering are given in (26), from Davis (in prep., Chapter 38; see also van Eijk (1997: 207) for a slightly different ordering).

(26)  **Second position clitics in St'át'imcets**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>an'</th>
<th>a</th>
<th>cwilh</th>
<th>ha</th>
<th>qa7</th>
<th>ku7</th>
<th>k'a</th>
<th>malh</th>
<th>wi7</th>
<th>t'elh</th>
<th>kelh</th>
<th>or</th>
<th>hem*</th>
<th>or</th>
<th><em>tu7</em></th>
<th>or</th>
<th><em>t'u7</em></th>
<th>or</th>
<th><em>tu7</em></th>
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The important point here is that *tu7* occurs at the end of the second-position clitic string, and varies in its position with respect to the other string-final clitic, *t'u7*. Examples are given in (27).

(27) a.  *weq'w*  *tu7*  *t'u7*

washed.away  *tu7*  *t'u7*

'So he got carried away by the water.'  (van Eijk 1997:211)

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5 The enclitic *t'u7* is extremely common and commensurably hard to gloss: it can mean 'still', 'but', 'so', 'yet' or 'just', but more often than not remains untranslatable into English.
4.2 Semantic reasons to analyze \textit{tu7} as a demonstrative adverb; support for a tensed analysis

Recall the semantic problem introduced above: \textit{tu7} induces past tense readings in all cases except when it is combined with the modal \textit{kelh}, in which case we have 'remote possibility' or 'remote future'. In this section we show that the problem can be solved if we assume that \textit{tu7} denotes not 'past' but simply 'remote in time'.

The analysis works as follows. Following Matthewson (2002, to appear), we assume that 'tenseless' sentences (sentences with no overt tense morphology) contain a phonologically null tense morpheme, which denotes either a past or present reference time. If future time reference is intended, it is obligatory to mark this overtly, as shown in (29) and (30).
(29)  a. tāy-t-wit
      hungry-3PL
      'They were hungry / are hungry / * will be hungry.'

       b. tāy-t-wit
           kelh
           MODAL
           'They will be hungry.'

(30)  a. say'sez'-lhkán
      play-1SG.SUBJ
      'I played / was playing / am playing / play / * will play.'

       b. say'sez'-lhkán
           kelh
           MODAL
           'I will play.'

Now, in Matthewson's previous analysis, tu7 replaced the zero tense morpheme, and specified past tense. In order to solve the problem of kelh tu7, we argue instead that tu7 co-occurs with either the zero tense or with kelh, and in each case adds the meaning 'remote'.

When tu7 co-occurs with zero tense, it specifies that the reference time of that zero tense is remote. Notice that it is impossible for the present time to be remote from the utterance time. This automatically explains why the combination $\emptyset_{\text{tense}} + tu7$ leads to a past tense reading. On the other hand, when tu7 co-occurs with kelh, which already puts the reference time into the future, we automatically predict the meaning 'remote future'.

It is important to realize why the presence of the null tense morpheme is crucial in predicting the correct results for tu7, under its analysis as a remote marker. It is the independent fact that the zero tense denotes only a past or present reference time that accounts for the inability of tu7 to give a future reading unless kelh is present.

5  A residual problem

One outstanding issue which arises from our account of tu7 relates to the 'was here, is now gone' reading found in van Eijk's example (e) above. The relevant example is repeated below as (31a), together with a minimally different sentence lacking tu7 (31b):

(31)  a. nka7 tu7 ni māw-a
      where tu7 DEF cat-DET
      'Where did the cat go?'

(b) nka7
      ni māw-a
      where DEF cat-DET
      'Where is the cat now?'

4 This raises the question of what happens when hant7 'then, at that time' co-occurs with kelh (or whether it even can). We are investigating this issue at the time of writing.

7 There is further research to be done with respect to kelh, its status as a possibility modal meaning 'might', and the predictions when its combines with tu7 on its possibility reading.
b. nka7 ni máw-a
where DET cat-DET
"Where is the cat?" (van Eijk 1997:200)

The question raised by these data is why (31a) cannot mean ‘Where was the cat?’, e.g. in a situation where the cat was lost but has subsequently been relocated. This meaning is predicted by our analysis, but apparently unavailable to fluent speakers. The combination nka7 tu7 can only mean (as van Eijk points out) that an individual was here but no longer is here at the time of speaking. Attempts to elicit the St'át'imcets equivalent of this meaning invariably result in paraphrases such as (32):

(32) nka7 lh-pán-acw
where HYP-find(DIR)-2SG.ERG
"Where did you find it?"

Moreover, (33) below shows that nka7 tu7 cannot be used to describe a situation where an individual had been absent but has since reappeared, even when a present rather than an absent demonstrative is employed. Neither (32a) (with an absent demonstrative) nor (32b) (with a present demonstrative) can mean ‘Where (previously) was this (currently present) one?’.

(33) a. nka7 tu7 ni7
where tu7 DEM.ABS
"Where is that one?" [volunteered gloss]

b. nka7 tu7 ti7
where tu7 DEM.PRES

Consultant’s comment: “Still disappeared.” If it was gone, but is back, because I’ve found it, is the sentence good? “No.”

We have no satisfactory solution to this problem at present. It is true that nka7 means not only ‘where’ (location) but also ‘where to’ (direction) (van Eijk 1997: 175), which accounts for the ‘Where did x go?’ reading; however, currently we have no way of ruling out the predicted but unattested ‘gone then, here now’ reading.

6 Conclusion

In this short paper we have re-examined the role of the temporal morpheme tu7 in St’át’imcets. We have shown conclusively that it is neither a perfect nor a completive aspect marker, and have also presented evidence that it is not a simple tense morpheme, even though it has the semantic effect of locating an event or state in the past relative to the utterance time. Instead, we have analyzed tu7 as a marker of ‘temporal remoteness,’ related to locative demonstrative adverbs. Together with the account of null tense proposed for St’át’imcets by Matthewson (2002), this analysis has allowed us a relatively
simple account of the curious *kelh tu7* construction, where *tu7* combines with
the modal *kelh* to yield an unexpected meaning of 'remote future'.

Appendix

**Abbreviations**

ABS = absent, ACT = active intransitivizer, ADHORT = adhortative enclitic, ANTI = antithetical enclitic, AUT = autonomous intransitivizer, CAU = causative transitivizer, CONJ = conjunctive subject clitic, DET = determiner, DIR = directive transitivizer, ERG = ergative (transitive) subject suffix, IMPF = imperfective auxiliary, MOD = modal, NOM = nominalizer, PL = plural, POSS = possessive, PRES = present SG = singular, STA = stative prefix, SUBJ = indicative subject clitic, YNQ = yes-no question enclitic.

**Conversion chart for American Phonemic and van Eijk St'át'imcets Practical Orthography**

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