

Summary of Facebook postings by Berkeley Karuk group, September 22-30, 2015

Ayukii koovúra! September is about the body and this week is about the torso.

September 22

From the dictionary:

uthpiváxrah • lungs

September 23

Shan Davis upiip:

vishvaan • belly

Mamie Offield upiip:

páy uum pakumá'ii pavishváan ukuheesh. • This one will give him a stomach-ache.

páy = this

uum = is

pa- = that

kumá'ii = because of

pa- = the

vishváan = belly

u- = it

kuh(a) = hurt

-eesh - in the future

So "It is because of this that the stomach will hurt".

September 24

Shan Davis upiip:

árup • navel

Comment:

árup also refers the naval cord

September 25

Shan Davis upiip:

vásih • back

September 26

From the dictionary:

tasvan'ípih • shoulder blade

tásvaan = spatula or soup stirrer

ípih = bone

Comments:

tasvan'ípih is a compound word and follows the two grammar rules of compounding:

- 1) The double aa of tásvaan shortens to a single a in tasvan'ípih
- 2) There is only one accent in a compound so the accent in tásvaan (á) is lost.

September 27

From the dictionary:

átvaax • collarbone

September 28

From the dictionary:

axicheekrívraam • womb, uterus

This is compound word:

axiich(a) = child

ikrívraam = house

Comments:

when the final a-sound of axiicha meets the initial i-sound of ikriivraam the two sounds melt together to make a long e-sound "ee". This is a regular rule of Karuk grammar. Another example of this rule: when combining pa- (= the) with an i-initial noun like ishpuuk (= money) a and i melt together to form peeshpuuk (= the money).

The word for womb also shows a regular rule of Karuk compounds that has to do with long and short vowel sounds (aa vs. a, uu vs. u and ii vs i) -- what is the rule and where do we see it at work in axicheekrívraam?

September 29

From the dictionary:

ishxíchak • waist of one's body

Nettie Ruben upiip:

víri vaa kumá'ii koovúra patûupichas pamusxíchak. • So that's why they [the yellow jackets] all have small waists.

víri= so

vaa = that

kumá'ii = because of

koovúra = all

pa- = that

tûupichas = small ones

pa- = the

mu- = its

(i)s(h)xíchak = waist

Comments:

Nettie Ruben's sentence shows how Karuk s-sounds are different from English s-sounds. Karuk has two s-sounds: s (more or less like the s in English "sell") and sh (more or less like the sh in English "shell"). In English s and sh makes different words, like "sell" vs. "shell". In Karuk "s" and "sh" don't make different words. Depending on what vowel sound comes before in the word, the s-sound is pronounced either as "s" or "sh". If there is an i, ii, ee, or y sound before "s", it is pronounced "sh". If not, it is pronounced "s". The dictionary form **ishxíchak** (waist) has "sh" because there is an i before the s-sound: **ishxíchak** not **isxíchak**. But in Nettie Ruben's sentence we have an s in the complex word **pam**u**sxíchak** (its waist). That change comes about because the u of mu- (his, her its) replaced the i of **ishxíchak**. That means there is no longer an i-sounds before the s-sound but instead an u-sound --- **pam**u**sxíchak** --- and after u, uu, a, aa, and oo s-sounds are pronounced s. This happens in many, but not all words that begin with i. Some more examples of the S-rule:

ishpuk (money) **múspuk** (his/her money)

ishkak (to jump) **úskak** (he or she jumped)

September 30

From the dictionary:

thafraam • stomach (the internal organ)