GLOSSARY OF LINGUISTIC TERMS

This glossary contains entries for the grammatical terms introduced in the lessons. At the end of each entry, cross-references to related entries are given.

ALGONQUIAN. The family of languages that Innu-aimun belongs to. This family includes Abenaki, Anishinaabemowin (Ojibwe), Arapaho, Cree, Atikamekw, Blackfoot, Delaware, Fox, Innu-aimun, Kickapoo, Malecite-Passamaquoddy, Menomini, Mi'kmaq, Potawatomi, and many others. See Language.

ANIMATE. One of the two gender classes of Innu-aimun nouns, consisting mostly though not exclusively of words referring to living things. Animate nouns have plurals that end in *-at*, such as *amishkuat* 'beavers'. See Gender; Noun.

ANIMATE INTRANSITIVE VERB (AI). A verb which has only one role associated with it, a subject, and that role is filled by an animate noun. Examples: *takushin* 's/he arrives' (single role of 'one arriving'); *atusseu* 's/he works' (single role of 'one working'); *nikûteu* 's/he gets firewood' (single role of 'one getting wood'). Compare Inanimate Intransitive Verb (II). See Transitivity; Verb.

CLAUSE. A grammatical unit that contains, minimally, a subject and a verb or predicate. For example, the following sentence contains two clauses*: When she came home, she found John there*. The principal unit, *she found John there*, is called the main or independent clause; the secondary unit, *when she came home*, is termed the dependent, embedded or subordinate clause.

COMMAND. See Imperative.

CONJUNCT. The form of the Algonquian verb that is required in certain types of clauses, among them negative main clauses after the particle *apu*, and most subordinate clauses. Conjunct verbs are characterized by lack of subject prefixes, and a special set of inflectional suffixes that vary according to the person and number of the subject, as well as the mood of the verb. Compare Independent.

CONSONANT. One of the two basic types of speech sounds (the other is vowels). Consonants begin or end syllables, while vowels occupy the middle (core) of a syllable.

Most consonants are not pronounced alone, but only with an accompanying vowel. Innu-aimun has eleven consonant sounds: *h, k, m, n, p, sh, ss, t, tsh*. The English sounds *w* and *y* are written with *u* and *i* in Innu-aimun, a legacy of the French writing system on which the Innu writing system is based. Compare Vowel. Also see Stop Consonant.

CONSONANT CLUSTER. A sequence of at least two consonants in a word. The only allowable clusters in written Innu-aimun are *shp* as in *mishpun* 'it snows', *sht* as in *mishta-* 'big', *shk* as in *amishkᵘ* 'beaver' and *ss* as in *assi* 'earth'. Sequences of consonants which sound like clusters, such as *nt*, *tn*, *mp* or *pm,* must be written with a short vowel between the two consonants: *natûkun* 'medicine', *tânite* 'where', *utinamᵘ* 's/he takes it', *kâpimipanit* 'airplane', *pimûteu* 's/he walks', *uâpameu* 's/he sees him/her'. The only exceptions occur in loan words such as *Antane* 'André, Andrew'.

COUNTERFACTUAL. A counterfactual event is one which is contrary to fact. The events of the sentence 'If I were hungry, I would eat' are counterfactual, since the intended meaning is 'I'm not hungry, and so I won't eat'.

DEMONSTRATIVE PRONOUN. A pronoun which singles out or picks out a particular member or members of a class of nouns. For example, *ume ûsh* 'this boat' picks out a particular boat that the speaker is referring to. See Pronoun.

DEPENDENT NOUN. A noun that must have a possessive prefix indicating the possessor, owner, or person in relationship to the noun, for example *nishit* 'my foot', with possessive prefix *ni-* 'my', and *tshikuss* 'your son', with possessive prefix *tshi-* 'your'. Nouns for body parts and relatives (family relations) are dependent, as well as a few others. Compare Independent Noun. See also Noun.

