

mus te kʷúkʷpiʔs he sláʔxáns - The Four Food Chiefs*

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Abstract: This paper is a retelling of the “Four Food Chiefs” story, transcribed by wlmelst (Maurice Michell) in nleʔkepmxcín. Its purpose is to add to the growing body of written nleʔkepmxcín literature, educate on traditional knowledge, and further spark interest in nleʔképmx research. It also gives some insight into episodic narrative structure.

Keywords: Salish, narrative, nleʔkepmxcín, Thompson Language

1 Introduction

The Four Food Chiefs is a well known story among the nleʔképmx. wlmelst notes that most nleʔképmx can correctly name the Four Food Chiefs, but not in nleʔkepmxcín. He could also find no written record of this story in nleʔkepmxcín, so we wrote it out by memory. He, therefore, took it upon himself to transcribe this story, relying on the spelling conventions set out by the Thompson River Salish Dictionary (Thompson & Thompson 1996). wlmelst shares his language freely for the benefit of those who seek to connect with this traditional story and teachings. His and our purpose for this publication is to bring further attention to the nleʔképmx language, and provide important resources for language learners. We want to gently remind readers that wlmelst put considerable effort into his work. He transcribed and translated this story personally and was recorded reading them out. We edited his writing only when we were sure our changes would benefit understanding, and conform to the nleʔképmx orthographic standard.

wlmelst is one of the few remaining speakers of the Southern utémkt dialect of nleʔkepmxcín, which includes all communities on the Fraser River, South of Lytton, from Siska through to Spuzzum. His way of presenting the language may differ from that of other fluent speakers. Some of the differences in language presented in this paper will be due to dialect variance, some might be idiosyncratic free variation in the language, and more than a few are likely due to errors in the analysis. Nevertheless, wlmelst's words as presented are an accurate representation of the language that was passed to him by his ancestors.

2 Story structure

This story has some notable structural traits. The narrative can be easily broken down into four sections: exposition, rising action, climax, and dénouement. The exposition sets the narrative as an origin story. Here, the Creator makes the Earth and the people, but notices that the people were suffering, and so creates resources for them to survive on. The rising action introduces the main characters of the story: the animals. They continue the story in the same trajectory as the exposition, looking to help the suffering people. The climax is itself broken into four separate parts, each with one of the four Food Chiefs rising up with dialogue to claim chieftainship, and committing to help the people with its own body. Finally the dénouement concludes the story. The first three sections are introduced linguistically with the procitic *t=* ‘REM=’. The exposition and rising action sections begin with *t=címeł=us...* ‘REM=first.time=3SBJV’ and *t=nwén=us* ‘REM=already=3SBJV’ respectively. The climax section begins with *t=ʔéx=us...* “REM=be=3SBJV”, and the dénouement begins with *ʔéwiʔ* ‘because’. More research is needed on nleʔképmx narratives to determine

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whether these discourse particles are a language-wide trait, a trait of this particular speaker, or simply a pattern within this one narrative.

3 The Four Food Chiefs

We present the story in three parts to help the reader identify what they might want to access. Section 3.1 gives the entire narrative in *nleʔkepmxcín*, whereas section 3.2 gives the translation into English. Section 3.3 provides an interlinear gloss of the *nleʔkepmxcín* with the translation in English below it. The interlinear analysis is the sole responsibility of Jonathan Janzen, as is the quality and editing of the audio recording. Suggestions, concerns, and questions should be directed to him¹.

3.1 *nleʔkepmxcín* – Thompson River Salish

Í címelus cutés he tmix^w xeʔík^wúk^wpi? ʔel cutéys ʔel ʔu? ʔes ntéys nmiml ne tmix^w, kémeʔ tətéʔe ks steʔs ne tmix^w. ʔes k^weñcs he seytknmx Í xeʔík^wúk^wpi? newm q^wəñq^wént ʔel n^xʔazxn. ʔes cuts, “x^wuy kənténe he seytknmx.” ʔe ne ʔes cutés he q^wuʔq^wuʔúy, he scwəwəx^w, he pəpəʔusk^wu, he spəték^wu ʔel he speps. ʔe ne ʔes cutés he sq^wəm, he sʔepʔép, he mimúyx, he k^wmiʔx^wép, he spzuʔpzúʔ, sqyeytn, ʔel tek^wm he twit ne tmix^w.

