

Summary of Facebook postings by Berkeley Karuk group, August 23-31, 2015

This week: talking about the past

August 23

Vina upiip:

íp nimáhat pa'ávansa. • I saw the man.

íp = in the (usually the recent) past

ni- = I

máh = see

-at = in the past

pa- = the

'ávansa = man

Comments

This sentence uses both *íp*, a separate word before the verb, and *-at*, a suffix after the verb. This is a common pattern.

August 24

Charlie upiip:

nanikîit neekshúpihat. • My grandmother taught me.

nani- = my

kîit = grandmother

(*nee* = *na-* + *i-*)

na- = she (did something) to me

ikshúpih = teach

-at = past

Differently from yesterday's sentence, this one uses *-at* (for past time) without *íp*. This is common too (and can refer to any past time).

August 25

Vina upiip:

tá nipikyâar pananichúupha. • I finished talking.

tá = recently completed action or in a state

ni- = I

pikyâar = finish (something)

pa- = the

nani- = my

chúupha = talking

Often *tá* is used for current states, like being hungry or tired, but it is also very often used in sentences like this, where an action has just been completed. By using *tá*, Vina was conveying that at the time she would have just finished talking. (If it had been farther in the past, she might have used *-at*.)

August 26

Chester Pepper upiip:

xás pihnêefich ukúphaanik. • Coyote did this.

xás = then

pihnêefich = coyote

u- = he

kúph(a) = do

-aanik = in the past (usually, a long time ago)

Comments

The ending *-aanik* (or *-hanik* or *-eenik*) is sometimes used when talking about things that happened long ago, as in stories, or about what people did quite a while ago. (In his grammar of Karuk, Bill Bright called it the "ancient" tense.)

August 27

Nettie Ruben upiip:

kári xás kári, ta'ítam, u'árihishriheen. • And then she sang.

kári = then

xás = then

ta'ítam = so

u- = she or he

'árihishri(h) = sing

-heen = previously, in the past

Comments

The ending *-heen* is another past-time ending (in addition to *-at* and yesterday's *-hanik*)! Karuk past-time endings are awesome.

August 28

Vina upiip:

fâat i'ávaheen? • What did you eat?

fâat = what?

i- = you

'áv = eat

-aheen = previously, in the past

August 29

Lucille upiip:

ipít ukyútunihat. • It snowed yesterday.

ipít = yesterday

u- = it

(i)kyútunih = snow

-at = in the past

Comments

Also, *ikyútunih* "to snow" is an awesome word because literally it means "to be piled down": *ikyut-* "to be in a pile" + *-unih* "down". That's snowing!

August 30

Vina upiip:

chaka'îimich vúra chúuphi. • Speak slowly.

chaka'îimich = slowly

vúra = intensive

chúuph(a) = speak

-i = command

August 31

Nettie Ruben upiip:

kári xás upikrîish, xás upihéer. • Then she sat back down and took another smoke.

(kári) xás = then

u- = he or she

p- = again ("iterative")

ikrîish = sit down

ihéer = smoke

This has a nice parallel structure, with similar verbs: *ikrîish* "sit down" and *ihéer* "smoke", both combined with the "iterative" prefix (*p-*), so they mean "sat back down" and "smoked again" ("took another smoke").