

Yamalot's Sasq'ets story

Rosaleen George⁺, with transcription and notes by Jason Brown^{*}, Strang Burton⁺, Diana Charlie, James Thompson^{*}, Martina Wiltschko^{*}
^{*}University of British Columbia, ⁺Stó:lo Nation

This paper reports on a story told by the late Rosaleen George and how this story made its way into a multimedia storybook.

1 About the Sasq'ets story project¹

In 2002, the late *Yamalot* (Rosaleen George) told a story about Sasquatch, who once came to help an old couple when they were snowed in and had no food. Yamalot was a fluent speaker of Upriver Halq'eméylem who was vital in the documentation and teaching of the language. She was born in Chehalis, B.C. in 1919 and passed away in 2003, about a year before the project was completed. In this section we will briefly explain how the story that Yamalot had told became a multimedia storybook.

It was clear from the start that the story should somehow get onto an audio CD. For this reason it was decided to record in a professional local recording studio called *Beat Productions* with the technical assistance of *Peter Kilgour*. Yamalot had already been there several times and therefore was comfortable enough to tell a story in this environment. She decided on the kind of story she was going to tell and it was going to be a true story about Sasquatch.

Once this story was recorded the idea was born to make it into a multimedia storybook. The idea was to illustrate the story, to have it written only in Halkomelem, to be able to listen to Rosaleen telling it, to see the English translations if necessary, and at the same time to learn something about the Halkomelem language. A multimedia storybook seemed ideal for this kind of project.

So now several streams of work were done at the same time. First, the story was put into written form with the assistance of *Elizabeth Herrling*, another fluent elder. The staff who wrote out the text, based on Elizabeth's translations were *Diana Charlie* and *Strang Burton*. Elizabeth, Diana, and Strang all worked at that time at the Shxweli language program. Once this story was in its written form Martina Wiltschko and James Thompson worked on the morphological breakdown and Jason Brown worked on the IPA transcription.

At the same time, Strang Burton created a story board where he broke down the text into two sections which should correspond to individual pictures of a picture book. A young Stó:lo artist from Tzeachten *Jared Deck* created the

¹ Administration and coordination for all staff involved were handled by *Thelma Wenman*, coordinator of the Shxweli program. This program was funded through the support of *First Voices* and the *First Peoples Cultural Foundation*.

illustrations that would go along, Jared also did the sound-editing, and much of the technical work on layout and graphics for the story.

In addition, on the basis of the existing grammar and text books Strang Burton wrote to explanatory notes to go along with the text. These notes include information about such things as lexical suffixes, agreement forms, word order etc.

The final CD ROM was developed by Strang Burton. What you see is about ten pages of illustrations each consisting of approximately six pictures that illustrate the story. In each of the pictures you see the Halq'emeylem text. In addition you can click on an icon to hear Yamalot telling the story while you read along. Furthermore you can click on an information button that goes along with each page. This opens up a page which contains the English translation, the morphological breakdown, the English gloss, the IPA transcription, as well as the grammar notes.

As the result of a contest which the Shxweli program won, a B.C. publisher has offered to publish Rosaleen's Sasquatch story. Winning this contest means the promise that the story will also be published in print form as a children's book. This book will only contain the Halkomelem text, and it is currently in press at Trafford books. Both these products, the CD ROM as well as the book can be purchased at the Stó:lo Shxweli language program (ph: 1-800-565 604).

2 An excerpt of the story

1. lets'-axw kw'-es-elh ólù plhát te máqa
 one-time det-nom-past too thick det snow
 'Once upon a time, the snow was too thick.'

2. lí ye silyólexwe lólts'e álhtel lí
 aux det.pl old.people.pl one.redup. 3rd.pron prep

 te lálém
 det house
 'the old people, they were alone in the house'

3. le tl'ékw'el te heyqw-s álhtel
 aux go.out det fire-3rd.poss 3rd pron
 'and then their fire went out'

4. su ewéta lhq'el:exwe-s éwe í-s
 and then neg know.if-3rd.s neg aux-3rd s

 e kw'e xwe'it
 agr det what.to.do
 'They didn't know what they were going to do'

5. su me xwíy te swíyeqe
and then come wake.up det man
'and then the man woke up'
6. ósù xéte "xwe'ít-tset-cha kwá"
and then say what.to.do-1pl.s-fut anyway
'He said: "what are we going to do anyway?"'
7. lóye te máqa qóqet-et
just det snow drink-agr
'they just had snow to drink'
8. ósù le áxeth álhtel
and then aux lie.down 3rd pron
'so they lay down'
9. léxwe-thet
cover-refl
'they covered themselves up'
10. tl'ó kw'-s-es ólù xéytl'
3 det-nom-3rdposs too cold
'because it was too cold'
11. úkw' te siyólh-s álhtel
run.out det wood-3poss 3rd pron
'they ran out of wood'
12. kwe me wáyel qelát
det come dawn again
'when the next day came'
13. su le kw'áts te swíyeqe
and then aux look det man

lam te skw'echóstel
through det window
'the man looked through the window'
14. su xéte 'oh my'
and then say 'oh my'
and the he said "oh my"
15. me kw'ets-l-óxw-es kw'e tewátés
come see-trans-1pl.o-3rds det somebody
'Somebody has seen us'

16. máy-t-óxw-es
help-trans-1pl.o-3s
'They helped us.'
17. le til-t-es te xálh-tset
aux clear-trans-3s det road-1pl.poss
'they cleared our road'
18. su la áxeth álhtel qelát
and then aux lie.down 3rd pron again
'and then they went to bed'
19. léxwe-thet
cover-refl
'they covered themselves up'
20. osú ts'lhá-met-es kw'e wel shxwtl'ós
and.then hear-trans-3s det very noise
'and then they heard a loud noise'
21. lépexw lí te áxelesmel-s te xélh
thump prep det front-of-house-poss det door
'it thumped in front of their door'
22. le kw'áts te swíyeqe qelát
aux look det man again
'the man looked again'
23. x'éte "oh my"
say
'He said "oh my"'
24. mé th'éxw-met-óxw-es kw'e te-wát-es
come pity-trans-1pl.o-3erg det det-somebody
'Somebody took pity on us.'
25. mé ch-iyólh-t-ól-em
come have-firewood-trans-1pl.pass.o-passive
'Somebody brought us some wood'
26. "oh my" x'éte, su xwmá-x-es te xálh
 say so open-trans-3erg det door
'"oh my", he said. So he opened the door.'
27. te-wát-es kw'e til-t te teqtál-tset

- somebody det clear-trans det door-1pl
'Somebody cleared our door.'
28. xwem kw'e-s xwemá-s te teqtál-tset
possible det-nom open-3s det door-1pl.poss
'It's possible to open our door again.' ("We can open our door")
29. su me petaxw-t-es te s-iyólh
so come pack-trans-3erg det nom-firewood
'So now he packed the wood in'
30. ew s-lekwlikw o te s-iyólh
nom-break.redup det nom-firewood
'The wood was all broken up in pieces'
31. "te-wat kw'e lekwlekw-et ye s-iyólh?"
det-who det break.redup-trans det.pl nom-firewood
- xete te slháli
say det woman
'Who broke the firewood?' said the woman.'

"Oh my," xete. Su
xwmáxes te xálh.



