

## LESSON 12

### THE TRANSITIVE ANIMATE (TA) VERB

#### DIALOGUE

##### Pinâshue mâk Shîmûn

- P. *Tshitshissenimâu â Pien?* Do you know Peter?
- S. *Ehe, nitshissenimâu.* Yes, I know him.  
*Eukuan ne peik<sup>u</sup> nuîtsheuâkan.* He's one of my friends.
- P. *Tshuâpamâu â ne nâpess?* Do you see that boy over there?  
*Shuâush an?* Is that George?
- S. *Ehe, eukuan Shuâush,* Yes, that is George, I remember  
*nitshissîtutuâu an. Pien nenua* him. He is Peter's younger brother.  
*ushîma.*
- P. *Tshîtâpam mâ, piminueu* Look at him, he's cooking fish.  
*namesha.*
- S. *Âkuâ, ute pet itâpu.* Watch out, he's looking this way.  
*Uî kêneu namesha.* He's trying to hide the fish.
- P. *Ishkutet anite âneu.* He's putting it on the fire.  
*Nishîuenuân.* I'm hungry (because of him).
- S. *Mâuât nîn, shâsh nitshî* Not me, I've already eaten.  
*mîshishun.*

#### VOCABULARY

<i>âkuâ</i>	(indecl part)	watch out!
<i>âneu</i>	(TA verb)	s/he puts, places him/her
<i>ishkuteu</i>	(inan noun)	fire
<i>kâneu</i>	(TA verb)	s/he hides him/her
<i>mâ</i>	(indecl part)	expression of surprise
<i>mîshishu</i>	(AI verb)	s/he eats
<i>pet itâpu</i>	(AI verb)	s/he looks this way, in this direction
<i>piminueu</i>	(AI verb)	s/he cooks

<i>shâsh</i>	(indecl part)	already
<i>tshissenimeu</i>	(TA verb)	s/he knows him/her
<i>tshissîtutueu</i>	(TA verb)	s/he remembers him/her
<i>tshîtâpam</i>	(TA imperative verb) <sup>1</sup>	look at him/her
<i>uâpameu</i>	(TA verb)	s/he sees him/her
<i>ute</i>	(indecl part)	here

## POINTS OF GRAMMAR

### I. Transitive Animate Verbs

Transitive Animate (TA) verbs are verbs that take both an animate subject and an animate object. A root that is processed as a TA verb requires a TA final, the form of which depends on the semantics of the particular verb; the resulting TA stem is followed by a set of invariable TA inflections. The TA verb illustrated below represents the stem *uâpam-* (consisting of root *uâp-* + TA final *-am* 'involvement of facial activity'). The following paradigm represents a 3rd person object ('him' or 'her') with 1st, 2nd and 3rd person subjects. In the case of a 3rd person subject, the object is 3', or obviative, and as such can refer either to a singular ('him/her') or a plural ('them').

	SUBJECT PREFIX	TA STEM	INFLECTION	
1	<i>n</i>	<i>uâpam</i>	<i>âu</i>	I see him/her
2	<i>tsh</i>	<i>uâpam</i>	<i>âu</i>	you (sg) see him/her
3	-	<i>uâpam</i>	<i>eu</i>	s/he (3) sees him/her/them (3')
3'	-	<i>uâpam</i>	<i>enua</i>	s/he/they (3') see(s) him/her/them (3'')
1p	<i>n</i>	<i>uâpam</i>	<i>ânân</i>	we (excl) see him/her
21p	<i>tsh</i>	<i>uâpam</i>	<i>ânân</i>	we (incl) see him/her
2p	<i>tsh</i>	<i>uâpam</i>	<i>âuâu</i>	you (pl) see him/her
3p	-	<i>uâpam</i>	<i>euat</i>	they (3) see him/her/them (3')

<sup>1</sup> Imperative verb forms are introduced in Lesson 14.

## II. Plural Objects

For any TA verb with a **1st or 2nd person subject** (i.e. a *ni-* or *tshi-* prefix), a 3rd plural object ('them') is represented through the addition of a final *-at* to the singular object forms presented above:

Examples:

<i>nuâpamâuat</i>	I see them
<i>tshuâpamâuuâuat</i>	you (pl) see them

If *-at* is added to a **3rd person subject** form, however, the form does not indicate a plural object, but rather a plural subject (see *uâpameuat* in the above paradigm). The *-at* suffix is never added to a form with an obviative subject: thus a form like *uâpamenua* may represent either a singular or plural subject, as well as either a singular or plural object.

## III. Obviative Objects

If the subject is 3rd person (e.g. *uâpameu(at)*), a noun object of a TA verb is marked as obviative via the suffix *-a*, as in the following examples:

<i>Tshân + a</i>	<i>uâpameu</i>
John	he sees
'He sees John.'	

