Ojibwe, Potawatomi, and Menominee Words

July 20, 2017
College of Menominee Nation
Keshena, WI
Session 1

1. Overview, background info

2. Parts of words in Algonquian languages
What’s on your flash-drive

• Handouts
  • including a Table of Contents for the other resources there

• Resources
  • Hewson, John. (date?) Proto Algonkian Roots.
  • Hewson, John. (date?) Proto Algonkian Word Formatives.
  • Lockwood, Hunter T. 2017. Potawatomi Components.
  • Valentine, J. Randolph. 2014. Odawa Components.

• Also
  • Algonquian family tree
Resources on-line

• See handout “URLs, log-ins, etc.”

• Ojibwe People’s Dictionary: http://ojibwe.lib.umn.edu/

• Nishnaabemwin on-line Dictionary: http://dictionary.nishnaabemwin.atlas-ling.ca/#/help

• Menominee database: http://masenahekan.com/
  • Guest log-in: workshop
  • Guest password (today only): _guest#451
Words in Algonquian languages

- Newsflash: They can be long!
- Menominee: $k\text{iskan}i\text{tepe}hkap\text{ahcekaew}$ ‘he or she sees something in the darkness’
- Potawatomi: $zizb\text{akwdok}\text{ewneget}$ ‘it’s sugar-making time’
- Ojibwe: ???
Word parts

- You can often see pieces repeated in lots of words

- Menominee:
  - sìpepìqnen ‘it rains hard’
  - mamāhkepìqnen ‘it rains in big drops, snows in big flakes’
  - osāmepìqnen ‘it rains, snows excessively’
  - pūnepìqnen ‘it stops raining, snowing’
  - wāepepìqnen ‘it begins raining, snowing’
Word parts, cont.

- That’s what this workshop will be about
- But... we need some background first
Stems vs. Words

- Words (especially verbs) have endings on them (and sometimes prefixes) in O, P, & M

- Ojibwe:

  \[
  \text{n-zaagh-aa 'I love her'}
  \]

  \[
  \text{prefix} \quad \text{ending}
  \]

- Potawatomi:

  \[
  \text{n-deban-a 'I love her'}
  \]

  \[
  \text{prefix} \quad \text{ending}
  \]

- Menominee:

  \[
  \text{ne-tāpān-āw 'I love her'}
  \]

  \[
  \text{prefix} \quad \text{ending}
  \]
Stems vs. Words

• The part that isn’t a prefix or an ending is the STEM:

```
  n-zaagh-aa  'I love her'
   /       \   
  /         \ 
prefix     ending
```

```
  n-deban-a  'I love her'
   /       \   
  /         \ 
prefix     ending
```

```
  ne-täpän-äw  'I love her'
   /       \   
  /         \ 
prefix     ending
```
Stems vs. Words

Of course it’s not quite that easy...

• Menominee: vowel length changes
  • ne-tāpān-āw ‘I love her’
  • tāpān-ācen ‘He loves her (conj.)’

• Potawatomi: disappearing/reappearing vowels (syncope)
  • ndojgé ‘S/he sends for things’
  • n-nedjegé ‘I send for things’
Stems vs. Words

- Ojibwe – Odawa: has syncope, like Potawatomi
  - gdagshin ‘you arrive’
  - dgoshin ‘she arrives’

- Ojibwe – Minnesota (OPD):
  - Lucky!!! No significant changes.
Stems vs. Words

However...

- Sometimes when you look at a word it can be hard to decide what the ending part is
- Solution: look at multiple forms of the same word
Stems vs. Words

Consider these forms of the Potawatomi AI verb meaning ‘leave’:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Person</th>
<th>Form</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.SG</td>
<td>ḃmaji</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.SG</td>
<td>gmaji</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.EXCL</td>
<td>ḃmajimen</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.INCL</td>
<td>gmajimen</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.PL</td>
<td>gmajim</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.PL</td>
<td>majik</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

***Conclusion: stem is /maji/ 😊
Stems vs. Words – Practice

➢ Try finding the stem for the words on the handout

Ojibwe:

• What is the stem of gdagoshnam ‘you (pl.) arrive’?
  • you could say it has three stems: dagshin, dgoshin, dgoshn
  • or you could just say it has one: dagoshin

Potawatomi:

• What is the stem of gwabdam ‘you (pl.) look at it’?
  • wabd

Menominee:

• What is the stem of kenānemenaw ‘you (pl.) fetch us’?
  • nān
Moral of the story (so far)

• You can find the stem by removing any prefix and any endings
  • but in many of the languages you have to be a bit careful because the form of the stem may change a little depending on prefixes and endings
Who cares about stems, anyway?