Í nwénus tek^wm he spzuʔpzúʔ, mimúyx, sqyeytn ʔel tek^wm he steʔ ne tmix^w ʔex q^wincút. tek^wm he spzuʔpzúʔ, stuytúymx^w, sqyeytn ʔel tek^wm he steʔ he twit ne tmix^w moq^wmóq^wix ʔes céwus, steʔ x^wuy kt kenm ʔe ks kentm he seytknmx tes q^wəñq^wénts ʔel n^xʔazxn.

Í exus ne céwúʔ ʔes telixs sʔúle ʔes cuts, “ncéweʔ x^wuy k^wúk^wpiʔs he spzuʔpzúʔ, tes x^wuy xeʔ cuxíc he x^weʔpíts, sʔaʔxáns, cumíns ʔel he mlamns tuw nsiq^w ʔel x^wuy xeʔ cúne sʔix^wl te spzuʔpzúʔ ks xiyms ʔel ʔuʔ.” ʔes telixs ʔel ʔuʔ Í k^wəpn ʔes cuts, “ncéweʔ x^wuy k^wúk^wpiʔs he k^wmiʔx^wép x^wuy xeʔ q^wzcems ne sʔaʔxáns ʔel he mlamns ʔel x^wuy xeʔ cúne sʔix^wl te k^wmiʔx^wép ks xiyms ʔel ʔuʔ téʔe.” ʔes cuts ʔel ʔuʔ sqyeytn, “ncéweʔ x^wuy k^wúk^wpiʔ ne tek^wm he ʔex ne q^wuʔ, x^wuy xeʔ q^wzcems ne sʔaʔxáns ʔel he mlamns. x^wuy xeʔ cúne tek^wm xe nqáyix ʔel twit ne q^wuʔ ks xiyms ʔel ʔuʔ téʔe.” ʔes cuts scaq^wm, “ncéweʔ x^wuy k^wúk^wpiʔs he tek^wm te he steʔ he twit wə sxeʔs he tmix^w. Í seytknmx x^wuy xeʔ q^wzcems ne sʔaʔxáns ʔel he mlamns. x^wuy cúne tek^wm he stuytúymx^w ks xiyms teʔ ʔel ʔuʔ.”

ʔéwiʔ ʔes cuts lə k^wúk^wpiʔ sʔúle, k^wəpn, sqyeytn, ʔel scaq^wm, x^wiʔ nextm he siwenx^w kt ʔe ks ʔes sʔaʔxáns ʔel he mlamns he seytknmx ʔel x^wiʔ xe cuntm tek^wm he steʔ ne tmix^w ks xiyms ʔel ʔuʔ téʔe. tuʔ xéʔe te siʔq^t ʔes ʔápnux^ws he seytknmx tes he sʔaʔxáns ʔel ʔe smlamn ʔeyl.

3.2 *semecín* - English

In the beginning when the Creator made the land and people and put us on the land, there was nothing on the land. The Creator watched the people, they were pitiful and starving. Then he said, “I will help the people.” He made the rivers, creeks, lakes, springs and ponds. He made the mountains, trees, bushes, roots, animals, fish and all that grows on the land.

Long ago all the animals, plants, fish and everything on the land was able to talk. All the animals, plants, fish and everything that grew on the land got together and talked about how they could help the people because they were pitiful and starving.

While they were talking the deer stood up, “I will be chief for all the animals for I can provide them with clothes, food, tools and medicine from my body and I will talk to the other animals to do the same.” The bitter root also stood up and said, “I will be the chief of the roots. The people will use me as food and medicine and I will tell all the others roots to do the same.” Salmon said, “I will be chief of all living things in the water. The people will use me for food and medicine. I will tell all that swim and grows in the water

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to do the same.” Saskatoon said, “I will be chief of all the things that grow above the ground. The people will use me as food and medicine. I will tell all the plants that grow above the ground to do the same.”

The four food chiefs – deer, bitter root, salmon, and saskatoon said they would give up their lives so the people could have good and medicine and they would tell the others to do the same. From that day the people survived because they had food and medicine.

