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Lillooet Local Deictics

Jan van Eijk

Mount Currie, B.C.

1. The Lillooet system of local deictics<sup>1</sup> distinguishes eight points of reference (see chart below). Local deictics consist of a deictic root plus one of four local prefixes; in the chart below, forms with the prefix 1-/lā- "in, on, at" are given. Comments follow.

		pivoting	non-pivoting
visible	proximal ("here")	1-cʔa	lā-tiʔ
	distal ("there")	1-tʔu	lā-taʔ
invisible	proximal ("here")	1-kʷa	lā-kʷuʔ
	distal ("there")	1-kʷu	lā-kʷa

Formal aspects: the roots in the "pivoting" category have the shape CʔV, while the non-pivoting roots have CVʔ (except for lā-kʷa). The roots in the category "visible" have c or t as C<sub>1</sub>, while the "invisible" roots have kʷ as C<sub>1</sub>. Note that the prefix has the shape 1- in the category "pivoting", and lā- in the category "non-pivoting"; lā-kʷa combines the characteristics of pivoting (root CʔV) and non-pivoting (prefix lā-) deictics (note that 1-kʷa and lā-kʷa share the same root). For details on affixation see 3.

2. Semantics and use. The division "visible" vs. "invisible"

hinges on whether the thing or place meant is visible or invisible to the speaker. The categories "proximal" vs. "distal" express that the thing or place meant is (relatively) close to vs. (relatively) far from the speaker. The categories "pivoting" vs. "non-pivoting" indicate whether or not a certain place or object ~~coincides with what~~ is considered to be the centre or orientation point of an area - compare the following two sentences:

- (a) 1-cʔa ɬ\_was\_qʔáɬqʔáɬt "it is hurting (qʔáɬqʔáɬt) here" (when speaker points at spot on own body).  
 (b) lá-tiʔ ɬ\_was\_qʔáɬqʔáɬt id. (said to sb. who points at spot on speaker's body): in (a) the spot itself is the orientation point, while in (b) it is identified through the addressee.

Within the category "invisible" we have:

- (c) 1-kʔa ɬ\_was\_qʔáɬqʔáɬt "it is hurting here" (speaker indicates an invisible (to him) spot on own body, e.g. on back).  
 (d) lá-kʔuʔ ɬ\_was\_qʔáɬqʔáɬt id. (said to sb. who indicates an invisible (to speaker) spot on speaker's body).

The distal deictics were all rejected in the sentences above, which gives an idea of the minimal range of "proximal". In the distal category it is on the whole more difficult to pinpoint the difference between pivoting and non-pivoting than in the proximal category, where pivoting 1-cʔa, 1-kʔa are generally associated with the speaker, while non-pivoting lá-tiʔ, lá-kʔuʔ are generally associated with the addressee (the distal deictics are associated with neither the speaker nor the addressee).<sup>2</sup> The difference

between 1-tʔu and lá-taʔ is shown by (e) vs. (f):

- (e) swat 1-tʔu ti\_wáʔ\_a ti\_cəqʔcɬqʔ\_a ti\_cəspɬcaʔ-s\_a "who (swat) is the one in the red (cəqʔcɬqʔ) sweater (cəspɬcaʔ) there?" (waʔ "to be", -s "his").  
 (f) swat lá-taʔ ti\_wáʔ\_cəqʔcɬqʔ ti\_cəspɬcaʔ-s\_a ti\_waʔ\_sʔúllus ɬ\_ki\_waʔ\_sʔəwɬp "who is the one in the red sweater in the crowd (sʔəwɬp) over there?" (sʔúllus "to be among people"): in (e) the man himself is the orientation point, while in (f) the man is identified through an other orientation point (the crowd).

