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ON

SALISHIAN LANGUAGES

The Whaler

An analyzed Nitinaht text

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and

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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 Nitinaht 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.

ABBREVIATIONS

art.	article
cause	causative
cond.	conditional
dem.	demonstrative root
dur.	durative aspect
fut.	future
imper.	imperative
incept.	incentive
indef.	indefinite
loc.	locative root
mom.	momentaneous aspect
pass.	passive
poss.	possessive
quot.	quotative mode
sub.	subordinate
-'	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

ʔuʔutxubtaq

The one who once whaled¹

- | | | | |
|-------|--------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. I. | ʔaxki | ʔuyxabsaq | ʔuyack ^w a |
| | this | information | it comes from |
| | ʔax-ki | ʔu-(y)ax-(a)bs-'aq | ʔu-(y)ack ^w -'a |
| | dem.-particular,
here | it-inform-thing-art. | it-comes-it
from |
-
- | | | | |
|----|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------|
| 2. | huʔe·yʔuy, | wiki·txa·λ | ta·q |
| | long ago | no persons | exactly |
| | huʔe·y-ʔuy | wik-'i·t-x-'a·λ | ta·q |
| | long ago-that
time | no-existing-while-now | exact |
-
- | | | | |
|----|------------|----------------------------|----------------|
| 3. | ka·batp | q ^w a·btuwisi, | ʔa·dsa·λ |
| | knowing | how it used to be | now only |
| | ka·bat-'ap | q ^w a·-bt-uwisi | ʔa·d-s-'a·λ |
| | know-cause | way-past-quot. | only-doing-now |
-
- | | | | |
|----|---------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| 4. | ka·batp | yaɬaxibtquy | ta ^h psčiλ. |
| | knowing | where one had | dived |
| | 3 | yaɬ-ax-(i)bt-quy | ta ^h ps-(č)iλ |
| | | that -where-past-cond. | dive-mom. |
| | | place | |

5. II. k^wi·sa*silaṣ*^{x̌} ?uyyuq
trying to change particularly
k^wis-as-ił-aṣ[L] ?u-(y)uq
other-reach-happening,-trying it-with reference to doing
6. q^waquy wi·ka**b**i·kqa yubui
the way he was because he is unlucky unable
q^wa-quy wik-ap-'i·k-qa yub-uı
way-cond. not-cause.-tendency-sub. undesirable-dur.
to
7. hideyp ċitapkw. III. du·ba·k
to catch whale both had
hid-eyp ċit-(')ap-uk du·b-a·k
loc.-find on edge-standing-dur. all-had
8. ?aλa·kaq qa·qla·tk^w qa·xsa·p
his two younger brothers killing
?aλ-a·k-'aq qax-s-a·p
two-has-art. kill-doing-cause ²
9. ?uyyuq ċitapkw yuwa·λ ?a·dsa·λ
particularly whale then being the only one
5 7 yuw-'a·λ 3
same,then-then

- | | | | |
|----|-----------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 6. | q ^w aquy | wi·kabi·kqa | yubuɿ |
| | <i>the way he was</i> | <i>because he is unlucky</i> | <i>unable</i> |
| | q ^w a-quy | wik-ap-'i·k-qa | yub-uɿ |
| | <i>way-cond.</i> | <i>not-cause.-tendency-sub.</i> | <i>undesirable-dur.</i> |
| | | <i>to</i> | |

- | | | |
|-----------|------------------------|--------------|
| 7. hideyp | čitap ^h uk. | 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. ʔaλa·ḳaq | qa·qɬa·tkʷ | qa·x̣sa·p |
| <i>his two</i> | <i>younger brothers</i> | <i>killing</i> |
| ʔaλ-a·k-'aq | | qax̣-s-a·p |
| <i>two-has-art.</i> | | <i>kill-doing-cause</i> |

- | | | | | |
|----|---------------------|--------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 9. | ʔuyuq | čitap̣k | yuwa·ʌ | ʔa·dsa·ʌ |
| | <i>particularly</i> | <i>whale</i> | <i>then</i> | <i>being the only</i> |
| | 5 | 7 | yuw-ʔa·ʌ | one |
| | | | | 3 |
| | | | <i>same, then-then</i> | |

