

'iceyéeye kaa 'icwéewlcix

Nez Perce Morphology: Inflection and Derivation

Languages have two kinds of morphology – inflection and derivation.

Inflection: verb agreement, plurality, tense, case markers

'iin wéewluqse 'ipéex.
wéewluq-se
want-Pres.Sg

Ha'áyat hiwéewluqsix kuus.
ha-'ayat hi-wéewluqsix
Pl-woman third-want-Pres.Pl

titóoqanm hipé's
titóoqan-nm
people-Erg
'people's food'

hinéesmuqsin 'icwéewlcixnim
hi-nées-muqs-in 'icwéewlcix-nim
third-them-swallow-Pr Monster-Erg

titóoqana
titóoqan-ne
people-Obj

walácki tewtéespe
walc-ki tewtees-pe
knife-with rope-on

Derivation: compounding, verb stem

hacwaláamy'ac
háacwal-miyá'c
boy-child

qamóotwalc
qámo-walc
agate-knife

páayca
paay-ce
arrive-Pres
'I am arriving'

'asapáapayca
'e-sepée-pay-ce
Tr-CAUS-arrive-Pres
'I am making him arrive'

Inflection: Transitive Agreement

Transitive First/Second Person acts on Third Person (Tr): 'e-

'itóowayn konyá 'exeléeleyce
'itúu-'ayn 'e-xeléeley-ce
what-for there Tr-engage-Pres
'Why are you engaged with it there?'

wéec'u' 'ekúuse
 'e-kúu-se
quit Tr-do-Pres
'I will quit doing it.'

míne 'iin titóoqana 'aw'yáayaqin
 titóoqan-ne 'e-'iyáayaq-in
where I people-Obj Tr-find-Pr
'Where shall I find the people?'

Third Person acts on Third Person (3on3): pee-

páankack'ilksana
pee-nke-cik'ilk-sene
3on3-pull-destroy-RemPst
'He was tearing it down'

pe'síinm páatyoxna
pe'síi-nm pee-tiyok-ne
someone-Erg 3on3-shout-Past
'Someone shouted to him'

péetqeene qocqócnim
pee-tqe-hi-ne qocqoc-nim
3on3-brief-say-Past meadowlark-Erg
'Meadowlark told him.'

kii páatyoxna wáaqo' 'iceyéeyenm 'icwéewlcixne, " 'icwéewlcix!
 pée-tiyox-ne 'iceyéeye-nm 'icwéewlcix-ne
here 3on3-shout-Past now Coyote-Erg Monster-Obj
'Here, Coyote yelled at Monster, "Monster..."

'iceyéeyenm péehinewye
 pee-hinewi-e
 3on3-try-Past
'Coyote tried him.'

'iceyéeyenm péene
 pee-hi-ne
 3on3-say-Past
'Coyote said to him.'

kíne titóoqanm pá'yaxcano'
pee-'iyaaxca-nu'
3on3-find-Fut

'Here people will find it.'

walácki péetqe'seweyne
pee-tqe-'isewey-ne
3on3-brief-cut-Past

'He quickly cut it with a knife.'

koná xáxaasnim púuyexyuuyetke
pee-weyexyuuyetk-e
there rush.towards-Past

'There Grizzly rushed towards him.'

wexpúusnim patqackaw'iswiyooya
pee-tqe-ckaaw'is-wi-uu-Past
brief-fierce-act-towards-Past

'Rattlesnake acted fierce towards him.'

koníix yáaka'na péewekunye
pee-wewkuni-e
from.there meet-Past

'From there he met Bear.'

Third person acts on plural object: **nees-**

'icwéewlcixnim wáaqo' hinéeskus
hi-nees-kuu-s
third-PlOb-do-Pf

'Monster already has done for them.'

wáaqo' 'óykalana titóoqana hinésmuqsin 'icwéewlcixnim
'oykala-ne titóoqan-na hi-nees-muqs-in 'icwéewlcix-nim
all-obj people-obj third-PlOb-swallow-Pf

'Already, Monster has swallowed all of the people.'

hinésexne hahácwala kaa hinéesne
hi-nees-hek-ne hahácwal-ne hi-nees-hi-ne
third-PlOb-see-Past boys-obj and third-PlOb-say-Past

'He say the boys and he told them.'