- Grammar geeks
- Speakers who want to figure out the meaning of an unknown word
- Speakers who want to be creative and come up with new words
Stems

• Contain building blocks: “components”

For example:

• Ojibwe (OPD): biiniingwe ‘she has a clean face’
  biin-iingw-e
  clean face AI

• Menominee: kesēqnaehkow ‘she washes her face’
  kesēqn-aehk(w)-e
  rub face AI
Stems

A few more examples

• Potawatomi: mskwabkedé ‘it (rock or metal) is red hot’
  mskw-abk-edé
  (meskw-abek-edé)
  red rock/metal heat.VII

• Menominee: maehkuapaehketₐₑw [same meaning]
  (maehkw-ₐpaehk-etₑₑ(-w))
  red rock/metal heat.VII
Components

- Three main types:
  - Initial
  - Medial
  - Final

- Ojibwe (OPD): biiniingwe ‘she has a clean face’
  biin -iingw -e
  clean face AI
  INITIAL MEDIAL FINAL

- This final only gives the word its part of speech
Components

- Three main types:
  - Initial
  - Medial
  - Final

- Potawatomi: mskwabkedé 'it (rock or metal) is red hot'
  
  mskw - abk - edé
  
  (meskw - abek - edé)
  
  red  rock/metal  heat.VII
  INITIAL  MEDIAL  FINAL
  
  • this final gives the word its part of speech plus some meaning ('heat')
Components

• Three main types:
  • Initial
  • Medial
  • Final

• What are the possibilities for combination?
  • there’s some disagreement...
  • probably most people agree on what we’ll give here
Component combination possibilities

1. Initial alone
   • note: some linguists might look at this differently but let’s not worry about it
   • Menominee: āmōw ‘bee’

2. Initial + final
   • Menominee: akuaqtaw ‘s/he moves out, gets out of the water’
     \[ \text{akwā} \quad -qtā \quad (-w) \]
     \[ \text{out from water} \quad -\text{activity/movement AI (ending)} \]
     INITIAL \quad FINAL
Component combination possibilities

3. Initial + medial + final
   • Menominee: \textit{aqsetāhkwahpenāew} ‘she ties it (an.) tight to something solid’
     
     aqsetāhkwahpen(-āew)
     (aqset -āhk- -ahpeN)

     close wood/solid tie
     INITIAL MEDIAL FINAL

Summary:
• Initial alone
• Initial + final
• Initial + medial + final
Algonquian languages

- Why these similarities across the languages?

- Linguists’ explanation: they’re related languages
  - from the same language family: Algonquian family

- We hypothesize: descended from one ancestor language
  - when people moved apart, the way they talked changed
  - eventually developed into different languages
  - too long ago for us to have direct evidence
  - but linguistics has good methods for hypothesizing about it
Algonquian languages (cont.)

- Similarities in components

- Also in sounds
  - Potawatomi: mskwabkedé 'it (rock or metal) is red hot'
  - Ojibwe: miskwaabikide [same meaning]
  - Menominee: maehkuapaehketəew [same meaning]
Back to components

• Sometimes when you put components together, there are changes that take place

• Have seen some vowel changes – length, or syncope

• Can also have changes at “edges” of components (beginning and end):

  • Potawatomi “d” can change to “j”, as in...
    initial nad- ‘go after’:
    (n-) nad-wa ‘I go get something for him’
    (n-) naj-betwana ‘I run to go get him’
Changing stem forms (cont.)

- Menominee “n” ("N") can change to “s”, as in...
  - final -aeN ‘causative’:
    - akōnæw ‘he hangs it (an.) up’
    - akōşen ‘hang it (an.) up!’

- Ojibwe “t” can change to “ch”, as in...
  - initial apiit- ‘to a certain extent or degree’:
    - apiitadeyaa ‘it is so wide’
    - apiichaa ‘it is a certain distance’
Summary so far...

- Stems in Algonquian languages are made up of word-parts:
  - Initial
  - Medial
  - Final

- This is known as “primary derivation”:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Medial</th>
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<td>Primary Derivation</td>
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And something new:

- You can also add a final to a stem (which is itself made up of some set of components)
- This is called “secondary derivation”:
Secondary derivation

Menominee:

- koskōsew ‘s/he wakes up’ (AI)
  - contains these components:
    - kosko- ‘wake up’ (initial)
    - -aese ‘quality, state’ (final)
  - stem: /koskose/-

You can take that stem and add another final:

- koskōsehaew ‘s/he wakes him or her up’ (TA)
  - contains these pieces:
    - koskose- (stem)
    - -h ‘causative’ (final)
Secondary derivation

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#### Primary Derivation

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**STEM**
Secondary derivation

Ojibwe: (from Valentine’s grammar)

- gaagiijndbe ‘have a sore head’ (AI)
  - contains these components:
    - gaagiij- ‘sore’ (initial)
    - -ndib- ‘head’ (medial)
    - -e ‘VAI’ (final)
  - stem: /gaagiijndibe-/ 

You can take that stem and add another final:

- gaagiijndbeakaazo ‘pretend to have a sore head’ (AI)
  - contains these pieces:
    - gaagiijndibe- (stem)
    - -kaazo ‘pretend to’ (final)
Secondary derivation

### Primary Derivation

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Onward!