

LESSON 10

THE INANIMATE INTRANSITIVE (II) VERB

DIALOGUE

Pinûte mâk Uniâm

- P. *Tshika minu-tshîshikâu â?* Is the weather going to be fine?
- U. *Ehe, tshika minu-tshîshikâu.* Yes, it's going to be fine.
Miâm nûkushu pîshim^u. The sun is just beginning to appear.
Tshika tshishiteu. It's going to be warm.
- P. *Tshimuanîpan¹ utâkushît.* It rained yesterday.
- U. *Ehe, mishta-ashissû.* Yes, it is very muddy.
Mishta-nîpû patshuiânitshuâp. The tent is very wet.
- P. *Kie nuâpuiân iât mishta-nîpû.* And my blanket is very wet, too.

SENTENCES

- Matshi-tshîshikâu.* The weather is bad.
- Tshimuan.* It's raining.
- Mishta-tâkâu.* It's really cold.
- Tshishiteu.* It's warm.
- Shâsh â uâpan?* Is it getting light out?
- Ehe, shâsh tshekât uâpan.* Yes, it's almost dawn/ daybreak.
- Mâuât, eshk^u tipishkâu.* No, it's still dark out.

¹ Although written as *-îpan*, this suffix is pronounced as *-ûpan* on Inanimate Intransitive verbs in Sheshatshiu.

VOCABULARY

<i>ashissû</i>	(II verb)	it is muddy
<i>assî</i>	(inan noun)	ground, moss, earth, country
<i>eshk^u</i>	(indecl part)	still, again
<i>iât</i>	(indecl part)	also, too
<i>matshi-tshîshikâu</i>	(II verb)	the weather is bad
<i>minu-tshîshikâu</i>	(II verb)	it is a fine day; the weather is fine
<i>nipû</i>	(II/ AI verb)	it is wet, s/he is wet
<i>nûkushu</i>	(AI verb)	s/he appears
<i>patshuiânitshuâp</i>	(inan noun)	tent
<i>pîshim^u</i>	(an noun)	sun, month
<i>tâkâu</i>	(II verb)	it is cold
<i>tipishkâu</i>	(II verb)	it is night, dark outside
<i>tshimuan</i> (past tense <i>tshimuanâpan</i>) ²	(II verb)	it is raining
<i>tshîshikâu</i>	(II verb)	it is day
<i>tshishiteu</i>	(II verb)	it is warm, hot
<i>uâpan</i>	(II verb)	it is dawn, daybreak, daylight
<i>uâpuiân</i>	(inan noun)	blanket
<i>utâkushît</i>	(indecl part)	yesterday

POINTS OF GRAMMAR

I. II Verbs

Inanimate intransitive (II) verbs take only 3rd person subjects. Structurally, the II verb resembles the AI in that an II final (cf. AI 'stem vowels') is added to an II stem before the 3rd singular inflectional suffix *-u*:

² The past tense is not given in full until Lesson 14 below.

II STEM-FINAL	INFLECTION	EXAMPLES	
<i>â</i>	<i>u</i>	<i>uâpâu</i>	it is white
		<i>uîshâuâu</i>	it is yellow
<i>e</i>	<i>u</i>	<i>tshîâtâputeu</i>	it floats away
<i>an</i>	<i>(u)</i> ³	<i>uâpan</i>	it is dawn, daybreak
		<i>tshimuan</i>	it is raining
<i>in</i>	<i>(u)</i>	<i>akûtin</i>	it floats

According to Denny (1977),⁴ both *-e* and *-in* II finals are found with roots denoting processes: but while *-e* marks a genuine process or change of state, *-in* denotes the state resulting from a process. Denny suggests that *-â* and *-an* finals occur only with verbs representing genuine states: *-â* designates a state which may be objectively assessed (e.g. size, shape, colour), and *-an* designates one which requires a certain amount of judgement or perception.

A complete II paradigm is provided below for verbs in *-âu*, *-eu* and *-n* (whether *-an* or *-in*).

