Hualapai Predicate Nominatives

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Introduction:

For most of the years that I have worked on Hualapai, I have worked mainly with members of a single family. During the fall-1981 semester that I spent at Peach Springs, I endeavored to work with several of Hualapai from other families. The dialect differences are even greater than I had expected, especially in the various types of verb forms and most especially in the expressive verb forms. A thorough study of the grammatical structures used for attitude expression will have to wait for a later study, but this study will focus on equational sentences.

The Hualapai were thinly dispersed over some 10,000 square miles at contact and spoke some half-dozen dialects. It has been assumed by me and others that extensive dialect leveling must have taken place since the time the Hualapai have been settled in and around Peach Springs for the last century or so, but this does not seem to be the case until very recently. Though the Hualapai Reservation was set up some one hundred years ago, many Hualapai were not at Peach Springs until much later. It seems that the severe economic difficulties of the Great Depression were the major force in causing most Hualapai to settle in and around Peach Springs. Thus, since most speakers of the language were not thrown together until the 1930's, most dialect differences were maintained until very recently. It is true that there has been a considerable amount of leveling of Hualapai dialects for most of the speakers of the language born since World War II; but since many speakers born long before World War II are still alive, there continues to be much diversity in the speech of these older speakers.

All Hualapai now speak English well, and many Hualapai have now lost much or most of their control of the Hualapai language. When I first went to Peach Springs in 1959, the children spoke Hualapai among themselves when outside playing; but in 1981 I found that the children spoke mostly English among themselves when outside playing. This reduced exposure to and practice in Hualapai and the consequent exposure to and use of English has greatly reduced the in-depth control that many of the younger speakers have. This is especially noticeable in the expressive use of the language. Many Hualapai structures are no longer clearly distinguished semantically by younger speakers. This is not merely a case of giving poor English equivalents when translating into English, but it is a case of little-used structures no longer being recognized or kept separate and often being referred to as, "Oh, that's what Family X says for what we say in a different way," or "I have heard that, but I don't know what it means," or "That doesn't make sense in Hualapai."

Also, younger speakers, especially those born since World War II, have acquired various phonological changes. For example, some speakers now have a phonemic difference between voiceless unaspirated stops and voiceless aspirated stops, derived from old clusters with /-h/. Also, voiceless allophones of syllable-initial /v/- in new environments have developed through contractions, e.g. /mihivik/, quarter, 25q, has become /mifik/, and the form /mihivik/ is no longer known to most younger speakers.

Predicate Nominatives:

There are several predicate-nominative constructions in Hualapai, but there are only two basic types: one with the nominative suffix /-ê/ on the logical subject and one with the nominative suffix /-ô/ on the logical subjective complement. It
is the latter that has become the most commonly used.

1. náč wálápáyu.  
I'm a Hualapai.

1-nom. Hualapai-be

The type with the /-č/ on the logical subjective complement marks the subject plus subjective complement as a subordinate noun clause. The /-č/ is on the subjective complement since /-č/ occurs on the last element of the subject. The noun clause is the subject of /yu/, be.

2. ná wálápáyu.  
I really am a Hualapai.

1 Hualapai-nom.-be

This is an affirmation of a fact. English often marks this meaning by putting a primary stress on the first part of a verb phrase. This structure can be the equivalent of, "I AM a Hualapai(.); "I am a full-blooded Hualapai (.). Or, as one informant said to me, "When it comes to the Hualapeis, I'm the Real McCoy." This can perhaps be seen more easily in another sentence.

3. má mówùksiwícicyu.  
You are an experienced cowboy.

2 cowcare-nom.-be

The meaning is: "You are a truly qualified cowboy." Or, as an informant put it, "I can send you out on a round-up, and you'll know what to do." The structures with /-č/ at the end of the noun clause are often translated with "-self", as in "I am a Hualapai myself(.), or "I am a cowboy myself." This use of "-self" is not reflexive, but these "-self's" are intensive pronouns.

