

LESSON 11

THE TRANSITIVE INANIMATE (TI) VERB; RELATIONAL FORMS; COMPARATIVES

DIALOGUES

I. Shímún māk Ân

- S. *Ûsh nuâpâten.*¹ I see a canoe.
- A. *Tshîtâputeu nete mâmît.* It's drifting off downstream.
- S. *Nîn an nitûsh.* It's my canoe.
- A. *Âishkat pût tshipâ tshî mishken.* You'll probably be able to find it later.
- S. *Tânite etât apuî?* Where is the paddle?
- A. *Nîtshît anite tâu.* It's in my house.
- S. *Nete â takuan tshîtsh?* Is your house over there?
- A. *Ehe, tshuâpâten â?* Yes, do you see it?

II. Shuâush māk Pûniss

- S. *Tshuû mîshishun â, Pûniss?* Do you want to eat, Puniss?
- P. *Mâuât, nuî tshîtûten.* No, I want to leave.
Nuî nâtshi-natautîkuen. I want to go caribou hunting.
- S. *Muk^u eshk^u mishta-kâtâk^u* But the caribou are still very far
tâuat atîkuat. away.
- P. *Tshika uâpâten mâte. Uâpâkî* Well then, wait and see.
atîku-uiâsh tshika Tomorrow you'll have caribou
kanaueniten. meat.

¹ The normal pronunciation of this verb is [nəwatən], with the *pâ* syllable deleted. Similarly the third person form *uâpâtam*^u (in the Vocabulary on the next page) is pronounced as if it were spelled *uâtam*^u.

VOCABULARY

<i>âishkat</i>	(indecl part)	in the future, later, afterwards
<i>kanuenitam^u</i>	(TI verb)	s/he has, possesses, keeps, looks after it
<i>kâtâk^u</i>	(indecl part)	far (from)
<i>mâmît</i>	(indecl part)	downstream
<i>mâte</i>	(indecl part)	well then, for instance
<i>mishkam^u</i>	(TI verb)	s/he finds it
<i>natautîkueu</i>	(AI verb)	s/he hunts caribou
<i>tshîtâputeu</i>	(II verb)	it drifts, floats away
<i>uâpâtam^u</i>	(TI verb)	s/he sees it
<i>uiâsh</i>	(inan noun)	meat

POINTS OF GRAMMAR

I. Transitive Inanimate Verb Paradigm

The following table presents the inflectional endings found in most Transitive Inanimate verbs. The stem selected is *uâpât*- 'see it', which is composed of root *uâp*- 'see' + TI final *-ât*, a final used with verbs that involve the face (mouth and eyes).

	SUBJECT PREFIX	VERB STEM	INFLECTION	
1	<i>n</i>	<i>uâpât</i>	<i>en</i>	I see it
2	<i>tsh</i>	<i>uâpât</i>	<i>en</i>	you see it
3	-	<i>uâpât</i>	<i>am^u</i>	s/he sees it
3'	-	<i>uâpât</i>	<i>aminua</i>	s/he (e.g. his father) sees it
1p	<i>n</i>	<i>uâpât</i>	<i>enân</i>	we (excl) see it
21p	<i>tsh</i>	<i>uâpât</i>	<i>enân</i>	we (incl) see it
2p	<i>tsh</i>	<i>uâpât</i>	<i>enâu</i>	you (pl) see it
3p	-	<i>uâpât</i>	<i>amuat</i>	they see it

A small subgroup of TI verbs possesses slightly different endings from those listed above. This subgroup takes a 3rd singular inflection *-aim^u* (*a* + connective *i* + *aim^u*) rather than *-am^u*. An example follows:

	SUBJECT PREFIX	VERB STEM	INFLECTION	
1	<i>ni</i>	<i>shashk</i>	<i>ain</i>	I light it
2	<i>tshi</i>	<i>shashk</i>	<i>ain</i>	you light it
3	-	<i>shashk</i>	<i>aim^u</i>	s/he lights it
3'	-	<i>shashk</i>	<i>aiminua</i>	s/he (e.g. his father) lights it
lp	<i>ni</i>	<i>shashk</i>	<i>ainân</i>	we (excl) light it
21p	<i>tshi</i>	<i>shashk</i>	<i>ainân</i>	we (incl) light it
2p	<i>tshi</i>	<i>shashk</i>	<i>ainâu</i>	you (pl) light it
3p	-	<i>shashk</i>	<i>aimuat</i>	they light it

The number (singular or plural) of the inanimate object is not marked in any way in the TI verb. Thus the verb forms given above will not change if the object is plural (e.g. *Ûta nuâpâten* 'I see the boats').

II. Objects of TI Verbs

The obviative category was introduced in Lesson 6 to mark animate nouns that have a 3rd person possessor, as well as both animate and inanimate nouns possessed by a noun that already bears an obviative suffix. Obviation also occurs when nouns are objects of verbs, and here the pattern is slightly different. This section outlines the inflectional patterns of inanimate objects, that is, the objects of TI verbs. Obviative patterns in animate nouns that serve as objects will be discussed in Lesson 12, which deals with TA verbs.

