Summary of Facebook postings by Berkeley Karuk group, January 15-21, 2016

This week is mostly about the past tense marker –at, though we’ll start with one more sentence about the future.

**January 15**

Vina upiip:

ché upathríheesh hum? • Is it going to rain?

ché = soon
u- = it
pathríh = to rain
-eesh = in the future

**Comment:**

Here Vina uses chí, a variant of chími "soon", together with the future ending -eesh to ask whether it is going to rain.

**January 16** (no post)

**January 17**

Lucille upiip:

ipít upathríhat. • It rained yesterday.

ipít = yesterday

u- = it
pathríh = to rain
-at = in the past

**Comment:**

Here Lucille uses the past ending -at to talk about what happened yesterday.
January 18:

Lucille upiip:

ipít íp nimáhat. • I saw it yesterday.

ipít = yesterday

íp = in the past

ni- = I
máh = to see
-at = in the past

Comment:

Here we see the past time ending -at used with another past time marker íp which comes before the verb.

January 19

Vina upiip:

Vina upiip:

xúun íp ni’ávat. • I ate acorn soup.

xúun = acorn soup

íp = in the past

ni- = I

áv = to eat

-at = in the past

Comments:

Here Vina uses the past marker íp before the verb and the past ending -at on the verb. In this example there is no word saying exactly when the eating took place, but íp and -at expresses that it was sometime in the past.

January 20 (no post)
January 21

Nettie Ruben upiip:

kári xás vaa u'áv káan pá'iish. • And so he ate the meat there.

kári = and
xás = then
vaa = thus, so

u- = he
'áv = eat

káan = there

pá- = the
'iish = meat

Comment:

Here we see that in the Karuk language unmarked verbs can refer to the past. There is no past ending on u'áv (he-eat) but it is understood to be about the past and translated as past (ate) in English. This is especially common in stories.