In the distal/invisible category, matters are complicated by the fact that lá-kʔa has a very vague range and refers almost exclusively to something heard, smelled or sensed, as in:

- (g) ʔɬq lá-kʔa kʔ\_s-A "I think A is there" (ʔɬq "to arrive", kʔ\_s- precedes proper nouns, see Van Eijk, 1980).  
 (h) huʔ lá-kʔa kʔis "I think it is going to (huʔ) rain (kʔis)" (e.g. when my scar is aching).  
 (i) nqʔʔcám lá-kʔa "sb. is knocking on the door" (nqʔʔcám "to knock on the door").  
 (j) xʔuxʔ lá-kʔa "smt. is stinking (xʔuxʔ)".  
 (k) məqʔ\_kán lá-kʔa "I (ɬ\_kan) feel full (from eating)" (məqʔ "to be full from eating").  
 (l) ʔəx-ʔúɬ lá-kʔa ti\_tíh-sw\_a "your (-sw-) tea (tih) is too (-ʔúɬ) sweet (ʔəx) for me".  
 (m) wənaxʔ-c-ʔúɬ lá-kʔa ti\_radiəh\_a "the radio is too loud (wənaxʔ-c)".



to make a garden beside my (n-) house" (ləpʰáál "to plant, make a garden").

(c) húyʰákan nás cəqən ti\_n-kəh\_a ʔá-kʷu? sqʷút-s\_a  
ti\_cítxʷ-sw\_a "I am going to park (cəqən) my car (kəh) beside  
your house". (nás "to go").

(d) ka-ʔacʰsás\_a l-tʔu ʃʔít\_a ʔi\_waʔ\_záwəm "he caught eight  
(ka-ʔacʰsás\_a) of people who were fishing (záwəm) on the other  
side" (ʃʔít "other side").

Note the absence of preposition-article constructs in the above sentences. Although "here" and "there" can be used in the English versions, they are not as necessary as in the Lillooet versions, which would sound odd without the deictics.

The local deictics may occur in combinations which usually give a more general location than single deictics:

(e) waʔ ʔá-kʷu? ká-ti? "he was over there, somewhere".

(f) cʔas lá-kʷa ʃlá-kʷu? kʷu\_sʰáʃálm\_a "there was a grizzly coming from somewhere" (cʔas "to come").

A speaker may use various deictics to designate one and the same spot as his focus shifts, or as the relation of his subject to that spot shifts:

(g) cíxʷ ʔá-kʷu? l\_t\_swáʔ-s\_a ʔi\_waʔ\_záwəm, níʃ\_ʃuʔ  
s-súʃxal-s lá-ti? "he arrived (cíxʷ) at the spot where they were  
fishing (záwəm), so (níʃ\_ʃuʔ) he had a few puffs there" (swaʔ-s  
"spot-their", súʃxal "to smoke a few puffs").

The word ká-ti? "around (t)here" is also used in the meaning "at all, any", as in:

(h) xʷʔəz ká-ti? "not at all" (xʷʔəz "no(t)").

(i) skan ká-ti? kʷas\_lák kʷu\_kʰíʃaʃc "are there any left-overs (kʰíʃaʃc)?" (skan question-marker, cf. Polish *czy*; lak "to exist").

The words ʔə-cʔá "this way", ʔá-ti? "that way", and ʔá-kʷu? "that way" are also used with číla "like", ʃíləm "to do like", and cut "to say", as in:

(j) číla ʔə-cʔá "like this".

(k) číla ʔá-ti? "like that".

(l) ʃíləm ʔə-cʔá "to do like this".

(m) ʃíləm ʔá-ti? "to do like that".

(n) cut ʔá-kʷu? "to say that".

#### Notes

1. this article is a revised version of pp. 17-19 in my article "Deictics in Lillooet" (in "Dutch Contributions to the 9th International Conference on Salish Languages Held at Vancouver, B.C., August 12th-14th, 1974").

2. lá-ti?, lá-kʷu? often translate best as "there"; in the same way, other forms with -ti?, -kʷu? (see 3.) also often translate as "from there", "that way", rather than "from here", "this way".

#### Reference

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