When an inanimate noun is the object of a verb with a 1st or 2nd person subject, the noun will occur in 3rd person (non-obviative) form. But when the subject is 3rd person, an inanimate noun object must be marked as obviative, by means of the following endings:

Singular inanimate object:	<i>-inu</i>
Plural inanimate object:	<i>-a</i>

Contrast:

- | | | | |
|----|--|------|---|
| a) | <i>ûsh nimishken</i>
lit. 'a boat I find' | with | <i>ûtinu mishkam^u</i>
'a boat s/he finds' |
| b) | <i>ûta nimishken</i>
lit. 'some boats I find' | with | <i>ûta mishkam^u</i>
'some boats s/he finds' |

-inu reduces phonetically to [no] after nouns ending in *-n*:

mashinaikannu mishkam^u
lit. 'a book s/he finds'

The only exception to the above pattern occurs when a verb with 3rd person subject takes a possessed inanimate object. Contrast:

umashinaikannu mishkamueu²
lit. 'his/her (i.e. someone else's) book s/he finds'

umashinaikan mishkam^u
lit. 'his/her (own) book s/he finds'

The expected obviative marking does not occur on the object when the 3rd person possessor is identical to the subject of the verb, as in the example immediately above. If, however, the possessor is 1st or 2nd person, the object of a 3rd subject verb **does** bear the normal obviative marking, as in:

tshimashinaikannu mishkam^u
lit. 'your book s/he finds'

Should the possessor of the inanimate noun object be already marked as obviative (e.g. 'John's father'), the noun object takes a slightly different set of '2nd obviative' (3rd) or '5th person' endings. These are as follows:

singular:	<i>-inu</i>
plural:	<i>-inua</i>

² This verb form, a relational, is dealt with in III below.

Examples: (a plus sign (+) is used to separate word parts)

Tshân û + tâui + a u + mûkumân + nu mishk + amu + eu
lit. 'John his father his (i.e. his father's) knife finds' (relational)
'John finds his father's knife.'

Tshân û + tâui + a u + mûkumân + nua mishk + amu + eu
'John finds his father's knives.'

III. Relational Forms

Both AI and TI verbs may be made 'relational' to express the involvement of an animate which does not play the role of either subject or (in the case of TI verbs) object of the verb. Thus an AI relational form would typically be found in a sentence like 'I am walking on John's shoe', where the animate 'John' is involved only indirectly in the event, since he is neither the subject nor object of the verb. A TI relational form would typically be found when the object of the verb is possessed by an animate that is not the subject, as in 'I like his/her book'.

The AI relational is formed through the addition of *uâ* after the stem vowel, just before the AI inflections (*ue* in the 3rd person). Contrast the non-relational:

nîpîmûten
'I am walking'

and the relational:

nî+ pîmût + e + uâ + n anite Tshân uîtshît
'I am walking by John's house'

AI relationals, then, end in *-uân* in the 1s and 2s, *-uânân* in the 1p/21p, and *-uânâu(âu)* in the 2p. While 3s forms in *-ueu* (and 3p in *-ueuat*) have been attested, they seem to be rare.

The TI relational is formed from the ordinary TI through the addition of *-am+u* to the TI stem, followed by the same endings to be found in the corresponding person of the AI relational (rather than by TI inflections). Thus while 'I like it' is translated as *nîminuâten*, 'I like his/her car' requires a relational form:

nî + minuât + am + u + ân u + utâpân

A complete TI relational paradigm follows:

TI RELATIONAL

1	<i>ni</i>	<i>tût</i>	<i>am</i>	<i>uân</i>	I do it (in relation to/for him/her)
2	<i>tshi</i>	<i>tût</i>	<i>am</i>	<i>uân</i>	you do it
3	-	<i>tût</i>	<i>am</i>	<i>ueu</i>	s/he does it
1p	<i>ni</i>	<i>tût</i>	<i>am</i>	<i>uânân</i>	we (excl) do it
21p	<i>tshi</i>	<i>tût</i>	<i>am</i>	<i>uânân</i>	we (incl) do it
2p	<i>tshi</i>	<i>tût</i>	<i>am</i>	<i>uânâu</i>	you (pl) do it
3p		<i>tût</i>	<i>am</i>	<i>ueuat</i>	they do it

Note that there are no obviative (3') forms for the relational paradigm.

IV. The Comparative

As the examples below show, comparatives are formed by using the particles *etatu* . . . *mishta*- . . . *mâk ât* 'more than' and *apu shûk*" . . . *mâk ât* 'less than'. In those cases (see B. below) where a 1st or 2nd person is being compared with an obviative, a relational form is necessary if the verb in question is AI or TI. This explains the extra *-uâ* morpheme in some of the sentences below, all of which involve AI verbs. In the sentences in C, a conjunct verb must be used with the negative word *apu*.³

Sentences to illustrate the comparative:

- A. *Etatu*⁴ *tshîn tshimishta-pîtuân* You smoke more than I do.
mâk ât nîn.
- Etatu nîn nimishta-mîtshishun* I eat more than you do.
mâk ât tshîn.
- Etatu nîn nimishta-aimin mâk ât* I talk more than you do.
tshîn.