3.3 Interlinear gloss²

(1)	ł	címelus		cutés				he	tmix ^w
	ł=	címeł	=us	cu(w)	-t	-Ø	-es	he	tmix ^w
	REM	first.time	3SBJV	do/make	TR	3OBJ	3SBJ	DET	land
	was	beginning		he makes it				the land	
	xeʔłkwúkʷpiʔ			ʔel	cutéys				ʔel
	xeʔ	-ł-	kʷúkʷpiʔ	ʔel	cu(w)	-t	-ey	-es	ʔel
	up	CONN	chief	ADD	do/make	TR	1PL.OBJ	3SBJ	ADD
	Creator			and	he makes us				and
	ł̣uʔ	ʔes		ńtéys				nmimł	ne
	ł̣uʔ	ʔe	=s	ń	-t	-ey	-es	nmimł	ne=
	EXCL	COP	NMLZ	give	TR	1PL.OBJ	3SBJ	1PL.INDEP	at
	so	then		he gives us				we	on
	kémel	tátéʔe		ks	steʔs			ne	tmix ^w .
	kémel	Cə-	téʔe	k=	=s	s-	teʔ	=s	ne=
	CTST	RED	NEG	DET	NMLZ	NMLZ	something	3POSS	at
	but	not		there			something	on	land

‘In the beginning when the Creator made the land and people and put us on the land, there was nothing on the land.’

(2)	ʔes		kʷeñcs				he	seytknm̩x	
	ʔe	=s	kʷeñ	-t	-Ø	-es	he	seytkn	-m̩x
	COP	NMLZ	look	TR	3OBJ	3SBJ	DET	Indigenous	people
	then		he watch them				the people		
	ł xeʔłkwúkʷpiʔ						newm	qʷənqʷént	ʔel
	ł=	xeʔ	-ł-	kʷúkʷpiʔ			newm	CVC- qʷént	ʔel
	REM	up	CONN	chief			very	AUG	poor
	the Creator						very	poor	and
									starving

‘The Creator watched the people, they were pitiful and starving.’

(3)	ʔes		cuts,		“xʷuý	kənténe			
	ʔe	=s	cut	=s	xʷuý	kəñ	-t	-Ø	-éne
	COP	NMLZ	say	3POSS	PROSP	help	TR	3OBJ	1SG.SBJ
	then		he said		will	I help them			

²See the appendix for a complete list of glossing terms.

he seytknmx.”
 he seytkn -mx
 DET Indigenous people
 the people

‘Then he said, “I will help the people.”.’

- (4) ʔe neʔ es cutés
 ʔe neʔ e =s cu -t -∅ -és
 COP DEM D/C NMLZ do/make TR 3OBJ 3SBJ
 and then he makes it
- he q^wuʔq^wuʔúy he scw^wcwew^wx^w
 he CVC- q^wuʔ -úy he s- CVC- cwew^wx^w
 DET AUG water- RFM DET NMLZ- AUG creek
 the rivers the creeks
- he pəlpélusk^wu he sptétk^wu ʔel he speps
 he CVC- pélus -k^wu he s- pt -étk^wu ʔel he s- peps
 DET AUG lake water DET NMLZ source water ADD DET NMLZ pond
 the lakes the springs and the ponds

‘He made the rivers, creeks, lakes, springs, and ponds.’

- (5) ʔe neʔ es cutés
 ʔe neʔ e =s cu -t -∅ -és
 COP DEM D/C NMLZ do/make TR 3OBJ 3SBJ
 and then he makes it
- he sq^wəṁ he syepyép he mimúyx
 he s- q^wəṁ he s- CVC- yép he CV- múyx
 DET NMLZ mountain DET NMLZ AUG tree DET AUG bush
 the mountains the trees the bushes
- he k^wmiʔx^wép he spzúʔpzúʔ sqeyeytn
 he k^wmiʔx^w he s- CCVC- pzúʔ s- qy -eytn
 DET root bottom DET NMLZ AUG animal NMLZ fish salmon
 the roots the animals fish
- ʔel tek^m he twit ne tmix^w
 ʔel tek^m he twit =∅ n =e tmix^w
 ADD all D/C grow 3SBJ at DET land
 and all that grows on the land

‘He made the mountains, trees, bushes, roots, animals, fish and all that grows on the land.’

- (6) ɬ nwénus tek^m he spzuʔpzúʔ, mimúyx,
 ɬ= nwén =us tek^m he s- CCVC- pzúʔ CV- múyx
 REM already 3SBJV all DET NMLZ AUG animal AUG bush
 was long ago all the animals bushes

sqeyeytn			ʔel	tekm	he	steʔ		ne		tmix ^w
s-	qy	-eytn	ʔel	tekm	he	s-	teʔ	n	=e	tmix ^w
NMLZ	fish	salmon	ADD	all	DET	NMLZ	something	at	DET	land
fish			and	all	the	things		on the		land

‘Long ago all the animals, plants, fish and everything on the land was able to talk.’