<i>utem + a</i>	<i>mishkueu</i>	<i>Tshân</i>
his (own) dog(s)	finds	John
'John finds his (own) dog(s).'		

When the subject is obviative (3'), an object representing a further 3rd person, whether singular or plural, is also marked with the 3' suffix *-a* (*-ua* in the case of proper nouns ending in a vowel), as in:

<i>Mânî + ua</i>	<i>minuâtenua</i>	<i>ushîma</i>	<i>Tshân</i>
Mary (3')	likes	his younger brother (3')	John (3)
'John's younger brother likes Mary.'			

<i>atîku + a</i>	<i>mishkuenua</i>	<i>ûtâuia</i>	<i>Shuâush</i>
caribou (3')	finds	his father (3')	George (3)
'George's father finds caribou.'			

Whether the subject is 3rd person non-obviative or obviative, if the object consists of a noun phrase involving a possessor who is not the subject of

the sentence, an animate object (whether singular or plural) is marked by *-inua*, as in:

<i>Pûnissa</i>	<i>ûtâuî + nua</i> <sup>2</sup>	<i>uâpamimeu</i> <sup>3</sup>	<i>Tshân</i>
Puniss'	father	sees	John
(3')	(3" object)		(3 subject)
'John sees Puniss' father.'			

(In the above example, *-inua* is noted as *-nua* after a vowel.)

<i>Pûnissa</i>	<i>umûshûminua</i>	<i>uâpamimenua</i>	<i>Tshân</i>	<i>ûtâuia</i>
Puniss'	his grandfather	sees	John	his father
(3')	(3" object)		(3' subject)	
'John's father sees Puniss' grandfather.'				

#### IV. TA *-im* Forms

The addition of the suffix *-inua* to noun objects is not the only way in which (possessed) obviative objects may be marked. When sentences involve 3rd person subject TA verbs and 3" (rather than 3') person objects, the TA verb itself carries an additional morpheme *-im*, which is inserted directly after the TA stem and before the TA inflection.

Contrast:

<i>umînûsh + im + a</i>	<i>mishku + eu</i>	<i>Tshân</i>
his cat (3')	finds	John (3)
'John finds his (own) cat.'		

<i>Pinûteua</i>	<i>umînûsh + im + inua</i>	<i>mishku + m + eu</i>	<i>Tshân</i>
Pinûte (3')	his cat (3")	finds	John (3)
'John finds Benedict's cat.'			

(Note that the initial *i* of *-im* is deleted after a preceding *-u*.)

<sup>2</sup> The speaker on the sound recording has a tendency to delete the final *-a* in the obviative suffix *-inua*. A similar tendency to delete a final *-a* was noted in Lesson 6.

<sup>3</sup> See grammar point IV for a discussion of this verbal morphology.

TA *-im* forms are not limited to cases where the subject is 3rd person and the object 3'. They also occur when a TA verb with 1st or 2nd person subject takes a 3' rather than a 3rd person object – that is, in all cases where the object is specifically marked as obviative. Contrast:


<i>Pûn</i>	<i>n + utâmau + âu</i>
Paul	I hit
(3rd person object)	(1st person subject)
'I hit Paul.'	

<i>Pûn</i>	<i>utauâss + îm + a</i>	<i>n + utâmau + m + âu<sup>4</sup></i>
Paul	his child	I hit
	(3' object)	(1st person subject)
'I hit Paul's child.'		

TA *-im* forms resemble AI/TI relationals, in that an *-im* form is typically found when a sentence involves 3rd persons in addition to those functioning syntactically as objects of the verb. As the above examples illustrate, the typical (though not exclusive) role of such a 3rd person is that of possessor of the animate object.

## V. Word Formation: TA/TI Correspondences

A single root may be processed as both a TA and a TI verb. That is, one and the same verb root may take finals which, though semantically identical, differ in form for a TA or a TI; the appropriate inflection is then added to this verb stem:

Root	+	TA final	+	Inflectional Ending
		+ TI final		
				
Stem				

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<sup>4</sup> Here the *-im* is reduced to *m* after a vowel. While in the standard orthography verbs of this type (i.e. involving 1/2 subjects and 3' objects, or 3 subjects and 3' objects) are marked with a final *-a*, this convention is not adopted here since the *-a* is not usually heard in Sheshatshiu Innu-aimun.