DIALECT. A distinctive variety of a language used by speakers in a particular geographical region or in a particular social group. The dialect continuum of Cree-Montagnais-Naskapi includes Innu-aimun as well as Plains Cree, Woods Cree, Swampy Cree, Moose Cree, Atikamekw, East Cree, and Naskapi. Innu-aimun itself has several sub-dialects: Western, spoken in Mashteuatsh and Betsiamites, as well as Uashau and Maliotenam (Sept-Iles), along with Matimekush (Schefferville); Eastern, spoken in Ekuanitshu (Mingan),

Nutashkuan (Natashquan), Unaman-shipu (La Romaine), Pakuat-shipu (St. Augustin) and Sheshatshiu. The dialect of Innu-aimun spoken in Natuashish is also referred to as Eastern Naskapi, while Western Naskapi is spoken in Kawawachikamach in Quebec. See also Language.

DIMINUTIVE. A noun having an ending which indicates that the word refers to someone or something that is a young, immature, or especially small member of the group identified by the noun. For example, *shîshîpiss* 'duckling, small duck' is the diminutive of *shîshîp* 'duck'; *ûtiss* 'small boat' is the diminutive of *ûsh* 'boat'. See Noun; Suffix.

DIPHTHONG. A sequence of two vowels that occurs, like a single vowel, within the same syllable, for example the *ei* in *utei* 'his/her heart' or the *âu* in *nuâpamâu* 'I see him/her '.

DIRECT FORMS. Forms of any TA verb with a grammatical subject higher than the grammatical object on the Algonquian person hierarchy (see p. 78). Examples of direct forms are those with a 1st or 2nd person subject and a 3rd person object; a 2nd person subject and a 1st person object; and a 3rd person subject and a 3' (obviative) object. See Inverse Forms.

DUBITATIVE. A verbal mood that represents an event not as factual, but in terms of the speaker's judgment as to its likelihood of occurrence. Dubitative events range from those perceived as probable to those perceived as unlikely. May also be referred to as Deductive. See Indicative; Evidential.

ENDING. See Suffix.

EVIDENTIAL. A verb form used to represent events that are not directly witnessed by a speaker, but rather, based on indirect evidence (e.g. sound, smell, footprints). See Dubitative; Indicative.

FIRST PERSON. One of the three 'persons' or speech roles in language communication. First person refers to the one or ones speaking. In English, the pronouns 'I', 'me' and 'my' are all first person singular, and 'we, us' and 'our' first person plural. In Innu-aimun first person pronouns include *nîn* 'I', *nînân* 'we, us (but not you)' and *tshînân* 'we, us (you and I)'. Compare Second Person; Third Person.

GENDER. The grammatical noun groups or classes in a language. Innu-aimun groups nouns into two genders, animate and inanimate. Members of the animate class include people, animals, spirits, many trees and plants,

and a number of other objects, such as pipes, spoons, and the sun and moon. Members of the inanimate class include non-living things and a few plants. Each class requires verbs of the appropriate type. See Noun.

GRAMMAR. The patterns and rules of a language, including pronunciation, how words are made from parts of words, and how words are put together to make new words, phrases and sentences.

GRAMMATICAL. Anything having to do with grammar. See Grammar.

IMPERATIVE. The form of a verb used when giving someone a command, or when telling someone to do something, for example, *mîtshishu* 'eat!'. See Verb.

INANIMATE. One of the two genders of Innu-aimun nouns, mostly words referring to non-living things. Inanimate nouns have plurals ending in -*a*, such as *ûta* 'boats'. Compare Animate. See Gender; Noun.

INANIMATE INTRANSITIVE VERB (II). One of the four main subclasses of verbs. An inanimate intransitive verb is a verb that has a single role associated with it, and the noun filling the single role is inanimate, as in *mishâu ûsh* 'The boat is big'. Compare Animate Intransitive Verb

(AI). See also Transitivity, Verb.

INDEFINITE PRONOUN. A pronoun used when the identity of a thing or individual is not fully known, for example, *auen* 'someone' and *tshekuân* 'something'. See Pronoun.

INDEPENDENT. The form of the Algonquian verb that is required in most main clauses. Independent verbs require subject prefixes, along with a special set of inflectional suffixes that vary according to the person and number of the subject, as well as the tense and mood of the verb. Compare Conjunct.