- (7)
- | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------|-----|------------|-------|------------------------|------|----------|--------------------|------|------|--------|
| tekm | he | spzuʔpzúʔ, | | stuytúymx ^w | | sqeyeytn | | | | |
| tekm | he | s- | CCVC- | pzúʔ | s- | tuyt | -úymx ^w | s- | qy | -eytn |
| all | DET | NMLZ | AUG | animal | NMLZ | plant | land | NMLZ | fish | salmon |
| all | the | animals | | plants | | | | fish | | |
-
- | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----|------|-----|--------|-----------|------|------|------|----|-----|-------------------|
| ʔel | tekm | he | steʔ | | he | twit | | ne | | tmix ^w |
| ʔel | tekm | he | s- | teʔ | he | twit | =∅ | n | =e | tmix ^w |
| ADD | all | DET | NMLZ | something | D/C | grow | 3SBJ | at | DET | land |
| and | all | the | things | | that | grow | | on | the | land |
-
- | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|-----|-----|-------|---------|--------|------|----------------------|-------------------|---------|
| moq ^w móq ^w ix | | ʔes | | céwus | | steʔ | | x ^w uý kt | | |
| CVC- | móq ^w | -ix | ʔe | =s | céwu | =s | s- | teʔ | x ^w uý | =kt |
| AUG | gather | AUT | COP | NMLZ | discuss | 3POSS | NMLZ | something | PROSP | 1PL.SBJ |
| they | gathered | | and | then | they | talked | | what | will | we |
-
- | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------|--|-------|------|-------|------|------|-------|----------|--|--|
| kenm | | ʔe ks | | kñtem | | | | | | |
| kenm | | ʔe | =k | =s | kñ | -t | -∅ | -em | | |
| do.what | | COP | D/C | NMLZ | help | -TR | -3OBJ | -1PL.SBJ | | |
| do | | so | that | | we | help | them | | | |
-
- | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----|------------|--------|---------|------|--------------------------------------|--------------------|-------|-----|--|--|
| he | seytknmx | | tə | | q ^w əŋq ^w énts | | ʔel | | | |
| he | seytkn | -mx | tə= | =s | CVC- | q ^w ent | =s | ʔel | | |
| DET | Indigenous | people | OBL | NMLZ | AUG | poor | 3POSS | ADD | | |
| the | people | | because | | they | are | poor | and | | |
-
- | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| n ^x wazxn | | | | | | | | | | |
| n- | x ^w az | -xn | | | | | | | | |
| LOC | hunger | foot | | | | | | | | |
| starving | | | | | | | | | | |

‘All the animals, plants, fish and everything that grew on the land got together and talked about how they could help the people because they were pitiful and starving.’³

- (8)
- | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------|-------|-------|-----|---------|-------|---------|------|-----------|-------|-------|
| ɬ | ʔexus | | neʔ | céwu | | ʔes | | téɬixs | | |
| ɬ= | ʔex | =us | neʔ | céwu | =∅ | ʔe | =s | téɬ-ix | | =s |
| REM | be | 3SBJV | DEM | discuss | =3SBJ | COP | NMLZ | stand-AUT | | 3POSS |
| when | it | was | | they | were | talking | then | he | stood | up |
-
- | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------|-----|-----|----|------|----|---------|-------------------|-------------------------------------|----|--|
| s ^ʔ úle | | ʔes | | cuts | | “ncéweʔ | x ^w uý | k ^w úk ^w piʔs | | |
| s- | úle | ʔe | =s | cut | =s | ncéweʔ | x ^w uý | k ^w úk ^w piʔ | -s | |

³ fn re: clitics pointing towards each other

NMLZ	deer	COP	NMLZ	say	3POSS	1SG.INDEP	PROSP	chief	3POSS
deer		and then		he say		myself	will	their chief	

he	spzuʔpzuʔ			tes		x ^w uý	xeʔ		
he	s-	CVC-	pzuʔ	te=	=s	x ^w uý	xeʔ		
DET	NMLZ-	AUG	animal	OBL.DET	NMLZ	PROSP	DEM		
the	animals			since		will			

cuxíc						he	x ^w eʔpít		
cu[w]		-xi	-t	-∅	-es	he	x ^w eʔpít	-s	
do/make		INDR	TR	3OBJ	3SBJ	DET	belongings	3POSS	
he can do for them						their belongings			

