Introduction to Karuk Accent  
adapted from Bright (1957)

- Each Karuk word has at most one accent
- The syllable with the written accent is always stressed

Acute accent

- A vowel written with acute accent has level high pitch:
  Example: the á in ákah 'father' and the áa in áama 'salmon'

Examples of words with an acute accent:

1a. ákah 'father'
b. áama 'salmon'
c. pūu fich 'deer'
d. áp xaan 'hat'
e. fí thih 'foot'

Circumflex accent

- A vowel written with circumflex accent has pitch that falls from high to low:
  Example: the âa in yâamach 'pretty, nice' and the ôo in yôotva 'thank you'

Examples of words with a circumflex accent:

2a. yâ amach 'pretty'
b. yô otva 'thank you'
c. pû uvish 'bag'
d. ax vâ ah 'head'
e. ish kê esh 'river'

Unaccented syllables

- If the last vowel in a word is written without an accent, it has low pitch
  Example: the i in pûu fich 'deer' and the a in yôotva 'thank you'

- If the first vowel in a word is short, and is written without an accent, it has low pitch
  Example: the a in axvâah 'head' and the i in ishkêesh 'river'