10. wikiyu, wi·kabik. IV. yuwa·λ ʔudxa·λ
 not yet unlucky then looking for
 wik-iyu 6 9 ʔu-i·dux-'a·λ
 not-yet finished it-look for-then
11. q^waʔuk^wat q^waʔukta·wakuwis k^wisa·siɿ
 the means the means he has to change
 q^wa-'uk^wat q^wa-'uk^wat-a·w-ak-uwis 5
 way-manages to way-manages to-should-has-quot.
12. ʔuduλ yuq^wa·baɣsa·qa q^waquy
 because he also wants to be the way
 ʔu-duλ yuq^wa·-baɣsa·-qa 6
 it-reason also-want-sub.
13. qa·qlatk^w, du·bak ʔuʔutɣ.
 the younger brothers both of his hunters
 du·b-a·k ʔuʔu-ataɣ [R]
 both-have them-go after
14. V. yuwa·λtuw dupisa·ca·λ
 then was all over
 yuw-'a·λ-bt-uw dupi-sa·c-'a·λ
 same,-then-past-quot. all-place-then
 then
15. yaɬaxa·wquy ʔiʔis·akidk^w,
 where he might praying
 yaɬ-aɣ-a·w-quy ʔiʔis-'a·wk-iduk^w
 that place-where-should cond. light-day-together
 color

16. hi·dač q^wa?ukta·wakuwisi k^wisa·sił,
 ask in prayer the means he has to change
 hid-ač [L] 11 5
 loc.-be in state of
17. hideyp ?uyuq čitap^k^waq. VI. yuwa·λ
 find particularly whale then
 hid-eyp 5 7 9
 *loc.-catch,
 find*
18. q^waču·ṣa·λ ?axci λa?u
 while having done that that again
 q^wa-ču·-ṣ-'a·λ ?ax-ci
 *way-state of having-while-now dem.-that
 finished*
19. hida·čiλ, ?u?utṣa·λ, wi·k
 go out to sea whale hunting not
 hid-a·či-iλ ?u?u-ataṣ[R]-'a·λ
 *loc.-extend on-mom. them-pursue-then
 water*
20. čī·ṣuksa·p ?uyuq
 having success at getting particularly
 čī·ṣ-uk-s-a·p 5
 *change in state-dur-doing-cause
 of affairs*

21. čitap^haq. VII. qi·xča·da·λ
 the whale after a long time
 7 qi·-x-č-ad-'a·λ
 long-while-mom.-toward-now, then
 time
22. tapatš^hiλ ?u?ukx. VIII. ?iyax?a
 he thought on his own there
 tapat-(š)iλ ?u?u-k[R]-x ?iy-ax-'a
 think-mom. the one(?ux)-do[R] at-there-it
23. ča?ak ?uk^haqi^hk^hid ?ibitqa
 stream,river we call it bubble,whirl
 ča-'ak ?u-k^haqi^h-ak-id ?bit-qa
 flowing-dur. it-named-have-we water coming-dur.
 water to surface
24. ča·kaq ?iyax. IX. wayaqsti^hλ
 the river at got the desire to
 ča-'ak-'aq 22 wa-(y)aqst-iλ-'aλ
 flowing-dur.-art. say-going -mom.-then
 water inside
25. tapsč^hi·kqa. "ʔadiyuwsxiyiš
 that he will dive. maybe then it will
 taps-č-i·k-qa ʔad-iy-uws-x(i)-iš
 dive-mom-fut.-sub. only-that-maybe-possibly-indef.
 time

26. k^wisa·sił hi·de·yipšλ čitap^kw^aq
change begin catching the whale
5 hid-eyip-(š)iλ 7
loc.-find-mom.
27. ʔuyuq ʔuy q^wisqus." X. "tapsči·ks
particularly when if I do that I will dive
5 q^wis-quy-s taps-č-i·k-s
happen-cond.-I dive-mom.-fut.-I
28. yaɪʔaq ya daš^kw^aq čaʔak." XI. yuwa·λ
where that the strong river then
yaɪ-'aq daš-uk-'aq 23 9
that-art. strong-dur.-art.
place
29. wa·λ qa·qɪa·tkaq "wik! wik!
saying the younger brothers don't do it
wa-'a·λ wik-'i
say-then not-imper.
30. ʔušibaqaqxış
it must be dangerous
ʔuš-(i)b-aqaq-ɣ(i)-ış
troublesome-thing-has characteristic of-must-indef.
be

36. qixča·daʔukʌ

for a long time

qi-x-č-a·d-a-uk-'aʌ

long-while-mom.-time-rep.-dur.-then
(time) ? ? ?