slaʔxáns,				cumíns		ʔel	he		
s-	laʔxán		-s	cu[w]	-mín	-s	ʔel	he	
NMLZ	eat-tooth		-3POSS	do/make	-INS	-3POSS	ADD	DET	
their	food								

mlamns			tuw	nsliq ^w		ʔel	x ^w uý		
mlam	-mn	-s	tuw=	n-	s-	liq ^w	ʔel	x ^w uý	
heal	INS	3POSS	from	1SG.POSS	NMLZ	body	ADD	PROSP	
their medicine			from	my body		and	will		

xeʔ	cúne				sʔix ^w ł				
xeʔ	cu	-t	-∅	-ne	s-	ʔix ^w ł			
DEM	tell	TR	3OBJ	1SG.ERG	NMLZ	others			
that	I tell them				others				

te	spzuʔpzuʔ			ks		x̣iyms			
te=	s-	CVC-	pzuʔ	=k	=s	x̣iy	-m	=s	
OBL	NMLZ-	AUG	animal	D/C	NMLZ	do.so	CTR.MID	3POSS	
to the	animals			that		they do the same			

ʔel ʔuʔ.									
ʔel ʔuʔ									
ADD	EXCL								
also									

‘While they were talking the deer stood up, “I will be chief for all the animals for I can provide them with clothes, food, tools, and medicine from my body and I will talk to the other animals to do the same.’

- (9)
- | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------|--------|-------------|-----|-------|---------|-----------------------|------------|------------|--|
| ʔes | télixs | | | | ʔel ʔuʔ | ł ɩk ^w əpn | | | |
| ʔe | =s | teł | -ix | =s | ʔel ʔuʔ | ł ɩk ^w əpn | | | |
| COP | NMLZ | stand | AUT | 3POSS | ADD | EXCL | REM | bitterroot | |
| and then | | he stood up | | | also | | bitterroot | | |
-
- | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----|------|------|-------|-----------|-------------------|-------------------------------------|-------|--|--|
| ʔes | | cuts | | “ncéweʔ | x ^w uý | k ^w úk ^w piʔs | | | |
| ʔe | =s | cut | =s | ncéweʔ | x ^w uý | k ^w úk ^w piʔ | -s | | |
| COP | NMLZ | say | 3POSS | 1SG.INDEP | PROSP | chief | 3POSS | | |

and then he said I will their chief

he	k ^w mi?x ^w ép			x ^w uý	xe?	q ^w zcems					
he	k ^w mi?x ^w	-ép		x ^w uý	xe?	q ^w z	-t	-cem		-s	
DET	root	bottom		PROSP	DEM	use	TR	1SG.OBJ		3SBJ	
the	roots			will	that	they	use	me			
ne	sla?xáns			?el	he	mlamns			?el	x ^w uý	xe?
ne=	s- la?x	-áns		?el	he	mle	-mn	-s	?el	x ^w uý	xe?
at	NMLZ	eat	tooth	ADD	DET	heal	INS	3POSS	ADD	PROSP	DEM
as	food			and	their	medicine			and	will	that
cúne					s?ix ^w l		te	k ^w mi?x ^w ép			
cu	-t	-Ø	-ne		s-	?ix ^w l	te=	k ^w mi?x ^w		-ép	
tell	TR	3OBJ	1SG.SBJ		NMLZ	others	OBL	root		bottom	
I	tell	them			other		roots				
ks		xíyms				?el λu?		té?e.”			
k=	=s	xíy	-m		=s	?el λu?		té?e			
D/C	NMLZ	do.so	CTR.MID		3POSS	ADD	EXCL	DEM			
that		they	do it			also		that			

‘The bitter root also stood up and said, “I will be the chief of the roots. The people will use me as food and medicine and I will tell all the other roots to do the same.’

- (10) ?es cuts ?el λu? sqeyeytn, “ncéwe? x^wuý
- ?e =s cut =s ?el λu? s- qy -eytn ncéwe? x^wuý
- COP NMLZ say 3POSS ADD EXCL NMLZ fish salmon 1SG.INDEP I PROSP
- and then he said also salmon will
- k^wúk^wpi? ne tek^m he ?ex ne q^wu?
- k^wúk^wpi? ne= tek^m he ?ex =Ø ne= q^wu?
- chief at all D/C be 3SBJ at water
- chief of all that are in the water
- x^wuý xe? q^wzcems
- x^wuý xe? q^wz -t -cem -s ne sla?xáns
- PROSP DEM use TR 1SG.OBJ 3SBJ at s- la?x -áns ?el
- will that they use me as their food tooth ADD
- mlamns
- mle -mn -s
- heal INS 3POSS
- their medicine

‘Salmon said, “I will be chief of all living things in the water. The people will use me for food and medicine.’