INDEPENDENT NOUN. A noun which can be used without a possessor, a noun which can stand alone, independently. Independent nouns are contrasted with dependent nouns, which require a possessor. Examples: *ûsh* 'boat', *mîtshuâp* 'house'. Compare Dependent Noun. See Noun.

INDICATIVE. A verbal mood that represents an event as factual, rather than in terms of its estimated likelihood of occurrence. See Dubitative; Evidential.

INFLECTION. Any prefix or suffix added to a word in order to add a grammatical meaning, such as who or what

the subject is, who or what the object is or the plurality of the subject or object. Example: *nitatussenân*, 'we are working' has the inflectional prefix *nit-* and the inflectional suffix *-nân*. See Noun; Prefix; Suffix.

INTERROGATIVE PRONOUN. A pronoun used in asking questions, such as *tshekuân* 'what?' (inanimate) or *auen* 'who'. See Pronoun.

INTERVOCALIC SOUND. A sound, usually a consonant, which occurs between two vowels, as in *apu* 's/he sits'. Some consonants, such as *p,t,k* and *tsh* sound more like English *b,d,g* and *j* when they occur intervocalically.

INVERSE FORMS. Forms of any TA verb with a grammatical subject lower than the grammatical object on the Algonquian person hierarchy (see p. 78). Examples of inverse forms are those with a 3rd person subject and a 1st or 2nd person object; a 1st person subject and a 2nd person object; and a 3′ (obviative) subject with a 3rd person (non-obviative) object.

LABIALIZATION. Some sounds involve a rounding of the lips as they are pronounced, for instance the vowel *u* and the consonantal pronunciation of it as [w]. In Innu-aimun the sounds *k* and *m* may occur as separate labialized consonants and are written *kᵘ* as in *atîkᵘ* 'caribou' and *mᵘ* as in *atimᵘ* 'dog'.

LANGUAGE. A system of communication used by human beings, in which meanings are associated with combinations of sounds. Sounds group together to form word parts and words, and words group together to form sentences. There are believed to be approximately 5,500 languages spoken in the world today.

LOCATIVE. The locative form of a noun expresses the noun as a location, for example, *nishitît* means 'on my foot' from the basic word *nishit* 'my foot'. Another example is *uskâtît* 'on his or her leg'. The locative is formed by adding a suffix (ending) to the noun stem. The default locative suffix is *-ît*, as in *ûtît* 'in the boat'. See Noun.

LONG VOWELS. The long vowels in Innu-aimun are *e, î, û* and *â*. Long vowels in Innu-aimun usually have greater duration than short vowels, and, unlike short vowels, tend not to be reduced to a neutral vowel such as the vowel in English *the*. See Short Vowels; Vowels.

NOMINAL. Having to do with a noun. See Noun.

MORPHEME. The smallest meaningful unit or element of a language. For example, the word *tshimassin* 'your shoe'

consists of two morphemes, *tshi-* 'your' and *massin* 'shoe'. See Word.

NOUN. One of the main parts of speech of Innu-aimun. Nouns are words for living and non-living things, such as *nâpess* 'boy', and *massin* 'shoe'. Nouns answer the question 'who' or 'what'. There are two genders or classes of nouns, animate and inanimate. Nouns can be singular or plural; in addition, they can carry obviative marking. Nouns may also be diminutive or locative. See all of these categories for additional notes.

NOUN PHRASE. A noun along with any associated helping words, such as demonstrative pronouns (*ume nâpeu* 'that man'), or a number (*peik^u nâpeu* 'one man'). See Noun.

NUMBER. Number is a grammatical category that specifies the quantity of a noun or pronoun. The most common scheme is singular (one thing) contrasted with plural (many things) and is different from the use of numerals (e.g. 1, 7, 10) to specify the exact quantity of a noun. Grammatical number is also reflected in verbs, as verbal suffixes are marked for singular and plural subjects (and, in the case of TA verbs, singular and plural objects).

OBJECT. The noun, noun phrase, or pronoun in a sentence that expresses the receiver of the action, that is, the one whom the action is done **to**. Also called a direct object. All transitive verbs have objects, as well as a subset of animate intransitive verbs. Compare Subject. See Role.