37. XIII. ʔaci·dukšʌ ʔapšʌabaxsa,

became anxious, wanting to dive
determined

ʔaci·d-uk-(š)iʌ ʔaps-(č)iʌ-baxsa·

determined-dur.-mom. dive-mom.-want to

38. kʌ·ʔak, ʔuqʷi·yuq wiyxa

shy caused by, because he never

kʌ·-'ak ʔu-qʷi·-(y)uq wiy-x-'a

shy-dur. it-do (to)-with ref. never-while-he
to

39. hideyp, wikqa qʷaws

catches he is not like that

7 wik-qa qʷa-uwis

not-because he, way-quot.
(sub.)

40. qʷaquy qa·qʌatk, ʔayibitšʌiʌ

way one younger bros. had many times
might be

qʷa-quy ʔayi-bit-(š)iʌ-'aʌ

way-cond. many-times-mom. -then

41. ʔu·ba·č̣ ʔuʔukʷidkʷ qa·qʰa·tukquy,
talk about it with (them) younger brothers
ʔu-ba·č̣ ʔuʔu-(kʷ)iduk
it-talk about them-with
42. du·bey, "wik! wik! ʔušibaq̣ka,"
all the time don't do it it is dangerous
du·b-ey 29 30
all-time
43. waʔaʔtquyuw. XIV. yuwaʔ ʔukʷabaq̣liya·ʔ
he would be told then after
wa-'aʔ-'it-quy-uw 9 ʔu-kʷab-aq̣ʔ-iy-'a·ʔ
say-then-pass.-cond.-quot. it-rear-behind-at-now
that
time
44. wa·ʔ, "šu, ʔaci·duks waya·qsʔ
saying alright I am anxious think
wa-'a·ʔ 37 wa-(y)a·qst-iʔ
say-then say-going-mom.
inside
45. ʔapsč̣iʔqu·s." XV. waʔe·ke·kid,
I may dive we will go
ʔaps-(č̣)iʔ-quy-s waʔ-e·k-e·k-id
dive-mom.-cond.-I go-dur.-fut.-we

46. daʔukʰasuwičis, ʔu·ksička
 you will come with me you (pl.) carry
 daʔuk-iʌ-'a-suwič-is ʔu-i·kis-'ička
 accompany-mom.-3d-you(pl)-me it-carry-imper. pl.
 pers.
47. subuqa·dɪ." XVI. ʔuxʔa ʔukʰaqɪ
 whaling rope it is that called
 sup-uq-a·dɪ ʔux-'a ʔu-kʰaqɪ
 wind-has on-outer the one-it it-named
 surface
48. subuqa·dɪ čistu·p̌aq qoʔaci·čaq
 whaling rope the rope Indian's
 47 čis-tu·p-'aq qoʔas-i·c-'aq
 rope-thing-art Indian-poss.-art.
 like
49. hawɪy čistu·p. XVII. "ʔo, šu,
 ready made rope oh, alright
 hawɪɪ-iy 45
 complete-dur.
50. qʰabaxsa·kaši·, qe·ʰas
 that's what he really you will for a long time
 does want
 qʰa-baxsa·-ak-'a-ši· qi·-iʌ-'as
 way-want-have-he-actually long (time)-mom.-you

51. wa, ku·wa[̇]le·k[̇]as." XVIII. wa[̇]le·k[̇]λ,
 say you will just go
 as well
 ku·wa[̇]l-e·k-'as wa[̇]l-e·k-'aλ
 just as well-fut.-you go-dur.-seq.
 go do
52. hidi·ksiλ qa·q[̇]l[̇]a·takquy, čawa[̇]a[̇]k[̇]λ
 taking along his younger bros. one
 hid-i·kis-iλ čawa·k-'aλ
 loc.-take-mom. one-then
 with
53. hidi·ks čistu[̇]p[̇]aq, subuqad[̇]iaq.
 taking the rope the whaling rope
 52 48 47
54. ?iyaxuw, šuč[̇]as ?uk^waqi[̇]
 there is trees called
 ?iy-a^x-uw šuč-'as ?u-k^waqi[̇]
 at-there-quot. standing-on ground it-called
 ?
55. λatapt yaqiyu[̇]a·k[̇]aq
 yewood that which he has made
 λat-apt yaq-iyu-a·k-'aq
 hard-made of that-done,finished-has-art.