- (11) x^wuý xe? cúne tek^m xe
- x^wuý xe? cu -t -Ø -ne tek^m xe =Ø

PROSP	DEM	tell	TR	3OBJ	1SG.SBJ	all	IPFV	=3SBJ
will	that	I tell them				all	be	
nqáyix			ʔel	twit		ne qʷuʔ	ks	
n-	qáy	-ix	ʔel	twit		ne=	qʷuʔ	k=
LOC	swim	AUT	ADD	grow		at	water	D/C
swimming			and	growing		in the	water	that
xiyms					ʔel ʕuʔ		téʔe.”	
xiy	-m		=s		ʔel ʕuʔ		téʔe	
do.so	CTR.MID		=3POSS		ADD	EXCL	DEM	
they do it					also		that	

‘I will tell all that swims and grows in the water to do the same.’.

- (12) ʔes cuts scaqʷm “ncéweʔ xʷuý
 ʔe =s cut =s s- caqʷm ncéweʔ xʷuý
 COP NMLZ say 3POSS NMLZ saskatoon 1SG.INDEP PROSP
 and then he said saskatoon I will
- kʷúkʷpiʔs he tek m te he steʔ he
 kʷúkʷpiʔ -s he tek m te= he s- teʔ he
 chief 3POSS DET all OBL DET NMLZ something D/C
 their chief the all of the things that
- twit wə sxeʔs he tmixʷ.
 twit =∅ wə= s= xeʔ =s he tmixʷ.
 grow 3SBJ to NMLZ up 3POSS DET land
 grow to above the ground

‘Saksatoon said, “I will be chief of all the things that grow above the ground.’

- (13) le seytknm xʷuý xeʔ qʷzcems
 le seytkn -mx xʷuý xeʔ qʷz -t -cem -s
 REM Indigenous people PROSP DEM use TR 1SG.OBJ 3SBJ
- ne slaʔxáns ʔel he mlamns
 ne= s- laʔx -áns ʔel he mla -mn -s
 at NMLZ eat tooth 3POSS ADD DET heal INS 3POSS

‘The people will use me as food and medicine.’

- (14) xʷuý cúne tek m he stuytúymxʷ ks xiyms teʔ ʔel ʕuʔ.”
 xʷuý cúne tek m he stuytúymxʷ
 xʷuý cu -t -∅ -ne tek m he s- tuyt -úymxʷ
 PROSP tell TR 3OBJ 1SG.SBJ all DET NMLZ plant land
 will I tell them all the plants

ks		xiyms				te?	ʔel ʔu?
ks		xiyms				te?	ʔel ʔu?
k=	=s	xiy	-m	=s		te?	ʔel ʔu?
D/C	NMLZ	do.so	CTR.MID	=3POSS		DEM	ADD EXCL
that		they do it				that	also

‘I will tell all the plants that grow above the ground to do the same.’