OBVIATIVE. In Algonquian languages, third persons (nouns and pronouns) are distinguished as being more prominent or less prominent. Only one noun or third person pronoun may be the primary focus of the speaker or writer at any given time. Nouns which are more prominent (in focus) are referred to as proximate. Nouns which are less prominent (out of focus) have a special ending, called the obviative by linguists. Take, for example, the sentence *Nâpeua uâpameu ishkueu* 'The woman saw a man'. Here the word for 'man', which in its basic form is *nâpeu*, has an ending -*a* attached which designates it as being out of focus (obviative). The noun *ishkueu* 'woman', however, has no such ending, and so is in focus, or highlighted in this sentence. While speakers may choose to highlight or focus on particular third persons as opposed to others, some sentence constructions require that certain nouns or

pronouns be represented as proximate (e.g., the possessor of a thing) and others as obviative (e.g. the possessee), as in *ishkueu ûtâuia* 'the woman's father'.

PARADIGM. A common set of roots or stems to which different inflectional affixes may be added, for example, the paradigm of present-tense animate intransitive (AI) verbs. See Root; Stem.

PART OF SPEECH. Also called word category. Any of the small number of classes or types into which the words of a language are grouped, on the basis of their meanings, their word structures, and the way they are used in sentences. The main parts of speech in Innu-aimun are nouns, verbs, pronouns and particles.

PARTICLE. One of the main parts of speech (word classes) of Innu-aimun. Particles are simple words that express ideas such as location (*pessîsh* 'near' and *kâtâkᵘ* 'far'), time (*anûtshîsh* 'now, today'), manner, quantity and many other concepts.

PERFECTIVE. A verbal category that represents an event as completed.

PERSON. See First Person; Second Person; Third Person.

PERSONAL PRONOUN. A pronoun that identifies one of the basic communicative roles of speaker (first person), listener (second person) or item of conversation (third person). Personal pronouns may be singular or plural. Some examples are *nîn* 'I' and *uînuâu* 'they'. Personal pronouns in Innu-aimun can also serve as possessives; thus *nîn* may be translated not only as 'I' or 'me', but also as 'mine'. See Pronoun.

PHONEME. Sounds that speakers consider to be different from other sounds of their language. For instance, English speakers hear a difference between *t* and *d,* but Innu speakers may not; speakers of Thai consider the *t* sound in *top* and the *t* sound in *stop* to be very different but English speakers do not.

PHONETICS. A set of symbols used to write words so that the pronunciation of each symbol is always the same, no matter what the language. Phonetic symbols from the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) are always written between square brackets; for instance *tsh* as [tʃ] or *sh* as [ʃ].

PHONOLOGY. The study of how languages choose and use different patterns of speech sounds. See Phoneme for examples.

PLURAL. Plural indicates more than one of a thing. The plural is made from the singular in Innu-aimun by adding an ending onto the singular. For example, the plural of *shîshîp* 'duck' is *shîshîpat* 'ducks'. Plural is contrasted with singular, which refers to one of a thing; for example, *shîshîp* refers to one duck. Compare Singular. See Noun.

POSSESSION. Possession has to do with close association between one person or thing and another person or thing. Possession may relate to close relationship, such as one's relatives or the parts of one's own body, or it may have to do with ownership or caretaking. Possession of a noun is signalled by means of prefixes and suffixes which indicate who the possessor is; for example, *nimashinaikan* takes the basic noun *mashinaikan* 'book' and adds a prefix *ni-* which indicates a first person possessor, giving the meaning 'my book'.

POSSESSOR. See Possession.

PREFIX. A word-element (morpheme) attached to the front of the main word. For example, the word *nimashinaikan* has a prefix *ni-* attached to the word *mashinaikan* 'book' to produce a more complex word meaning 'my book'. Compare Suffix. See Stem.

PRETERIT. The past tense form of a verb.

PRONOUN. A member of a small class of words which are used as replacements or substitutes for nouns, for example *tshîn* 'you', *ne* 'that' (inanimate), and *tshekuân* 'something'. There are many subtypes of pronouns, including personal pronouns, demonstrative pronouns, indefinite pronouns, focus pronouns and interrogative pronouns. See Part of Speech.

