

Berkeley Karuk group Facebook postings, January 4-10, 2015

January 4 (Line)

Sonny upiip:

ararachúupha nuu payêem nuchúupitih. • We are talking our Indian language now.

arara = Indian person

chúupha = speech

nuu = we

payêem = now

nu- = we

chúuphi = to speak, *-tih* = in the middle of doing something

January 5 (Andrew)

Vina upiip:

Kári iish úpaatvutih pa'axiich. • And the child is taking a bath.

kári = and

iish = body

ú- = he, she, or it

paatvu = wash

-tih = in the middle of doing something

pa- = the

'axiich = child

Comments

This sentence means "taking a bath" or (more literally) "washing (his) body".

January 6 (Line)

Sonny upiip:

súva nik numáheesh. • I will see you later.

súva nik = so long

nu- = I to you

máh = see

-eesh = in the future

Comments

This example shows a very special thing about the Karuk language. Normally *ni-* is used when the person doing the thing is the speaker, as when Lucille said *ni-tharámpuuktih* for "I am cooking acorn soup". But if the action involves the speaker doing something to or with the listener as in "I will see you later" the language marks that by using *nu-* instead of *ni-*. So *numáheesh* for "I will see you" but *nimáheesh* for "I will see him/her/it."

January 7 (Andrew)

Charlie upiip:

naa káru ni'áhoovish. • I'm going to walk too.

naa = I (separate word)

káru = also

ni- = I (prefix on the verb)

'áhoo- = walk, go

-vish = in the future

Comments

The ending that means "in the future" is sometimes *-vish*, as here, and sometimes *-heesh* or *-eesh*. It depends on what it's added to.

January 8 (Line)

Sonny upiip:

tá nithítiv payupsítanach uxráratih. • I hear the baby crying.

tá = have done something or are now in a state

ni- = I

thítiv = hear

pa = the

yupsítanach = baby

u- = he/she/it

(i)xrara = cry

-tih = in the middle of doing it

The word Sonny used for baby — *yupsítanach* — can be broken down further:

yup = *yuup* = eye

sít = *siit* = mouse

-an(a) = *ara* = be like something

-ach = little

So, something like "little mousey-eye".

The word for baby also shows two important ways in which Karuk words can change when they are put together into one word:

1) double (= long) vowels can become short:

yuup -> *yup*

siit -> *sit*

2) *r*-sounds can become *n*-sounds, as in *ara* -> *ana*. This happens regularly when the diminutive (linguists' word for *-ach* and *-ich*, which both mean "little") is added to a word.

So "mousey-eye" would be *yupsítara* with an "r", but "little mousey-eye" is *yupsítanach* with an "n".

And there are different ways of saying the word:

yupsítanich (with "i" instead of "a" at the end)

yupsítaach (with the "n" dropping out)

And there are different words for a newborn baby too:

ararápiit = person-new

axichpiitich = child-new-little

ánupanach = navel-be.like-little

anamahápiitich = child-new-little

January 9 (Andrew)

Charlie upiip:

ta néekfuuyshur. • I'm tired.

ta = have done something or are now in a state

na- = I (undergoing or experiencing something)

ikfuuyshur = tired

Comments

Most Karuk verbs express that "I" am the subject with *ni-*, but some verbs use *na-* instead, like "be tired". Usually this means the subject "I" have undergone something or am in a state.

January 10 (Line)

ararápiit • newborn baby

arará = Indian person

piit = new

In the other word for baby — *yupsítanach* — the long *uu* of *yuup* "eye" and long *ii* of *siit* "mouse" both became short. In *ararápiit* the long *ii* in *piit* stays long because it is last in the word. The shortening rule always goes backwards: you add something to the end of a word and if the piece you added has the power to shorten vowels, a long *ii*, *aa*, or *uu* earlier in the word will become short *i*, *a*, or *u*.

You can see how the rule only goes backwards by comparing the word for baby — *yupsítanach* — with the word for wildcat:

áhyuup • wildcat

This word is made up of *áah* (fire) and *yúup* (eye). *yúup* has the power to shorten vowels, so when it is added to *áah*, it shortens the *aa* to *a* and we get *áhyuup* for wildcat. *áah* also has the power to shorten vowels, but because it comes before *yúup* in the word for wildcat, and because the shortening rule only goes backwards, the *uu* of *yúup* stays long. In *yupsítanach* *yúup* comes at the beginning and when other pieces are added, the long *uu* gets short.