- (15)
- | | | | | | | | | |
|---------|------|------|-----------|-------|-----|----------|--------|------|
| ʔéwi? | ʔes | | cuts | | lə | kʷúkʷpi? | sʔúle, | |
| ʔéwi? | ʔe | =s | cut | =s | lə= | kʷúkʷpi? | s- | ʔúle |
| because | COP | NMLZ | say | 3POSS | REM | chief | NMLZ | deer |
| because | then | | they said | | was | chiefs | | deer |
-
- | | | | | | | | |
|------------|--------|--------|--------|--|-----|----------------|-------|
| ʔkʷəpn, | sqeytn | | | | ʔel | scaqʷm, | xʷi? |
| ʔkʷəpn | s | -qy | -eytn | | ʔel | s- caqʷm | xʷi? |
| bitterroot | NMLZ | fish | salmon | | ADD | NMLZ saskatoon | PROSP |
| bitterroot | | salmon | | | and | saskatoon | will |
-
- | | | | | | | | |
|--------------|----|------|---------|-----------|---------------|---------|----------|
| nextm | | | | he | siwenʰxʷ kt | ʔe ks | |
| nex | -t | -Ø | -em | he | siwenʰxʷ -kt | ʔe | =k =s |
| give | TR | 3OBJ | 1PL.SBJ | DET | life 1PL.POSS | COP | D/C NMLZ |
| we give them | | | | our lives | | so that | |
-
- | | | | | | | | |
|----------------|----------|------|-------|-----|--------------|-------|-----|
| ʔes | slaʔxáns | | ʔel | he | mlamns | | he |
| ʔes- | s- | laʔx | -áns | ʔel | mle -mn | -s | he |
| STAT | NMLZ | eat | tooth | ADD | heal INS | 3POSS | DET |
| they have food | | | | and | the medicine | | the |
-
- | | | | | | | | |
|------------|--------|-----|-------|------|--------------|----|--------------|
| seytknmx | | ʔel | xʷi? | xe? | cuntm | | |
| seytkn | -mx | ʔel | xʷi? | xe? | cun | -t | -Ø -em |
| Indigenous | people | ADD | PROSP | DEM | tell | TR | 3OBJ 1PL.SBJ |
| people | | and | will | that | we tell them | | |
-
- | | | | | | | | |
|------|-----|--------|-----------|--------|-------|------|------|
| tekm | he | ste? | | ne | tmixʷ | ks | |
| tekm | he | s- | te? | ne | tmixʷ | k= | =s |
| all | DET | NMLZ | something | at | land | D/C | NMLZ |
| all | the | things | | on the | land | that | |
-
- | | | | | |
|------------------|---------|-------|----------|------|
| xiyms | | | ʔel ʔu? | téʔe |
| xiy | -m | =s | ʔel ʔu? | téʔe |
| do.so | CTR.MID | 3POSS | ADD EXCL | DEM |
| they do the same | | | also | that |

‘The four food chiefs – deer, bitter root, salmon, and saksatoon said they would give up their lives so the people could have food and medicine and they would tell the others to do the same.’

- (16) tuʔ xéʔe te siłq̣t ʔes ʕápnuʔ^ws he
 tu xéʔe te siłq̣t ʔe =s ʕáp -nuʔ^w =s he
 from DEM OBL day COP NMLZ night PRSV 3POSS DET
 from that the day then they survived the
- seytknmx tes ʔes slaʔxáns ʔeł
 seytkn -mx te= =s ʔes- s- laʔx -ans ʔeł
 Indigenous person OBL NMLZ STAT NMLZ eat tooth ADD
 people because they have food
- ʔes mlamn ʔeył
 ʔes- mla -mn ʔeył
 STAT heal INS now
 they have medicine now

‘From that day the people survived because they had food and medicine.’

References

- Thompson, Laurence & Thompson, M. Terry (1992). *The Thompson language*. 2nd edn. Missoula, MT: University of Montana Occasional Papers in Linguistics 8.
- Thompson, Laurence & Thompson, M. Terry (1996). *Thompson River Salish Dictionary*. Missoula, MT: The University of Montana Occasional Papers in Linguistics 11.

Appendix

The following table defines all abbreviated glosses that appear in the prayers. They are organized alphabetically by morpheme, starting with the glottal stop, ʔ, to stay consistent with the Thompson & Thompson (1996) dictionary. Modern glossing conventions are used in the Gloss column, following research that has been ongoing since the 1990s. The gloss definitions that are derived from the Thompson & Thompson (1992) grammar are given in the T&T Gloss column. Direct quotes are referenced with the shortened form of this publication, (T&T 1992), followed by a page number.

Morphemes	Gloss	T&T Gloss	Definition	T&T Definition
-	-	-	affix boundary	affix boundary
=	=	N/A	clitic boundary	lexical suffix boundary; lexical suffixes are bound (must attach to something) morphemes that have root-like meanings (lexical suffixes are indeed suffixes, not clitics as = would suggest)
ʔe	COP	INT	(equational) copula	introductory predicative; ‘there is/are, it is that...’ (T&T 1992: 95); ‘and then’ when followed by nominalized predicate or auxiliary (T&T 1992: 180-181)
ʔes-	STAT	ST	stative; appears as a prefix on predicates to specify it as a state or condition that is already in effect as opposed to an activity or event	
-ʔúy	RFM	RFM	reaffirmative	‘basic, ordinary, plain, simple, real, genuine’ (T&T 1992: 129)
Cə-	IREN	AFF	Initial (C ₁) reduplication	affective; denotes ‘special attitudes ranging from familiarity, perhaps with overtones of nostalgia, to extreme specialization.’ (T&T 1992: 115); formed by reduplicating the first consonant plus /ə/ vowel
CV(C)-	AUG	AUG	augmentative; this form of reduplication can indicate plural meaning, a repeated or persistent action, an intensification of activity, state or size, or a specialized meaning (see T&T 1992: 82-93); formed by reduplications the first consonant-vowel-and sometimes the final consonant or by reduplicating the first consonant-consonant-vowel	
(h/ʔ)e=	DET	DIR	determiner; determiner-complementizer; distribution is dependent on sentence structure	direct complement marker; introduces complements that specify predicates. It can also have possessive meaning when it follows a third person pronominal
-e	IMP	IMP	imperative; grammatical mood that signals a command or request	
ʔel	ADD	ACCM	additive; and, or	‘and, also, too, along with’; accomplished (T&T 1992: 139)
-ey	1PL.OBJ	1PL.OBJ	first person plural object; ‘us’	