56. di·xuwadu·λ di·x^wsa·bλ
 wound around winding
 di·x^w-awad-u·p-'a·λ di·x^w-s-a·p-'aλ
 wrap-middle-cause-then wrap-doing-cause-then
57. qaqac̣a·bič̣λ dix^wṣ̌iλ č̣istu·p̣aq.
 three times winding the rope
 qaqac̣-'a·p-ič̣iλ dix^w-ṣ̌iλ 48
 three-cause -incep. wrap-mom.
58. XX. yuwa·λ č̣iyita·bλ
 then laid the rope
 on ground
 9 č̣is-'it-a·p-'aλ
 rope-lay something-cause-then
 like on ground
59. ṭa'a·sałp č̣istu·p̣aq, yuwaλ
 have straight the rope then
 on ground
 ṭaq-'a·s-'aλ-'ap 48 9
 straight-ground-now-cause
60. susṣ̌iłλ ya ṭapṣ̌č̣iλe·saq.
 then swam that one the one who was going to
 dive
 sus-(ṣ̌)iλ-'aλ ṭaps-(č̣)iλ- e·s-'aq
 swim-mom-then dive-mom.-going to-art.

66. XXIII. ciqšⁱaλuw, ʔux ya ʔuʔawaɪk^w_{aq}
he then spoke the one that the one
tending
- 64
- ciq-(š)iλ-'aλ-uw
speak-mom.-then-quot.
67. čistuβaq. "hišu, λadi·wiya·pał!
the rope alright stop it
- 48
- λad-i·wiy-a·p-'aλ-'i
- motionless-to become-cause -now-imper.
different*
68. baλš^{?a}!" wa·λ ʔuʔawaɪk^w_{aq} ʔu·yuq
tie it said the one tending (*ref.to*)
- baλ-š-'aλ-'i
29
64
5
- tie-mom.-now-imper.
69. ya baλapčeyk^w_{aq} ʔuk^wa·ɬ
that that he has tied up on
- baλ-ap-čey-a·k-'aq ʔu-(k^w)a·ɬ
- tie-upright-resulting-have-art. it-on surface condition
70. šučsaq. či·ʔiλ łiłibi·wiya·p
the tree pull make it tighter
- 54 či·-iλ łiłib-i·wiy-a·p
- pull-mom. tight-to become-cause different

71. ?a·di·siła či·?iλ, tucqšiλ.
 he had just done pull it broke
 ?a·di·sił-'a 70 tucq-(š)iλ
 only,-happened-he fiber breaks-mom.
 just
72. caqi·ciłuw caqi·ciłuw čistu·paq
 it was twenty fathoms was twenty fathoms the rope
 caqi·c-ił-uw 72 48
 twenty-fathoms,-quot.
 lengths
73. ?atuwiš tucqšiλ ?abχta·wadχadibtquy.
 yet just it snapped that which was halfway
 the same
 ?ab-χt-a·wad-χad-(i)bt-quy
 ?at-uw-iš
 middle-part-halfway-made-past-cond.
 yet-quot.-indef. extending of
74. "šu." λakišiλuw ya
 alright he stood up that one
 λakiš-(š)iλ-'aλ-uw
 standing-mom.-then-quot.
75. čistupawałuktaq.
 the one tending rope
 čis-tup-awał-uk-bt-'aq
 rope-thing-tending-dur.past-art.
 like for

76. "Šu q^wisi²la q^wabaḡsa·b²taq.
alright it has happened that which he wanted
 q^wis-i²la-'a²la-'a q^wa-baḡsa·-bt-'aq
happen-mom.-now-it way-want-past-art.
77. wiktaqš²i·kid ʔaḡci laʔubt
we will not (again) that person again
 wik-taq-š-i·k-id ʔaḡ-ci laʔu-bt
not-leave-mom.-fut.-we dem.-that again-past
person
78. dačo·²ī," wa·²la qa·²la·tuk, hidi·ksi²la
see said the younger taking
 dač-o·²ī 29 hid-i·kis-i²la-'a²la
perceive-see loc.-carry,-mom.-then
take
79. čistu·paq. XXVI. hidasi²la ye·taḡquya²l
the rope reaching where they lived
 48 hid-as-i²la (home may be)
 ye-a·taḡ-quy-a²l
loc.-reach-mom. that-to-cond.-they
place live
at
80. yadi·ḡa·²la ʔuba·č.
right away talking about it
 yadi·ḡ-'a²la ʔu-ba·č
right away-then it-talk about

