

Summary of Facebook postings by Berkeley Karuk group, January 22-31, 2016

We are continuing this week with ways of talking about the past.

January 22

Vina upiip:

pusihich'ávah tu'av pa'akvaat. • The raccoon ate the catfood.

pusihich = cat
ávah(a) = food

t- = has done or be in a state
u- = it
'av = to eat

pa- = the
'akvaat = raccoon

Comment:

Here we see another way of describing a past event, by putting *ta* at the beginning of the verb.

January 23 (no post)

January 24

Vina upiip:

papúsihich íp tu'ávat. • The cat just ate.

pa- = the
púsihich = cat

íp = recent past

t- = has done or be in a state
u- = it
'áv = to eat
-at = in the past

Comment:

In there earlier examples we have seen the ending *-at* used on the verb for past tense, and in other examples we have seen *ta-* used at the beginning of the verb to signal completion of the event. Here Vina uses both of them together and *íp* before the verb. So the eating is complete and in the past. She translates that into English as "The cat just ate."

January 25:

Charlie upiip:

teepshinvárhva hum? • Did you forget?

tee- = ta + i

ta = has done or be in a state

i = you (talking to one person)

(i)pshinvárhva = to forget

hum = question marker

Comment:

This could also be translated "Have you forgotten?"

January 26 (no post)

January 27

Charlie upiip:

tikáriha hum? • Are you ready?

t- = has done or be in a state

i- = you (one person)

kariha = to get ready or to be ready

hum = question marker

Comments:

In the earlier sentences with *ta-*, the English translations were all in the past tense. In this sentence Charlie uses the *ta-* marker of of completed action on the verb *kariha*, but the English translation is in the present tense - are you ready? - not past tense - were you ready?

This happens with many Karuk verb, not just *káriha*. In his grammar, Bill Bright suggests that *káriha* means "to get ready" and once you have completed getting ready, you are in fact ready!

Another possible translation of Charlie's sentence would be: have you gotten ready yet?

January 28 (no post)

January 29

Charlie upiip:

tée kfúuyshur hum? • Are you tired?

tée = ta- + i-

ta- = has done or be in a state

i- = you (one person)

(i)kfúurshur = get or be tired

hum = question marker

Comment:

From Susan Gehr: Puuhara! Kafih ni'iishti payeem. • No, I'm drinking coffee now.

January 30

Vina upiip:

naa tá ni'ítap. • I learned.

naa = I

tá = has done or be in a state

ni- = I

(i)tap = to know, to learn

January 31

Vina upiip:

ifyáa tu'uum? • What time is it?

ifyáa = how much

t- = has done or be in a state

u- = it

'uum = to arrive

tu'uum

Comments:

A more literal translation of Vina's question would be: How much has it arrived at?

To answer such a question, replace ifyáa with a number, e.g. *yítha tu'uum*.

Asking about time and telling the time always involves *tu'uum* (= it has arrived). So

this is another case where Karuk *ta-* is translated with present tense in English:

What time is it? It's 1 o'clock.