Reciprocal Action: pii-

'icwéewlcix! kíye píitemeyleksix
pii-temeylek-six
Rec-inhale-Pl.Pres

'icwéewlcix! kíye píiwetemeyleksix
pii-wetemeylek-six
Rec-inhale-Pl.Pres

Case suffixes

Location: -pe 'on, at, in'

míiw'acpa
míiw'ac-pe
'in a short time'

nusnúupe
núusnu-pe
'on the nose'

tim'néepe
tim'íne-pe
'at the heart'

mitáatipa meḡséempe
three-on mountains-on

naaqcpa tewtéespe
one-on rope-on

Instrument: -ki 'with'

walácki
'with a knife'

'itqúit'eski
'with clay'

piyáaqski
'with rawhide rope'

'apski
'with flint'

Origin: -kin'ix/-pkin'ix 'from'

nusnúupkin'ix
'from the nose'

mac'yóopkin'ix
'from the ears'

silúupkin'ix
'from the eyes'

koníx hiwíhneme
ko-niix hi-wíhne-me
'from-there he traveled'

Direction: -x/-px 'towards'

nusnúupx 'áatx
núusnu-px
nose-towards go.out
'Go out the nose!'

mac'yóopx **t'icáanx**
mac'áyo-px **t'íican-x**
'Out the ear' 'Out the anus'

wéet'u minéepx **péexne**
 mine-px **pee-hek-ne**
not where-towards 3on3-see.Past
'Nowhere did he see him.'

Object: -ne

koná wéeyux k'upíp yu'úsne qocqócne póotixc'aya
 yu's-ne **qocqoc-ne** **pee-wetixc'a-e**
there leg break poor-Obj meadowlark-obj 3on3-step-Past
'There he stepped on breaking the poor meadowlark's leg.'

wáaqa' 'óykalana titóoqana hinéesmuqsin 'icwéewlcixnim
 'oykala-ne titóoqan-na hi-nees-muqs-in 'icwéewlcix-nim
 all-obj people-obj third-PlOb-swallow-Pf
'Already, Monster has swallowed all of the people.'

yáaka'na péewewkunye
yáaka'-ne
bear-obj
'He met Bear'

konyá 'exeléeleyce
ko-né 'e-xeléeley-ce
that-obj Tr-busy-Pres
'You are busying with that.'

Ergative: -nm/-nim

This suffix marks the subject of a transitive clause.

pe'síinm **páatyoxna**
pe'síi-nm **pee-tiyox-ne**
someone-Erg 3on3-shout-Past
'Someone shouted to him'

yáaka'nm **péene**
yaaka'-nm **pée-hi-ne**
bear-Erg 3on3-say-Past
'Bear said to him.'

koná ɣáɣaasnim púuyexyuuyetke
ɣáɣaac-nim péé-weyexyuuyetk-e
 there Grizzly-Erg 3on3-dashed.towards-Past
 'There Grizzly dashed towards him'

kii páatyoxna wáaqo' 'iceyéeyenm 'icwéewlcixne, " 'icwéewlcix!
péé-tiyox-ne 'iceyéeye-nm 'icwéewlcix-ne
 here 3on3-shout-Past now Coyote-Erg Monster-Obj
 'Here, Coyote yelled at Monster, "Monster..."

This suffix also marks a possessor.

kál'a sílu 'elk'úupnime 'icwéewlcixnim
'icwéewlcix-nim
 just eyes his-moved.about Monster's
 'Monster's eyes just moved about.'

'icwéewlcixnim nusnúupkin'ix
'icwéewlcix-nim nuusnu-pkin'ix
 'From Monster's nose'

titóoqanm pipísne péetuleyeqehcene
titóoqa-nm piips-ne péé-tuleyeqeh-cene
 people-Erg bones-Obj 3on3-kick,out-RemPst
 'They kicked out the people's bones.'

Verb Tenses: Nez Perce has several different verb tenses.

Remote Past (RemPst): **-sene/-cene**

'iceyéeye tíkem haanisáana, páankack'ilksana
hi-hani-sene péé-nke-ck'ilk-sene
 third-make-RemPst 3on3-pull-destroy-RemPst
 'Coyote was making a fish ladder.'

titóoqanm pipísne péetuleyeqehcene
titóoqa-nm piips-ne péé-tuleyeqeh-cene
 people-Erg bones-Obj 3on3-kick,out-RemPst
 'They kicked out the people's bones.'

Present Tense (Pres): -ce/-cix -se/-six

konyá'əxələleyce
'e-xələley-ce
'You are busying with that.'

kii mácq'al hiléewtek'ece
hi-leewtek'e-ce
third-apportion.fish-Pres
'This earwax is apportioning out fish.'

wáaqo' lamt'áy' walácki pa'sak'íwkay'sa 'iceyéeyenm
pee-'isak'íwkay'-se
3on3-cut.his-Pres
'Now, with the last knife, Coyote is cutting his (heart).'