81. XXVII. waie·k̄λ ?uyxabs ?uwiy
went the news went to
wai-e·k-'aλ ?u-(y)ax-(a)bs ?u-iy
go-dur.-then it-inform-matter it-go to
about .
82. yu·i?ua·tṣ, čiša·tṣ, hu!aya·tṣ.
Ucluelet Port Alberni Bamfield
yuī-?ui-a·taṣ
sheltered-place-people
bay who
live at
83. XXVIII. čapxada·kuw iuč?u·pquyaī
she had a husband their sister
čapx-(d)a·k-uw iuč?u·p-quy-aī
husband-has-quot. sister-cond.-their/
they
84. ?usa·c hupačkt, yaī?iya·łaq
somewhere island where he went
?u-sa·c hup-ačkt yaī-'iy-'a·ł-'aq
it-place dome-in water that-go-then-art.
shaped place
(where)
85. ?uya·w?e·s hidasiλ ?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. yaɬquy ya xa·da·k̄aq
where may be that the lady
yaɬ-quy xa·da·k-'aq
that-cond. lady-art.
place
87. Čapxada·k ɬučʔu·pquy ya qaxš̌̌aq.
having husband his sister that that died
83 83 one qax-(š̌̌)il-'aq
die-mom.art.
88. XXX. hidawiš̌̌a yuwa·λ ʔu·yaxuk̄λ
arrived then then gave news
hid-awiλ-'aλ 9 ʔu-(y)ax-uk-'aλ
loc.-incept.-then it-tell-dur-then
89. "qaxš̌̌a, x̄ačibisiqsa·kti·k," wa·λ
he died the brother that you had saying
qax-(š̌̌)il-'a x̄ačibisiqs-a·k-bt-i·k 29
die-mom.-he the brother-had-past-you
90. ʔuyuq xa·da·k̄aq, "qaxš̌̌a, pawalš̌̌a."
to the lady he died he is lost
5 86 89 pawal'(š̌̌)il-'a
lost-mom.-he
91. XXXI. yuwa·λ ʔa·diwe·sapsuw
then she only let him say that much
9 ʔa·di-we·s-ap-s-uw
so much-going for-cause?-quot.

92. xa·da·kaq, yuwa·λ :aḵabšiḷḷ.
 the lady then burst out crying
 86 9 :aḵ-ab-(š)iḷ-'aḷ
 cry-cause-mom.-then
93. XXXII. "ka·batṽps, ka·batṽps, qaḵšiḷqa
 I know I know that he has died
 ka·bat-'ap-s qaḵ-(š)iḷ-qa
 know-cause-I die-mom.-sub.
94. hide·yibḷid, ?iyaxa·ḷa ?aḵki," wa·λ.
 we have found him he is now here she said
 hid-e·yip-'aḷ-id ?iy-aḵ-'a·λ-'a 1 29
 loc.-find-now-we at-there-now-he
95. XXXIII. wa·scu·tidaš ?aḵci
 which one (I) wonder
 wa·s-cu·t-idaš 18
 where-one or other-wonder
96. hupačkt yaḷaḵibtuwis q^wisiḷ?
 island where it had happened
 84 yaḷ-aḵ-(i)bt-uwis q^wis-iḷ
 that place-at-past-quot. happen-doing
97. ?uyuqa·ḷs ?aḵc haya·k.
 I refer to that do not know
 ?u-(y)uq-'a·λ-s 18 haya·-ak
 it-relative-now-I not knowing-dur.
 to

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.³ 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 subuga'di 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 latapt⁵ 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

ʔab, ʔap *middle*

ʔabx̣tač̣λ *break in half*

ʔa(·)d(i) *only, so much*

ʔadiyuq *do to only that*

ʔaλ *two*

ʔaλič̣q *two o'clock*

ʔat *yet*

ʔatubtiṣ̌ *yet it had*

ʔax̣ *demonstrative root*

ʔayi *many*

ʔaya·s *many on the table*

baλ *tie*

baλṣ̌iλ *to tie*

bitx^w *turn, spin*

bitxṣ̌iλ *to turn around once*

caqi·c *twenty*

ciq *speak*

ci·qci·q *to be speaking*

ča *flowing water*

ča'a·t *water spilling downward*

čawa·k one

čawaʔakʌ 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·xukšʌ whole situation turns for the
better with signs forecasting
success

či·xʷatšʌ to become afraid

či·xʷaʔ monster

daʔuk accompany

daʔukaʌ you go with!