PROXIMAL. Said of a person or thing that is closer to the speaker, such as 'this book (here)'. A non-proximal is more distant from the speaker, such as 'that book (over there)'.

PROXIMATE A principal or central third person. When there is more than one third person in a particular discourse, one serves as proximate, while all others are non-proximate or obviative, and may carry obviative grammatical endings. See Obviative.

REDUPLICATION. A repetition of the first syllable of a word, usually a verb, to indicate repeated or continuous action or state. For example, *uâpameu* 's/he sees him/her' and reduplicated *uâuâpameu* 's/he examines him/her'.

ROLE. A relationship which a noun has to a verb. For

example, in the sentence *Atusseu nâpeu* 'The man is working', the noun *nâpeu* 'man' has the role of worker. In the sentence *Uâpusha nipiepan nâpeu* 'The man killed the rabbit(s)', the noun *nâpeu* 'man' has the role of killer, and the noun *uâpusha* 'rabbit(s)' has the role of the one(s) killed. See Transitivity; Verb.

ROOT. The first element (or morpheme) of a stem, which carries the main meaning of the word, as *uâp-* 'white, light' in *uâpameu* 's/he sees him/her', *uâpâtamᵘ* 's/he sees it', *uâpan* 'it is dawn', *uâpâu* 'it is white'. See Stem.

SECOND PERSON. One of the three 'persons' or speech roles in communication. Second person refers to the addressee, that is, whoever is being spoken to at the time of speaking. In English, the word 'you' is used to represent second person. In Innu-aimun, there are a number of second person pronouns, such as *tshîn* 'you' (singular), *tshînuâu* 'you' (plural), and *tshînân* 'we, us (you and I)'. Compare First Person; Third Person.

SHORT VOWELS. The short vowels of Innu-aimun are *a, i, u*. The first two of these are often reduced in speech to a sound similar to the vowel in the English word *the*. See Long Vowels; Vowels.

SINGULAR. A single one of a thing; for example, the word *shîshîp* refers to one duck. Singular (one item) is contrasted with plural (more than one item). Compare Plural.

STEM. A word or word part to which inflectional endings may be added in building words. For example, to make the plural of *shîshîp* 'duck' a suffix *-at* is added to the stem producing *shîshîpat* 'ducks'. See Root.

STOP (CONSONANT). A consonant produced with complete closure of the vocal tract, whether by contact of the tongue with the roof of the mouth (e.g. *t*) or by lip closure (e.g. *p*). Other types of consonant (e.g. *sh, ss, h*) do not involve complete closure in the mouth.

SUBJECT. The noun, noun phrase, or pronoun in a sentence that represents the doer of the action. In sentences with intransitive verbs, the subject is the noun or pronoun filling the verb's one role. Compare Object. See Role.

SUFFIX. A word-element (morpheme) attached to the end of the main word. For example, the word *mashinaikana* has a plural suffix *-a* attached to the word *mashinaikan* '(a) book', to produce the plural form,

meaning 'books'. Compare Prefix. See Stem.

SYLLABLE. A sound grouping the core of which is a vowel. Minimally, a syllable consists of a single vowel, as in *e-he* 'yes', but may also consist of a vowel plus its preceding consonant or consonant cluster (e.g. the two syllables of *ni-pî* 'water'), or a (consonant plus) vowel plus following consonant or consonant cluster (e.g. *a-timᵘ* 'dog ', *a-mishkᵘ* 'beaver'). Syllables that end in a vowel are referred to as open syllables, while those that end in a consonant are called closed syllables. See Consonant; Vowel.

THIRD PERSON. One of the three 'persons' or speech roles in communication. Third person refers to whoever or whatever is being spoken about. In English, the words 'he, she' and 'it', along with all nouns, represent third person. In Innu-aimun, there are many third person pronouns, such as *uîn* 'she/her, he/him, it' (animate), and *uînuâu* 'they'. In English, third persons are grouped into three genders, masculine (he), feminine (she), and neuter (it). In Innu-aimun, third person divides into two genders or groups, animate and inanimate. So, for example, there are different third person demonstrative

pronouns used when referring to animate things as opposed to inanimate: *utshenat* 'these' (animate), *umenua* 'these' (inanimate). Compare First Person, Second Person. See Demonstrative Pronoun; Pronoun.

