

## GUIDE TO COMMON PRONUNCIATIONS

Listed below are some of the most frequent pronunciations in Sheshatshiu Innu-aimun that may not be obvious from the standard spelling system adopted in this volume. Not included are several morphemes whose different forms are explained in the text – among them personal prefixes (e.g. *ni-/nit-* and *u-/ut-*, pages 25-26, 30), the possessive marker *-im* (pages 26-27) and the locative suffix *-ît* (page 20), along with the vowel changes that occur in the initial syllable of verbs in the changed conjunct form (pages 91-92).

Note that the numbers in brackets represent a partial listing of pages where each feature occurs.

### Vowel labialization (lip rounding)

i) The short vowels *i* and *a* are pronounced like *u* under the influence of a following lip-rounded consonant, such as *k<sup>u</sup>* and *m<sup>u</sup>* (pages 2, 6, 86). *-ku-* [kw] may also labialize an immediately following vowel (page 7).

*mishtik<sup>u</sup>* 'stick, tree', pronounced [mɨʃtɔk<sup>w</sup>]

*atim<sup>u</sup>* 'dog', pronounced [ətɔm]

*takuan* 'it is', pronounced [tɔgwɔn]

ii) Labialization of short *i* and *a* may occur when *u* is found in the following syllable (page 7).

*pipun* 'winter', pronounced [pɔpɔn]

iii) Rounding also results from the word-initial sequence *u + p/m*; initial *u* may then be deleted, or else 'copied' to the following syllable (page 7).

*umashinaikan* 'his/her book', pronounced [(u)mɔʃneygɔn]

*ume* 'this', pronounced [(u)mwe]

### Short vowel deletion

Short *i* and short *a* are often not pronounced in the following environments:

- i) word-initially before a consonant (page 7)

*ashtâu* 's/he puts it', pronounced [staw]

- ii) within words, after another vowel (pages 74, 75)

*nashkumeu* 's/he thanks him/her', from the form *nashku* + *ameu*

- iii) within words, between identical consonants, as well as phonetically similar ones such as *p\_m*, *m\_p*, *n\_t* and *t\_n* (page 7). This includes the sequence *-nin-*, notably when the suffixes *-inân* and *-inu* are added to words ending in *-n* (pages 24, 32).

*apu uâpamimaki* 'I don't see him/her'(obv.), pronounced as if written 'uâpamaki'

*tshimashinaikannân* 'our (incl) book'

*pimûteu* 's/he walks', pronounced [pmodew]

*pimipâtâu* 's/he runs past, etc.', pronounced as if written 'pimpâtâu'

*tshissenitam<sup>u</sup>* 's/he knows (it)', pronounced as if written 'sentam<sup>u</sup>'

*apu takushinit* 's/he is not coming' [bo tʊɟʌnt]

*anitshenat* 'those (ones), pronounced [ʌnʧʌnt]

### Vowel nasalization

When a vowel is followed by *-nish*, the *-n-* may disappear, resulting in a nasalized vowel (pages 18, 36). In addition, the sequences *-âuk*, *-auk* and *-euk* are often nasalized and thus sound as if an *-n* has been inserted before the final *-k* (page 116).

*patshuiânish* 'shirt', pronounced [pəʧwēyʃ]

*utânisha* 'his/her daughter', pronounced [odâyʃa]

***ai* pronounced as *ei***

The vowel sequence written *ai* is pronounced *ei* (pages 5, 74).

*maikan* 'wolf', pronounced [meygən]

*peshaim<sup>u</sup>* 's/he paints it', pronounced [peʃeym]

**Vowel changes in preverbs I: two short vowels**

When a preverb ending in short *a* combines with a verb beginning with short *a* or short *i*, the result is [ey]; that is, it sounds as if written *ei* (page 51). Otherwise, when two short vowels are in combination, one will not be pronounced (and if one is *u*, it will be the one retained).

*tshika atusseu* 's/he will be working', pronounced [tʃəgydussew]

**Vowel changes in preverbs II: short + long vowel,  
or long + short vowel**

i) When a preverb ending in a short vowel combines with a verb beginning with a long vowel (or vice-versa), the short vowel is absorbed by the long vowel (but note ii below). If the short vowel is *u*, however, the *u* continues to be pronounced (page 51).

*nitshî itâten* 'I can go (there)', pronounced [nɔʒidodɛn]

*tshipâ utinam<sup>u</sup>* 's/he should take it', pronounced [tʃpaodnɒm]

ii) If a preverb ending in short *a* or *i* is followed by a verb with initial *â*, the short vowel is normally pronounced as the glide [y] (pages 51).

*tshika âkushu* 's/he will be sick', pronounced [tʃəgyagoʃo]

**Vowel changes in preverbs III: two long vowels**

When a preverb ending in a long *â* or *î* combines with a verb beginning with a long *â* or *î*, both are pronounced, with a glide [y] inserted between them (page 51).

*uî âkushu* 's/he tends to be sick', pronounced [wiyagoʃo]

***sh* pronounced as *h***

The consonant noted *sh* is often pronounced as *h*, especially when it does not occur as the initial sound of a word (page 8).

*shîshîp* 'duck', pronounced as if written 'shîhîp' or 'hîhîp'  
*eshê* 'yes' normally pron. *ehê*, the spelling used in this volume

***tsh* + (*i/a*)*t* pronounced as [st]**

When deletion of the short vowel *a* or *i* means that *tsh* is directly followed by *t*, the resulting cluster is pronounced *st* (pages 8, 43).

*tshitatussen* 'you work', pronounced as if written 'statussen'

***tsh* + (*i*)*ss* pronounced as [ss]**

When deletion of the short vowel *i* means that *tsh* is directly followed by *ss*, the resulting cluster is reduced to *ss* (page 8).

*tshissenitam<sup>u</sup>* 's/he knows (it)', pronounced as if written 'sentam<sup>u</sup>'

***tsh* + (*i*)*sh* pronounced as *tsh***

When deletion of a short vowel means that *tsh* is directly followed by *sh*, the resulting cluster is pronounced simply as *tsh* (page 8).

*tshishennu* 'elder', pronounced as if written 'tshennu'

***tsh + (i)n pronounced as [tn]***

When deletion of a short vowel means that *tsh* is directly followed by *n*, the *tsh* sound is simplified to *t* (pages 8, 104).

*takuâ<sup>u</sup>tshin* 'it is fall', pronounced as if written 'takuâtn'

***-tî pronounced as -tshî***

The verbal ending *-tî* is pronounced with palatalized *-tshî* in Sheshatshiu Innu-aimun (pages 47, 106, 108).

*uâpannitî* 'tomorrow', pronounced as if written 'uâpantshî '

**Deletion of the syllable *-ka-***

In the sequence *âkan*, *-ka-* is often deleted, resulting in a pronunciation that sounds like *ân* (page 8).

*mî<sup>u</sup>tshishuâkan* 'table', pronounced [mitʃwan]

**Deletion of the syllable *-pâ-***

The syllable *pâ* is often deleted in the various forms of the verb *uâpâtam<sup>u</sup>* and related forms such as *tshîtâpâtam<sup>u</sup>*.

*uâpâtam<sup>u</sup>* 's/he sees it' (pages 41, 59, 66, 101, 107)

*apu uâpâtâk* 's/he doesn't see it', pronounced as if written 'apu uâtâk'