dač perceive

daʔa hear

dašuk strong

dašk^wi^la it will be strong

di·x^w wrap

di·x^wcib diaper

du·b, du·p all, both

du·baṣawa·i using all

hawii ready, complete

hawiičii to be ready

haya·k not knowing

haya·ʔaks I don't know.

hi(·)d, hi(·)t locative root

hišu, šu alright

hu same

huʔe·y long ago

huʔe·yack^w from a long time ago

hup dome-shaped

hupabi bent, crippled

hupa·sib pot

huʔaya·tṣ people of Bamfield

ʔiy at (there)

ʔiyaṣʔa It is there.

ka(·)bat *know*

ka·bałps *I know.*

ku· *just as well*

ku·wałika *Go ahead just the same!*

k^wis *other, different*

k^wistu·p *of a different kind*

ka· *shy*

ka·ʔaks *I'm shy.*

łib *tight*

łiłiba·pika *Make it tight!*

łipx *draw in*

łipxšił *inhale*

łučʔu·p *sister (man's)*

łaʔu *again, other*

łaʔuʔaq *the other one*

ład *motionless*

łade·ł *stay home*

łaki *standing*

łakišpił *standing on floor*

łat *hard*

łis *light of color*

łis!ak *daylight*

?o oh!

pawai lost

qaqač three

qala.tk younger brother

qa.qia.tk younger brothers

qax die

qaxk^wač^λ all died

qe[·], qi[·] long time

qe.k^wa[·]i gone for a long time

qi.č^λ for a long time

qo[?]as, qo[?]ac man, Indian

q^wa(·) way

q^wa[?]aq the way it is

q^wis happen

q^wisi^λ to do

sub, sup to wind (?)

supsiya.t cedar boughs

supšⁱλ to wind rope

sus swim

susa[·] to swim

šaš name

šašitaq it's name

šu, hišu *alright*

šučas *tree(s)*

te·y *heavy*

te·yuk *heavy*

tucq *tear*

tucqšil *to tear*

ṭapat *suddenly think of*

ṭaps *dive*

ṭapsčil *to dive*

ṭa·q *exact, straight*

ṭa·qabika *Make it straight!*

ʔu *he, she, it*

ʔuwiyʔe·sid da·kaq *We are going to the
moon.*

ʔub *far*

ʔuš *troublesome*

ʔušibsidak *to have troubles*

ʔux *the one, the situation (ʔu+-x being)*

ʔuxa·lak *Is that you?*

ʔuy *when, if or*

wa· *say*

wa·las *you will say*

wai *go*

waišil *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

yadix right away

yaı that place

yaıubtaq place where it was

yaq that which

yaqxıtid that which was used

ye' that place

yub improper, unable, bad

yube?iy bad person

yui sheltered bay

yuq^wa' also (prob. yuw same, q^wa' way)
then

yuq^wa'ıa he will also

yuq^wa.baxsa to want to do also

yuw same, then

yuwe'ka then it will

'ac *determined*

'ačik *skilled*

'axa *cry*

'a·xʔi·k *cry easily*

'ibit *water coming to surface*

'ibitqa· *water bubbling, whirlpool*

SUFFIXES

-a[•] durative

huksa[•] to count

-'a third person singular indicative

Indicative Paradigm

-s I -id we

-'as you -'asu[•] you (pl.)

-'a he, she, it -'aɪ they

ɬix^wa[•]s I am laughing.

ɬix^wa[•]?as You are laughing.

ɬix^wa[•]?a He is laughing.

ɬix^wa[•]d We are laughing.

ɬix^wa[•]?asu[•] You folks are laughing.

ɬix^wa[•]?aɪ They are laughing.

-ab causative cf. -ap

-a[•]bi manner, type, condition

k^wi[•]sa[•]bi of different manner, type

-(y)ack^w comes from

?uck^wi[•]?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[•]čiɬ go out to sea (hid loc.)

-ačič inceptive cf. -awič, -ičič

This suffix sometimes changes certain preceding fricatives to glides.

ʔi·wačič to get big (ʔi·x big)

λuyačič to get better (λuɪ good)

-ačkat on the water

hidačkat something on the water (hid loc.)

-a·d toward

-a(·)dɪ all along, outer surface

λu·la·dɪ smooth (λuɪ good)

-ʼak durative

qačak needle

-(d)a(·)k possessing, having

ʔušibsidak he has trouble (ʔušibs trouble)

-ʼaɪ third person plural indicative cf. -ʔa

-(kʷ)a(·)ɪ on surface

λuɪa·ɪ clean (λuɪ good)

-ʼa(·)λ now, then

-(ʼ)ap standing, upright (?)