<i>â</i> -stems				
3s	<i>uâp</i>	<i>â</i>	<i>u</i>	it (inan) is white
3p	<i>uâp</i>	<i>â</i>	<i>ua</i>	they (inan) are white
3's ⁵	<i>uâp</i>	<i>â</i>	<i>nu</i>	it (inan, obv) is white (e.g. his/her canoe)
3'p	<i>uâp</i>	<i>â</i>	<i>nua</i>	they (inan, obv) are white (e.g. his/her canoes)
<i>e</i> -stems				
3s	<i>tshîâtâpût</i>	<i>e</i>	<i>u</i>	it floats away
3p	<i>tshîâtâpût</i>	<i>e</i>	<i>ua</i>	they float away
3's	<i>tshîâtâpût</i>	<i>e</i>	<i>nu</i>	it (obv) floats away
3'p	<i>tshîâtâpût</i>	<i>e</i>	<i>nua</i>	they (obv) float away

³ A *-u* ending for *n*-stem II verbs would only be found among younger speakers, by analogy with stems ending in a vowel.

⁴ Peter Denny. 1977. Semantics of abstract finals in inanimate intransitive verbs. In W. Cowan (ed.). *Actes du huitième congrès des algonquinistes*, 124-142. Ottawa: Carleton University.

⁵ 3's = obviative sg subject form, and 3'p = obviative plural subject.

				<i>n</i> -stems	
3s	<i>âpat</i>	<i>an</i>			it is useful
3p	<i>âpat</i>	<i>an</i>	<i>a</i>		they are useful
3's	<i>âpat</i>	<i>an</i>	<i>nu</i>		it (obv) is useful
3'p	<i>âpat</i>	<i>an</i>	<i>nua</i>		they (obv) are useful

II. Word Formation

Many AI verbs have II counterparts. That is, the same root may be processed with either an AI or an II final; the appropriate inflection is then added to the stem. Some of the correspondences involved are illustrated by the following groups:

	AI	II
		(<i>n</i>-stems)
be heavy	<i>kushikutu</i>	<i>kushikuan</i>
be difficult	<i>ânimishu</i>	<i>âniman</i>
be blown away	<i>uepâshu</i>	<i>uepâshtan</i>
grow	<i>nîtâtushu</i>	<i>nîtâtushin</i>
		(<i>â</i>-stems)
be hard	<i>mashkûshû</i>	<i>mashkuâu</i>
be square	<i>kashkatishû</i>	<i>kashkatshâu</i>
be white	<i>uâpishû</i>	<i>uâpâu</i>
be black	<i>kashteushû</i>	<i>kashteuâu</i>
be red	<i>mîkushû</i>	<i>mîkuâu</i>
be blue	<i>uâsheshkunishû</i> ⁶	<i>uâsheshkunâu</i>
		(<i>e</i>-stems)
be burning	<i>ishkuâshu</i>	<i>ishkuâteu</i>
be dry	<i>pâshu</i>	<i>pâshteu</i>

⁶ Pronounced in Sheshatshiu as *uâsheshkungshû*.

One frequently-occurring AI/II correspondence is the following:

AI	II
-âkushu	-âkuan

This final + inflection combination may be preceded by the morpheme⁷ *-m* 'smell' as in:

s/he smells good	<i>uîtschimâkushu</i>	(AI)
it smells good	<i>uîtschimâkuan</i>	(II)
s/he smells like this	<i>ishimâkushu</i>	(AI)
it smells like this	<i>ishimâkuan</i>	(II)

or by *-n* 'appear, see, look' as in:

s/he looks like this	<i>ishinâkushu</i>	(AI)
it looks like this	<i>ishinâkuan</i>	(II)
s/he looks clean	<i>uâshkaminâkushu</i>	(AI)
it looks clean	<i>uâshkaminâkuan</i>	(II)

EXERCISES

I. Translate the following sentences into English:

1. *Nete mîtskishuâkanit takuannua Tshân umashinaikana.*⁸
2. *Uâpishû niteminân.*
3. *Uîtschimâkuan patshuiânish.*
4. *Âpatan mashinaikan. Âpatannu Mânî umashinaikan.*
5. *Tshika tshîtâputeua ûta.*
6. *Shâsh â pâstenu Manî-Nuîsh utakûp?*

⁷ In Algonquian linguistics, morphemes of this type are referred to as medials: they follow the root, but precede the final morpheme of the stem.

⁸ Even though the final *-a* suffix of *umashinaikana* represents a non-obviative plural, the verb in this example is marked as obviative, thus displaying semantic, rather than morphological, agreement.

Additional Vocabulary

patshuiânish (an noun) shirt

II. Translate the following sentences into Innu-aimun:

1. Benedict's blanket is wet, and your blanket is wet, too.
2. George's boats are white.
3. Your (pl) tent is burning.
4. Our (inclusive) cars are yellow.
5. Money should be useful.