³ Conjunct verb forms are introduced in Lesson 15.

⁴ Pronounced [etto]

- B. *Etatu nîn nimishhta-mîshishuân mâk ât uîn.* I eat more than he does.
Etatu nîn nimishhta-pituâuân mâk ât ûtâuia. I smoke more than his father does.
Etatu nîn nimishhta-pimûteuân mâk ât uîn. I walk more than he does.
- C. *Apu shûk^u mîshishuiân nîn mâk ât tshîn.* I eat less than you do.
Apu shûk^u pîtuâiân nîn mâk ât tshîn. I smoke less than you do.

EXERCISES

I. Translate the following sentences into English:

1. *Mashinaikannu nânatuenitam^u.*
2. *Mashinaikan ninânatueniten.*
3. *Utûsh nânatuâpâtam^u.*
4. *Mûsh-uiâshinu tshîssaminua Pûn utishkuema.*
5. *Shâsh shashkaim^u.*
6. *Nûtâu(i) umûkumân nimishkamuân.*
7. *Tshuâpâten â nitûsh?*
8. *Tshuî âpashtân â tshekuân? Ehe, nuî âpashtân mashinaikan.*
9. *Tshûtâu(i) umûkumân tshimishkamuânân.*
10. *Tshân mishkamueu umûkumânnu Pûna⁵ ûtâuînu⁶.*

Additional Vocabulary

<i>nânatuenitam^u</i>	(TI verb)	s/he looks for it
<i>shashkaim^u</i>	(TI verb)	s/he lights it
<i>tshîssam^u</i>	(TI verb)	s/he cooks it
<i>uî âpashtâu</i>	(AI/TI2 verb)	s/he wants, needs (to use) it (compare <i>âpashtâu</i> s/he uses it)

⁵ *Pûn* ('Paul') is marked as obviative since he represents the second mention of an animate third person in this sentence (*Tshân* being the first-mentioned animate third person). See Lesson 12 for further details.

⁶ The final vowel of *ûtâuî-* combines with the short *i* of the suffix *-inua* to produce a long vowel *-înu^a*.

II. Translate the following sentences into Innu-aimun:

1. Is he eating meat?
2. She is reading a book.
3. He wants to use a knife.
4. He wants to use knives.
5. John sees his own knife.
6. John sees Raphael's knife.
7. Penute sees John's father's knife.
8. He asks for his (own) tent.
9. He asks for John's tent.
10. She likes the car.
11. She likes Paul's car.

Additional Vocabulary

*tshîtâpâtam*⁷ (TI verb) s/he looks at it, reads it

III. Translate the following passages into English:

- A. *Mûsh-uiâshinu piminuenua Tshân utishkuema. Mishta-uîkan mûsh-uiâsh. Etatu ne uîkan mâk ât uîshâutîku-uiâsh. Etatu ne mûsh-uiâsh nuîtshishten mâk ât kutak mîtshim.*

Additional Vocabulary

<i>kutak</i>	(an/inan pro)	(an)other
<i>mûsh-uiâsh</i>	(inan noun)	moose meat
<i>piminueu</i>	(AI verb)	s/he cooks
<i>uîkan</i>	(II verb)	it tastes good
<i>uîshâutîku-uiâsh</i>	(inan noun)	beef (lit. 'cow's meat')
<i>uîtshitam</i> ^u	(TI verb)	s/he likes its taste

⁷ Pronounced here as if it were written *tshîtâtam*^u.

- B. *Âkushu Ân. Ushtushtam^u mâk utatshikumu. Uî nâtam^u natûkunnu nete natûkunitshuâpît. Ân ukâuia shâsh nete tânuu natûkunitshuâpît.*

Additional Vocabulary

<i>natûkunitshuâp</i>	(inan noun)	hospital
<i>ushtushtam^u</i>	(TI verb)	s/he coughs
<i>utatshikumu</i>	(AI verb)	s/he has a cold, the flu

- C. *Shâsh uâpan. Shîpît anite itûteu Nuîsh. Tshân tâshkaihshe, uî kutueu. Shâsh takushinu Nuîsh, assîkunu tâkunam^u, uî nîpîshâpûtshe anite patshuiânishuâpît. Tshân eshk^u anite unuîtimît tâu. Eshk^u ekâ kutuet pitamâ tshika uî nâtam^u mîta.*

Additional Vocabulary

<i>assîk^u</i>	(inan noun)	(cooking) pot
<i>kutueu</i>	(AI verb)	s/he builds, makes a fire
<i>nâtam^u</i>	(TI verb)	s/he goes to get it
<i>itûteu</i>	(AI verb)	s/he goes (somewhere, by foot)
<i>nîpîshâpûtshe</i>	(AI verb)	s/he makes tea
<i>patshuiânishuâp</i>	(inan noun)	tent
<i>pitamâ</i>	(indecl part)	first, for the moment
<i>tâkunam^u</i>	(TI verb)	s/he carries it, holds it, has it in her/his hand
<i>tâshkaihshe</i>	(AI verb)	s/he splits, chops (fire)wood
<i>unuîtimît</i>	(indecl part)	outside