čitapkʷ whale

-ʼa(·)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*
bad
 (wika·w *had*)

-'aq *article*

ʎaʔuʔaq *the other one*

-aqaq *has the characteristic of being, very*
 ʔuʃibaqaqxĩʃ *it is too hard to do (ʔuʃib*
trouble)

-a(·)qʎ *(has) under, behind, within*

ʔuʔa·qʎ *inside (ʔu it)*

-(y)aqst *(going) inside*

hitaqstup *putting in (hit loc.)*

-'as *you (sg.) indicative cf. -'a*

-'as *on the ground*

ʔiʔa·s *sit on the ground (ʔiʔ^w sit)*

-a(·)s *reach*

hidas *reaching... (hid loc.)*

-a·tax([R]) *go after, pursue*

haʔuba·tx *to fish, go fishing (haʔub fish)*

-a·tax *to live at*

di·ti·da·tx *people of Nitinaht*

-(y)a·w *should, do for that*

q^wisa·wa *way it should happen (q^wis happen)*

- a(·)wad *middle or center from ends*
- ^ˈtapa·wadib *a belt (ˈtap tied around)*
- awaɪ *taking care of, tending*
- čaʔawaɪkʷ *fisheries officer (ča- flowing water)*
- awiɬ *inceptive cf. -ičiɬ, -ačiɬ*
- (y)aɣ *tell, inform*
- ʔuyaɣuk *to inform (ʔu it)*
- aɣ *where (location)*
- aɣ [L] *trying*
- hi·de·yibɣ *trying to catch find*
- ayu, iyu *finished, done*
- baɬiyu, baɬayu *tied (baɬ tie)*
- ba·č *talk about*
- baqaba·čik *What are you talking about?*
 (baq what)
- baɣsa· *to want or wish for*
- ^ˈtapsčɬabaɣsa· *wanting to dive (ˈtaps dive)*
- (i,u)bit *past, times*
- ʔiyaxubt *were there (ʔiyax there)*
- ʔaɬibt *twice, two times (ʔaɬ two)*
- (i,a)bs, (i)b *bunch, thing*
- p̥acabs *foam*
- subcibs *gravel, sand*
- ci(·) *that person, thing, way (there)*

-cu't one or the other

?ucu't (toward) that side (?u it)

-č momentaneous cf. (č, š, k^w)iλ

-čey to be in resulting condition

kiλk^wčey broken up (kiλ break)

-ču' (having gotten) in that state

daqču' drunk (daq drink)

-duλ reason, because

q^waduλ that reason why (q^wa way)

-e·k future -i·k

-e(·)k durative

waie·k to go

-(')e·s going (intending) to do

λix^wa·?e·sak Are you going to laugh?

-ey (at that) time see -iy

-eyak use for

ha?uba·tɬeyk for fishing

-eyip 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!

-ičiλ *inceptive cf. -ačiλ, -awiλ*

tiła·tičλ *to get wet (tił wet)*

-id *first person plural indicative
cf. -'a*

-idaš *wonder*

ʔačk^waqłidaš *(I) wonder what it is called*

-(k^w)iduk *together, accompanying, with*

ʔu·k^widuk^w *to be with, accompany (ʔu he, she)*

-i·duḡ^w *look for*

ʔu·duḡ^w *to look for, search for (ʔu it)*

-i·k, -e·k *future*

wiktaqši·kid *we will not again*

yuwe·kid *then we will*

-'i(·)k *given to, tendency to*

ʔaḡʔi·k *cry baby (ʔaḡ cry)*

-i·kis *take with, carry*

či·kis *dragging, trolling (či· pull)*

-ił *fathom, length*

λaḡił *ten fathoms (λaḡ ten)*

-ił *happen, doing*

hitḡsuwił *go downstream (hitḡsu downstream)*

-(č, š, k^w)iλ, č, š *momentaneous*

-i·λ *future*

dačo·ti·λid *we will see*

-is first person singular object

haʔuka·psuwičis you folks fed me

-iš indefinite

qʷabtuwiš the way it was

-i·t existing, having

ʌuʔi·ta hidadi He has a good personality.
(ʌuʔi good)

-ʔit lay something on the ground

ʔyaʃʔita·b

-ʔit passive

weʔita someone told him

-i·w(iy) to become different

ʔuxi·wiyap to make it one way rather than
another (ʔux the one, situation)