A number of the most common TA/TI final pairs are listed below with illustrative examples (the plus sign separates the root, the final and the inflection):

	TA Final	TI Final	
1.	'by mouth'		
	<b>-am</b>	<b>-ât</b>	
	<i>mâku + m + eu</i> <sup>5</sup>	<i>mâku + ât + am<sup>u</sup></i>	bite
	<i>nashku + m + eu</i>	-	thank
2.	'by thought or mind' (i.e. mental activity)		
	<b>-enim</b>	<b>-enit</b> <sup>6</sup>	
	<i>natu + enim + eu</i>	<i>natu + enit + am<sup>u</sup></i>	ask for
	<i>kanu + enim + eu</i>	<i>kanu + enit + am<sup>u</sup></i>	have, possess, keep, look after
	<i>tip + enim + eu</i>	<i>tip + enit + am<sup>u</sup></i>	own, control
	<i>tshiss + enim + eu</i>	<i>tshiss + enit + am<sup>u</sup></i>	know
3.	'by instrument'		
	<b>-âu</b>	<b>-a</b>	
	<i>tâshk + âu + eu</i>	<i>tâshk + aim<sup>u</sup></i> <sup>7</sup>	split
	<i>pesh + âu + eu</i>	<i>pesh + aim<sup>u</sup></i>	paint
4.	'by hand'		
	<b>-in</b>	<b>-in</b>	
	<i>pîm + in + eu</i>	<i>pîm + in + am<sup>u</sup></i>	wring (by hand)
	<i>ut + in + eu</i>	<i>ut + in + am<sup>u</sup></i>	take

<sup>5</sup> Here the **-am** final is reduced to **-m** after a vowel. A short *a* or *i* serving as the initial element of a final will typically disappear after a previous vowel.

<sup>6</sup> Note that **-eni** may also be treated as a medial, i.e. a formative element used after certain verbal roots and before a final. From this perspective, the TA final would be **-m**, and the corresponding TI final **-t**. Note also that the sequence **-enit** is pronounced [ent].

<sup>7</sup> Although written **-ain** (1st and 2nd persons) and **-aim<sup>u</sup>** (3rd person), these endings are pronounced **-ein** and **-eim**, as per the usual Sheshatshiu pronunciation (see Lesson 1).

	<b>TA Final</b>	<b>TI Final</b>	
5.	'by vision'		
	<b>-inu</b> <sup>8</sup> <i>minû + nu + eu</i>	<b>-in</b> <i>minû + n + am<sup>u</sup></i>	find pleasing (to the sight)
6.	'by hearing'		
	<b>-itu</b> <i>minû + tu + eu</i>	<b>-it</b> <i>minû + t + am<sup>u</sup></i>	find pleasing (to the ear)
	<i>pe + tu + eu</i>	<i>pe + t + am<sup>u</sup></i>	hear
	<i>nishtû + tu + eu</i>	<i>nishtû + t + am<sup>u</sup></i>	understand
7.	'by body/leg movement'		
	<b>-ishku</b> <i>pîku + shku + eu</i>	<b>-ishk</b> <i>pîku + shk + am<sup>u</sup></i>	break (by kicking or body weight)
8.	'by cutting edge'		
	<b>-ishu</b> <i>mât + ishu + eu</i>	<b>-ish</b> <i>mât + ish + am<sup>u</sup></i>	cut
	<i>pitshiss + ishu + eu</i>	<i>pitshiss + ish + am<sup>u</sup></i>	cut into small pieces
9.	'by heat'		
	<b>-ishu</b> <i>tshîssueu</i>	<b>-ish</b> <i>tshîssam<sup>u</sup></i>	cook
	(< <i>tshîsh + ishu + eu</i> )	(< <i>tshîsh + ish + am<sup>u</sup></i> )	

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<sup>8</sup> The initial vowel of the finals listed in 4 to 9 does not appear when the preceding morpheme ends in a vowel.

To illustrate further, let us take the root *pîku-* 'break' and add to it a number of the finals listed above:

	TA	TI
'break with an instrument'	<i>pîkuâueu</i>	<i>pîkuaim<sup>u</sup></i>
'break by biting'	<i>pîkumeu</i>	<i>pîkuâtam<sup>u</sup></i>
'break by hand'	<i>pîkuneu</i>	<i>pîkunam<sup>u</sup></i>
'break by heat or blade'	<i>pîkushueu</i>	<i>pîkusham<sup>u</sup></i>

### EXERCISES

I. Translate the following sentences into English:

1. *Tshân utema minuâtenua Mânîua.*
2. *Uteminua Shîmûna mishkûmeu Pinâshue.*
3. *Umînûshiminua mishkûmeu Mani-Nûsh.*
4. *Pûnissa ûtâuînuu uteminua uâpamimeu Shuâush.*
5. *Tshimûshûma tshika uâpamenua Tshân ukâuia.*
6. *Atimua kanuenimeu.*
7. *Nîshissîtutuânânât tshitauâssîmat.*
8. *Tshissîtutueu tshitauâssîminân(a).*
9. *Mânîua ushîminua uâpamimeuat.*
10. *Nuâpamâu auen unuîtimît. Eukuan ninâpem. Shâsh tshekât pût tshika pîtutsheu.*

### Additional Vocabulary

*Pûniss*

male proper name

young Paul