Future (Fut): -u' (VS) / -nu' (VC)

Nacó'x hitoláyno' titóoqanm hipé's.
hi-tolay-nu' (toláyca 'I am going upstream'))
third-go.upstream-Fut
'Salmon will go upstream.'

mínex hipéenu'?
hi-pe-hi-nu' (híce 'I am saying')
where-from third-plural-say-Fut
'From where' they will say...

ka kaa taxc hitqewqíynu'
hi-tqe-wiqíy-nu'
third-brief-die-Fut
'When surely he will fall dead.'

taxc pa'áto'
pe-'aat-u' ('áatsa 'I am exiting')
Pl-go.out-Fut
'Surely, you will go out.'

taxc 'iméenk'u' 'éelew'ic hipa'áto'
'iméenk-u' hi-pa-'aat-u'
surely they-too easily third-Pl-go.out-Fut
'They too will go out easily.'

Indefinite Past (Past): -e (VS) /-ne (VC)

kíimet pe'síinm páatyoxna
pee-tiyok-ne (tiyóokca 'I am shouting')
when someone 3on3-shout-Past
'When someone shouted at him.'

kaa hihíne, "wéye 'iim neséweylu..."
hi-hí-ne (hice 'I am saying')
third-say-Past
'And he said, "Oh, you Coyote..."

'óykaslixpx páasayaḵo'ya
pee-sayaḵo'y-e
all over 3on3-look.for-Past
'He looked all over for him.'

koná weḵpúusnim patqackaw'iswiyooya
pee-tqe-cikáaw'is-wi-uu-e
3on3-brief-fierce-act-towards-Past
'There rattlesnake suddenly made himself fierce towards him.'

koníix yáaka'na péewekunye
pee-weewkuni-e
3on3-meet-Past
'From there he met bear.'

Perfect Tense (Pf): -s (VS) / -n (VC)

This tense indicates that an action made in the past has present effects or relevance.

'icwéewlcixnim wáaqo' hinéeskus.
hi-nees-kuu-s
third-PlOb-do-Pf
'Already Monster has done for them.'

wáaqo' 'óykalana titóoqana hinésmuqsin 'icwéewlcixnim
hi-nees-muqs-in
third-PlOb-swallow-Pf
'Already Monster has swallowed all the people.'

This tense can also be used to indicate something you want to do:

kéemeex wetkuyéhts
wetkuyéht-s
cast.out-Pf

'Let me cast you out!'

kawatikáwati hinéeke, 'wéye kex pe'túune 'exeléeyn'
hi-néek-e pe'túu-ne 'e-xeléey-n
spur.of.moment third-think-Past something-obj Tr-busy-Pf
'On the spur of the moment he thought, "Let me get busy with something."'

Recent Past (RecPst): **-saqa / -caqa**

'itúune páakosaqa?
'itúu-ne pee-kuu-saqa
what-obj 3on3-do-RecPst
'What were you just now doing?'

kawó' 'éeteex wéec'u' 'ekúuse 'étke titóoqa'ayn 'akosáaqa
'eet-eex 'e-kúu-se titóoqa'ayn 'e-kuu-saqa
then surely-I quit Tr-do-Pres because people-for Tr-do-RecPst
'Then surely I am quitting because I was just now doing it for the people.'

Directionals: These verbs have a suffix indicating the action is done towards the speaker/actor Cislocative Past (CisPst) or away from the speaker/actor Translocative Past (TrnPst):

héenek'u' naaxc wáaqa' hi'npíme
hi-'npi-me
again one now third-take-CisPst
'Now he took another (knife) for himself.'

'iceyéeye ha'átkika
hi-'aat-kike
third-exit-out
'Coyote went on out.'

Reflexive Verbs: These verbs express actions done to oneself.

wáaqa' ta'c 'ipnáacapta'ckima
'ipnée-cap-ta'cki-me
himself-make-good-CisPst
'He fixed himself up.'

c'ixc'ixpe 'ipnéetqesepeluuke 'iceyéeye
'ipnée-tqe-sepeluuk-e
himself-brief-hide-Past
'Coyote quickly hid himself in the grass.'

'ináatapalayksaqa
'inée-te-peeleyk-saqa
myself-talk-loose-RecPst
'I just talked myself absent-minded'

'iná'nyo'qa
'inée-'ini-o'qa
myself-give-might
'I might give myself'

'ipnóopcikaw'isksa
'ipnée-wapcikaw'isk-se
himself-make.fierce-Pres
'he makes himself fierce'

'ipnetemsulkelíhnik
'ipnée-tem-sulke-líhnik-e
himself-throw-dangle-around-Past
'he hung himself on'

C'íiqin Kímti:

haanisáana
hi-hani-sene
third-make-RemPst 'He was making'