

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:

chí upathríheesh hum? • Is it going to rain?

chí = 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.