The Walapai Intensive Prefixes /vi-/ and /ni-/  

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The meanings of the Walapai prefix /v(i)-/ have a rather wide referent range, but in all cases the meaning of /v(i)-/ is some kind of intensity.

1. yám  go, leave  2. viyám  go fast, run
3. túi  be hot  4. vituí  be very hot
5. té  be big/much  6. vité  be very big/much
7. nám  sew by hand  8. vinám  sew on a sewing machine
9. púl  break  10. vipúl  shatter, break up

In some cases, it may be a bit difficult to isolate the intensity since a stem always or nearly always occurs with /v(i)-/.

11. vikórθ  jump  12. viyár  fly
/vikórθ/ seldom occurs without /v(i)-/, no doubt reflecting the intensity of effort required for jumping. /viyár/ never occurs without /v(i)-/, almost certainly because of the intensity of the movement of the wings required for flying.

In some cases, /v(i)-/ indicates a change of state or an unusual state.

13. sikví  be standing up  14. viskwí  stand up, get into an upright position

If 13 and 14 were referring to a dog, 13 would mean standing on all four feet, and 14, standing up on the hind legs.

The have just or just as and very much so or really meanings can be seen in 15 and 16.

15. vi-vá-p-á-á-m kwí vó-k vá-v-yúm # We had just arrived home when it really started to rain.  
(intense-arrive-there-aorist-pl.-BS storm/cloud return-SS arrive-intense-be-abl.)

16. vi-vá-k-yu # He just now got in. He has just arrived.

The meanings just, only, or merely, and suddenly or right away can be seen in 17 and 18.
17. wáí vi-wá-ít-m vi-qáu-vi-k-yu # I was just sitting in the chair when suddenly it broke.
(chair intense-sit-prog.-DS intense-break-here-3-be)

18. vi-vá-n-m yimá-č-ai-k-yu # We are having a dance just as soon as he gets here.
(intense-arrive-perf.-DS dance-pl.-fut.-3-be)

/ν(1)/ can also indicate a state or condition that has just obtained in opposition to a state or condition that has existed for some time.

19. hálóyá kávyu # The glass is cracked.

20. hálóyá vikávyu # The glass has just cracked.

Sentence 19 just describes a condition that has existed for an indeterminate amount of time, and the speaker probably has no knowledge of how or when the glass broke. In 20 the speaker knows the the crack has just happened and quite likely witnessed the cracking. (Note accusative subjects.)

21. náč úkyu # I see/saw it. (close-by object)

22. náč viúkyu # I just saw it/caught sight of it/happened to see it.

21 is a matter-of-fact statement. 22 referred to a lizard that darted under some leaves when a Hualapai and I startled it while walking along U.S. 66. We barely caught a glimpse of the lizard as it darted into hiding.

"Intensity" can mean "greater specification".

23. kánúm  how long? when? 24. vikánúm  just how long? just when?
25. yá     this (one)      26. viyá    this (one) here
27. náč háma I look at 28. náč viháma I look over/scan distant object.
30. vispó  remember, just think
29. sipó   know            32. viyéktm early in the morn-
31. yéktm  during/in the ing, dawn
32. viká   just who/what
33. ká     who, what
35. wír    finish          36. vivír finish completely
37. tái    be grown/adult/
38. vitái  grow up, become old
39. kák    not at all     40. vikák never on any occasion

23 through 34 give more exact specification or more complete information. 35 through 40 indicate a completeness and/or lack of exception.

In some cases, it is a bit difficult to indicate the intensity in an English translation. The best translation for some of these would be some sort of adverb like "around", as in "hang around, "wander around", "wait around".
41. ni-θa-č há-i vi-wá-v-k # They are walking/playing around in the water.  
(intense-3-nom. water-in intense-sit/live/be-here-3)

42. či-pá-y-a-č vi-yá-i-r uk-vi-a-l vi-wá-m-a # The bird flew into the tree and is just sitting/staying (around) there.  
(bird-the-nom. intense-fly-SS tree-the-in intense-sit/live/be-abl.-aor.)

43. mít-θ-n-a-č yá mát-m pái vi-wá-v-m-iú-č # The buffalo used to wander all over/around the country.  
(buffalo-that-the-nom. here country-abl. all intense-sit/live/be-here-abl.-be-pl.)

44. há-k vi-skwi-k i-sivo-k-yu # I stood (around) there waiting.  
(there-at intense-stand-SS l-wait-SS-be)

(the /v(i)-/ prefix is undoubtedly related to the morpheme /v/- which occurs in /rā/, this (one), here, and /vá/, arrive (at this place).)

The intensive prefix /θ(i)-/ occurs either before /v(i)-/ or before a stem and means "related to" and/or "subordinate to" but often translates "exactly" or "right".

45. yá this, here  
46. viyá this (one) here

47. niyá this (one) right here  
48. niv(i)yá this (one) just right here

The idea of "closeness of relationship and/or proximity" can also be seen in the use of /θ(i)-/ to indicate possession of nouns and subordination in verbs.

49. tál father  
50. pítál someone's/his/her father

Older Hualapai use possessive /θ(i)-/ with all three persons, but younger Hualapai use it only with the third person.

51. yá ni-tó-p-m mún-a-mi-č-k-yu # When the sun goes down, it gets cool.  
(sun subord.-be-not-yet-DS cool-aor.-hab.-distrib.-3-be)

52. kwí ni-vó-k-θó kák yám-č-a-tó-i-yu # If it rains, we won't go.  
(rain/cloud/storm subord.-return-3-if not go-pl.-aor.-not-fut.-be)

Note that it is the possessed noun and the subordinate verb that receive the /θ(i)-/ prefix. However, sometimes both verbs take /θ(i)-/ when the meaning is when X happens, Y happens.
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PREFACE

The first meeting of linguists working on Hokan and Yuman languages was held at the University of California, San Diego, in 1970 at the invitation of Margaret Langdon, who established the Yuman Languages Archives with the aid of a National Science Foundation grant. This meeting made it possible for various specialists working on these languages to get to know each other and to benefit from technical discussions of many problem points. Those attending this first meeting felt that the papers and discussions contributed so much to the advancement of the understanding of these languages that participants soon began asking when we would meet again. In 1975 Margaret Langdon again invited the Yumanists to meet at San Diego. It was felt that this and the previous meeting had contributed so much to the collective understanding of Hokan and Yuman that it was decided to meet every year if it could be arranged. In 1976 another workshop was held at UCSD, to which both Hokanists and Yumanists were invited. In 1977 Hokanists and Yumanists met at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City. In 1978 the meeting will again be at UCSD.

The participants of the 1977 Hokan-Yuman Languages Workshop gratefully acknowledge all the work done by Professor Mauricio Mixco and his assistants, which made the workshop run so smoothly and enjoyably.

Unfortunately, everyone who presented a paper at the 1976 Hokan-Yuman Languages Workshop was not able to prepare a final version for inclusion in this volume. All papers in this volume were presented in an earlier version at the 1977 workshop. The papers are arranged in the order that they appeared on the program at the workshop. The Yuman papers were given first, and papers from the other branches of Hokan followed.


The proceedings of the 1975 and 1976 workshops are now out of print, but copies may be obtained in microfiche or hard-bound copies from ERIC Clearinghouse on Languages and Linguistics, Center for Applied Linguistics, 1611 N. Kent Street, Arlington, VA 22209.

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