

Summary of Facebook postings by Berkeley Karuk group, June 21-27, 2015

June 21 (Andrew)

Violet Super upiip:

áta vaa káan ukrêenik papihníich. • I guess the old man lived there.

áta = I guess, maybe

vaa káan = there

(= *vaa* "thus" + *káan* "there")

u- = he

(i)krêenik = lived a long time ago

(= *ikrii* "live, sit" + *-anik* "a long time ago")

pa- = the

pihníich = old man

Comments

This sentence is another good example (like yesterday's) of *vaa káan*, which is often used to express "there" (someplace mentioned or pointed to).

Two other things of interest: (1) *áta* is translated as "maybe" in the dictionary, but definitions that better covers how it's mostly used could be "I guess" or (in a question) "I wonder"; and (2) the verb *ikrêenik* "lived (a long time ago, a while ago)" has *ikrii* "live, sit" plus a suffix *-anik* for earlier or long-ago events.

June 22 (Line)

Vina upiip:

húun áta. • It doesn't matter.

húun = harm

áta = maybe, I guess

Comments

This shows another use of *áta* which is a bit harder to make sense of, since *húun* means "harm", but somehow the two together mean "It doesn't matter".

June 23 (Andrew)

Phoebe Maddux upiip:

chishíih áta ník uum vúr u'áamti. • I guess maybe a dog eats them.

chishíih = dog

áta = I guess, maybe

ník = a little, somewhat, now and then

uum = he, she, it

vúr(a) = intensive

u- = he, she, it

'áam = eat

-ti = ongoing

Comments

If you're making a sentence with *áta* "maybe, I guess", then the most common place where this word occurs is as the second word of the sentence. Here, it goes after the subject of the sentence, *chishíih* "dog".

She's explaining why she thinks this plant is called *chishihpúrith* "dog huckleberry": because dogs maybe eat them. The reason why she uses the "durative" ending *-ti* on the verb, usually for ongoing activities like English *-ing*, is because (she guesses) dogs are always or habitually doing this.

June 24 (Line)

Vina upiip:

atafâat. • Perhaps.

ata = maybe

fâat = what

Comments

Here *ata* combines with the question word *fâat* to form a complex word meaning "perhaps".

June 25 (Andrew)

Nettie Reuben upiip:

hûut áta tá ná'iin. • I wonder what's wrong with me.

hûut = how

áta = maybe, I guess, I wonder

tá = has been or is in a state

ná- = I (experiencing something)

'iin = have something wrong with one

Comments

This is a useful pattern with the word *áta*. If you have a question, like *hûut tá ná'iin?* "what's wrong with me?", you can add *áta* to mean "I wonder ..." It softens the question to add *áta*.

Also here is the prefix *na-*. It's less common than *ni-* "I". It's used, only for first person ("I") subjects, with some verbs (like *'iin* here) where the subject is experiencing a state. (For example, *tá naxúriha* "I'm hungry.")

June 26 (Line)

Nettie Reuben upiip:

hûut áta pánikupheesh. • What will I do?

hûut = how

áta = I wonder

pa- = that

ni- = I

kuph(a) = to do or act

-eesh = in the future

June 27 (Andrew)

Chester Pepper upiip:

hûut áta kúth papunayâavahitihara. • I wonder why I'm not getting full.

hûut = how

áta = I wonder, maybe

kúth = because of

pa- = that

pu- = not

na- = I (in negative sentences)

yâavahi = get enough, get full

-tih = ongoing

-ara = not

Comments

This shows how much *áta* likes to be the second word in a sentence. (It doesn't have to be, but it often is.) The phrase *hûut kúth* means "why?" (literally "because of how?"); to soften the question ("I wonder why"), *áta* goes between those two words as the second word of the sentence.

The awesome verb *papunayâavahitihara* has some interesting things in it that might make it clearer: (1) it starts with *pa-*, which is sometimes used on the verb in a question (a more literal translation might be "I wonder why it is that I'm not getting full"); (2) it has the two negative ("not") elements *pu-* and *-ara*, which usually go together, at the beginning and end; and (3)) it has a subject marker variant *na-* "I" that is used (instead of *ni-*) in negative sentences.