-iy, ʔuy, ʔey (at that) time

ʔaxʔuy now

ʔuyiy that time

wiktstey wrong time

-iy durative

hawʔiy ready, finished

-(ʔ)iy go to

yaʔʔiyaq that place where he went (yaʔ that
place)

-iyu, ayu finished, done

ʔuʃiyu dried (ʔuʃ dry)

-k [R] do

-ki here, particular

-k^wab rear

ʌiča·k^wab stern of canoe

-k^waqiɬ named

ʔačk^waqɬik What is your name? (ʔač how)

-(q)o(·)ɬ see

ʔuqo·ɬ to see it (ʔu it)

-qa subordinate, because

wikqas because I'm not (wik no, not)

wikɣsuk because you're not

wikqa because he's not

wikɣid because we're not

wikqasu because you folks are not

wikqaɬ because they're not

-qa· durative

čixqa· pouring out

-quy conditional

či·šičiɬqu·s when I sweep

či·šičiɬqu·suk when you sweep

či·šičiɬquy when he sweeps

či·šičiɬquyid when we sweep

či·šičiɬquyaksu when you folks sweep

či·šičiɬquyaɬ when they sweep

-q^wi· do

baq^wi·yuqik What are you referring to?

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

-s doing (?)

xuqsa·p spilling

-sa·c place

?usa·c someplace (?u it)

-sił happened cf. -ił

baqsiłi what happened. (baq what)

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

-suwič second person plural

ha?uka·psuwičis you folks fed me

-š momentaneous cf. (č, š, k^w)ił

-ši· actually, really

dašukaši· it really is strong
(dašuka it is strong)

-taq leave

wiktaqšił left without doing (wik no, not)

wa·staqšłik Where do you come from?
(wa·s where)

-tup kind, type, thing made of

huktup bird (huk fly)

-uk, k(ʷ) durative

te·yuk heavy

-ʷukʷat manage to

baʷukʷiti· by what means would one manage
to? (baq what)

-uɬ durative

čabuɬ able

-ʷuɬ place

-u(·)p causative cf. -ap

hitaqstup putting in

-uq has on (?)

ʷuqa·dɬ has on surface (ʷu it)

-(y)uqʷ do to or with reference to

ʷuyuqika Give it to! Do it to! Say it to!
Cause it to! etc... (ʷu it)

-uw(is(i)) quotative, 'it was said'

ʷukʷi·ɬubtuw it used to be made

(ʷukʷi·ɬubʰta it was made)

-u(·)ws maybe, might

kiɬsa·puwsas you might break it

-ʷuy at that time see -iy

-waɬ go do

ku·waɬika You go ahead and do!
(ku· just as well)

-we's go for cf. -a'w, -(')e's

-(a)x while, state of being

hidaqi¹asx while in the woods

-x(i) maybe do, possibly do, must be

q^waxiš/q^waxiyiš possibly that's what it
does (q^wa way)

te[?]iix¹xiš maybe he did while being sick
(te[?]i¹ sick)

-xad made of

-xt part extending

?abxtač¹ to break halfway (?ab middle)

-[?]a'wk day

¹is[?]a'wk daytime (¹is light (of color))

FOOTNOTES

1

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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)
qaxsa·p	did kill
?u·yaxk	to begin telling
?uyaxuk	to inform

There are other alternations involving vowel length which are not completely understood at this time.

3

Much preparation took place before the actual hunt for the whale. The people took part in whaling songs (či·tapi·dk^w) and dances while the hunter sought strength from a great spirit, doing so in isolation, fasting and cleansing himself for months.

qičičiłł,	ʔusibč,	dašiwł	ti·łtiy
then for a long time	ritual of preparation	getting stronger	bathing and rubbing
hidaqiłłs	wiy	ławe·ʔiy,	ʔuʔił
in the woods	never	going near	living with
yaqcaṣquy	qi·čičił	čawa·čaxčł.	
his mate	for a long time	for as long as one year	

4

bałiyol	ʔuxtida·ł	łuk ^w idṗaq	ʔuck ^w iy
now tied	made out of	sinew	from
hitape·łtaq	čitap ^k ˀaq.	ya·qk ^w i·łubtaq	hisi·subtaq,
the back of	the whale	that which they used to make	pounding
dudu·kṣ,	ʔuda·kˀaduk.		
while singing	it has a song		

(The following song was sung by Ida Jones.)

5

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.

6

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

7

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.

8

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