(w)ʔex; xe	IPFV	ALT	imperfective	auxiliary particle; ‘exist, be located, reside, stay: persistent, progressive, actual’ (T&T 1992: 142)
-it	FMV		general formative	No specific meaning (T&T 1992: 125)
-i(y)x	AUT	AUT	autonomous	‘refers to acts controlled by a specific agent’ (T&T 1992: 101)
k=; =k	DET	UNR	determiner	unrealized; a complement marker referring to states that are as of yet unrealized, meaning they can be unknown or ‘established in the future, if at all’ (T&T 1992: 150)
kémeɬ	CTST		contrastive	‘but, on the other hand, although, though, even if’ (T&T 1992: 179)
-kt	1PL.POSS	1PL.POSS	first person plural possessive; ‘our’	
=kt	1PL.INTR	1PL.INTR	first person plural intransitive; ‘we’	
ɬ	REM	EP	remote determiner	established in the past and/or established far away
-ɬ-	CONN	LIG	compounding connective	ligature; a connective that joins stems to create compound words
ʔuʔ	EXCL	PER	exclusive; but	persistent; ‘only, just, until, up to’ (T&T 1992: 139)
-m	PASS	IDF	passive	indefinite subject; i.e. ‘someone, everyone, etc.’
-m	CTR.MID	MDL	control middle	middle; refer to actions or states where the subject is also the agent meaning they are acting with volition
-m(i)n	INS	INS	instrumental	creates words used as instruments or implements (see also -tən), can also specify certain materials, ‘means of carrying out activities and processes’ (T&T 1992: 121)
n-	LOC	LCL	locative	localizer; signals location of an action, can have abstract meaning
-n	CTR	DRV	control (directive)	directive; -e DRV to see
-(e)n(e)	1SG.SBJ	1SG.SBJ	first person singular subject; ‘I’	
ncéweʔ	1SG.SBJ. INDEP	1SG.SBJ	first person singular independent; ‘I’	
nmimɬ	1PL.INDEP		independent first person plural pronoun	
n=	AT	AT	locative preposition	‘at, to, in, into, with’, denotes a precise location or direction (T&T 1992:155)
s-; s=; =s	NMLZ	NOM	nominalizer	creates a noun
-(e)s	3.SBJ	3.SBJ	third person subject; ‘he, she, it, they’	
=s	3.POSS	3.POSS	third person possessive; ‘his, hers, its, theirs’	

-s(e)m	1SG.OBJ	1SG.OBJ	first person singular object; ‘me’	
-t	TR	TR	transitivizer	marks predicates as transitive, meaning they take both object and subject arguments
téʔe	DEM	EM.PART	demonstrative	emphatic particular; ‘about to be set forth’ (T&T 1992: 136)
t(ə)=	OBL	OBL	oblique particle	introduces complements of predicates. These are usually objects but can also refer to means or instruments, specify what lexical suffixes are referring to, or definite and indefinite subject. See T&T (1992: 146-147) for examples.
teʔ(e)	NEG	NEG	negative; ‘no, not’	
=uʔ	OOC		out of control	It often indicates that an event occurs or a state of affairs develops spontaneously, without human intervention. Subjects mentioned are in patient relationship. (T&T 1992: 99)
=us	3.SBJV	3.CJV	third person subjunctive	third person conjunctive; ‘he, she, it, they’
xéʔe	DEM		distal demonstrative	
x ^w uḃ	PROSP	FUT	prospective	future notion
=ᑕ	3.OBJ		third person object; ‘him, her, them’	