TRANSITIVITY. Transitivity is a property of verbs. Verbs express actions, states, experiences. Each verb has one or more roles associated with it. These roles are filled by nouns or pronouns. Some actions have only a single role involved, for example, in *Mîtshishu atimᵘ* 'The dog is eating' the verb *mîtshishu* 'eat' has only the role of the one eating, in this case filled by the noun *atimᵘ* 'dog'. However in *Nâpeua uâpameu atimᵘ* 'The dog sees the man', there are two roles: the role of the one seeing, filled by the dog, and the role of the one being seen, filled by the man. Verbs which have only one role are intransitive. Verbs that have two or more roles are generally transitive, except for the subset of Animate intransitive (AI) verbs known as TI2. Intransitive verbs are subclassified according to whether their one role is filled by an animate noun or an inanimate noun. When the noun filling the single role is animate, the verb is an animate intransitive verb (AI), for example, *Mishishtu nâpeu*

'The man is big'. When the noun filling the single role is inanimate, the verb is an inanimate intransitive verb (II), for example *Mishâu ûsh* 'The boat is big'. Transitive verbs are subclassified on the basis of the animacy of their objects: when the object is animate, the verb is a transitive animate verb (TA), as in *Atîkua uâpamepan nâpeu* 'The man saw a caribou'. Here the object is *atîkua* 'caribou', which is animate. In *Ûsh uâpâtamûpan nâpeu* 'The man saw a boat', the object is inanimate, *ûsh* 'boat'. Verbs used with inanimate objects are called transitive inanimate verbs (TI).

TRANSITIVE ANIMATE VERB (TA). A transitive verb having an animate object, as in *Atîkua uâpamepan nâpeu* 'The man saw a caribou'. Here the object is the animate noun *atîkua* 'caribou'. Compare Transitive Inanimate Verb. See Direct Forms; Inverse Forms; Transitivity; Verb.

TRANSITIVE INANIMATE VERB (TI). A transitive verb having an inanimate object, as in *Ûsh uâpamepan nâpeu* 'The man saw a boat'. Here the object is inanimate, *ûsh* 'boat'. Compare Transitive Animate Verb. See Transitivity; Verb.

VERB. One of the major parts of speech in Innu-aimun. Verbs refer to actions, states, experiences, and qualities. Verbs answer the questions 'What is happening?' or 'What's the state of things?' or 'What does something look like?' Two very important properties of verbs are their transitivity and the gender of their subjects and objects. Based on these properties, there are four main subclasses of verbs: animate intransitive, inanimate intransitive, transitive animate, and transitive inanimate. See these topics for additional information.

VOCABULARY. 1. Individual words used in a language. 2. All the words of a language taken together. See Word.

VOWELS. One of the two basic types of speech sounds. (The other is consonants). Vowels occupy the middle (core) of a syllable. There are three long vowel and short vowel pairs in Innu-aimun (*a â, i î, u û*), along with the long vowel *e*. The circumflex accent ^ over a vowel indicates that it is long. The short vowels sometimes disappear in pronunciation when words are contracted but are normally used in the written form. Compare Consonants.

WORD. The smallest unit of meaning in a language that is spoken by itself. For example, in answer to the question, *Tshekuân kâ uâpâtaman*? 'What

did you see?', one can answer *massin* 'shoe', or *tshimassin* 'your shoe', but not just *tshi-* 'your…', because *massin* and *tshimassin* are words, but the morpheme *tshi-* is only part of a word. The basic, core part of a word is called the stem. Elements added to the front of the stem in order to give additional meaning are called prefixes. Elements added to the end of the stem in order to give additional meanings are called suffixes. The grammatical prefixes and suffixes together are the inflections of the word. Some words consist of a stem alone, such as *massin* 'shoe'; other words have inflections as well, such as *tshimassinnâna* 'our shoes' with prefixes and suffixes. See Inflection; Morpheme; Prefix; Suffix; Stem.

WORD CATEGORY. See Part of Speech.