Sentences like 2 and 3 have become more common than sentences like 1. Consequently, sentences with a noun clause as their subject are losing their emphasis and becoming just equational sentences among younger speakers.

A /-v/ suffix often occurs with both types of predicate-nominative constructions.

4. náč wálápáyunu.  
I am a Hualapai myself.

1 Hualapai-stat.-nom.-be

5. ná wálápáyučyu.  
I AM myself a Hualapai.

1 Hualapai-stat.-nom.-be

This is not the reflexive-reciprocal /-v/, but this is the stative /-v/. The Hualapai Reference Grammar describes this /-v/ to mean "state resulting from the action of a verb." (Cf. HRG 388-89.) However, the use of /-v/ here shows that it is a medio-passive stative marker (since no state can result from the action of a non-action stative verb). The addition of /-v/ to these two constructions adds force or emphasis. That /-v/ has an intensive meaning can be seen from these sentences.

6. Èlnórač piqikyu.  
Elnora is a woman/lady.

Elnora-nom. woman-ss-be.
7. Êlnórač piqívýul. Elnora is an older woman/lady.

Êlnora-nom. Woman-stat.-be.

But one might ask what is intensive about the following.

8. pà lárdálovčíyul. He is my father.

man 1-father-stat.-nom.-be

The meaning (besides "state resulting from an action", if "father" is a verb) is: "He is actually/really/truly my father."

Various alternate forms with weak vowels, that usually drop out, do occur. /pà č wàlpágyu/ is a contraction of /pà č wàlpágyu/, and /pà č wàlpágyuyu/, a contraction of /pà č wàlpágyuyu/.

In the second person, there are forms with and without /má-/; you, between the two parts of what is otherwise an indivisible stem.

9. mà wàlpá(y)yu(y)u. You are a Hualapai too.

2 Hualapai-stat.-too-be

10. mà č wàlmáryuyu(y). (ŋ is km.)

k m

2-nom. Hual-2-pay-ss-2-be

Sentence 10 forces one to ask what a stem is and what a verb is, since /má-/; a second-person pronoun, occurs within the compound stem /wàlpáč/.

11. kwè momúmitópá(y)yumi? Are you saying you are not going to eat?

sth. 2-eat-2-be-not-fut./irr.-ss-2-be-2-say

Between the stems /má/, eat, and /tó/, be not, there is no switch-reference pronoun, but each stem has a second-person subject prefix. Thus, they are phrasal verbs. It seems that /wàlpáč/, composed of the stems /wà/ or /h(o)wà/, probably ponderosa pine, and /páč/, people, has been analyzed as though it were two verb stems forming phrasal-verb construction.

FOOTNOTES

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PREFACE

Unfortunately, everyone who presented a paper at the 1982 Conference on Far Western American Indian Languages was not able to prepare a final version for inclusion in this volume. All the papers in this volume were presented in an earlier version at the 1982 workshop. The papers are arranged in the order they appeared on the program.

The participants of the conference gratefully acknowledge all the work done by Professor William Shipley and his students, which made the conference run so smoothly and enjoyably. We also wish to thank the Center for Syntactic Research at the University of California, Santa Cruz, for the support of the conference, without which the conference would not have been possible.

Copies of the 1977, 1978, 1980, and 1981 workshop proceedings are still available from the Department of Linguistics, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, IL 62901. The volumes of the 1975 and 1976 workshops, which appeared in the SIUC series, University Museum Studies, and of the 1979 workshop, which appeared in the OPOL series, are now out of print, but copies may be obtained in microfiche or hard bound volumes from the ERIC Clearinghouse on Languages and Linguistics, Center for Applied Linguistics, 3250 Prospect St., N.W., Washington, DC 20007.

The 1983 Hokan Languages Workshop will meet at The University of California, San Diego, June 16-18, 1983.

James E. Redden, Editor
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