Summary of Facebook postings by Berkeley Karuk group, June 21-27, 2015

**June 21 (Andrew)**

Violet Super upiip:

áta vaa káan ukrêenik papihníich. • I guess the old man lived there.

áta = I guess, maybe

vaavkáan = there

( = vaa "thus" + káan "there")

u=he

(i)krêenik = lived a long time ago

( = ikrii "live, sit" + -anik "a long time ago")

pa-=the

pîhníich = old man

Comments

This sentence is another good example (like yesterday's) of vaa káan, which is often used to express "there" (someplace mentioned or pointed to).

Two other things of interest: (1) áta is translated as "maybe" in the dictionary, but definitions that better covers how it’s mostly used could be "I guess" or (in a question) "I wonder"; and (2) the verb ikrêenik "lived (a long time ago, a while ago)" has ikrii "live, sit" plus a suffix -anik for earlier or long-ago events.

**June 22 (Line)**

Vina upiip:

húun áta. • It doesn't matter.

húun = harm

áta = maybe, I guess

Comments

This shows another use of áta which is a bit harder to make sense of, since húun means "harm", but somehow the two together mean "It doesn't matter".
June 23 (Andrew)

Phoebe Maddux upiip:

chishíih áta ník uum vúr u’áamti. • I guess maybe a dog eats them.

chishíih = dog
áta = I guess, maybe
ník = a little, somewhat, now and then
uum = he, she, it
vúr(a) = intensive
u- = he, she, it
'áam = eat
-ti = ongoing

Comments

If you're making a sentence with áta "maybe, I guess", then the most common place where this word occurs is as the second word of the sentence. Here, it goes after the subject of the sentence, chishíih "dog".

She’s explaining why she thinks this plant is called chishihpúrith "dog huckleberry": because dogs maybe eat them. The reason why she uses the "durative" ending -ti on the verb, usually for ongoing activities like English -ing, is because (she guesses) dogs are always or habitually doing this.

June 24 (Line)

Vina upiip:

atafãat. • Perhaps.

ata = maybe
fãat = what

Comments

Here ata combines with the question word fãat to form a complex word meaning "perhaps".
June 25 (Andrew)
Nettie Reuben upiip:

*hûut áta tá ná'iin.* • I wonder what's wrong with me.

*hûut* = how
*áta* = maybe, I guess, I wonder
*tá* = has been or is in a state
*ná- = I (experiencing something)*
*iin = have something wrong with one*

**Comments**

This is a useful pattern with the word *áta*. If you have a question, like *hûut tá ná’iin?* "what's wrong with me?", you can add *áta* to mean "I wonder ..." It softens the question to add *áta*.

Also here is the prefix *na-*. It's less common than *ni- "I"*. It's used, only for first person ("I") subjects, with some verbs (like *iin* here) where the subject is experiencing a state. (For example, *tá naxúriha* "I'm hungry.")

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June 26 (Line)
Nettie Reuben upiip:

*hûut áta pánikupheesh.* • What will I do?

*hûut* = how
*áta = I wonder*
*pa- = that*
*ni- = I*
*kuph(a) = to do or act*
*-eesh = in the future*
June 27 (Andrew)
Chester Pepper upiip:

$hûut$ áta kúth papunayâavahitihara. • I wonder why I’m not getting full.

$hûut$ = how
áta = I wonder, maybe
kúth = because of

$pa$- = that
$pu$- = not
$na$- = I (in negative sentences)
yâavahi = get enough, get full
-tih = ongoing
-ara = not

Comments
This shows how much áta likes to be the second word in a sentence. (It doesn't have to be, but it often is.) The phrase $hûut$ kúth means "why?" (literally "because of how?"); to soften the question ("I wonder why"), áta goes between those two words as the second word of the sentence.

The awesome verb papunayâavahitihara has some interesting things in it that might make it clearer: (1) it starts with $pa$-, which is sometimes used on the verb in a question (a more literal translation might be "I wonder why it is that I'm not getting full"); (2) it has the two negative ("not") elements $pu$- and -ara, which usually go together, at the beginning and end; and (3) it has a subject marker variant $na$- "I" that is used (instead of $ni$-) in negative sentences.