

LESSON 15

THE ANIMATE INTRANSITIVE (AI) CONJUNCT

DIALOGUE

Mânî mâk Pien

- | | |
|--|---|
| M. <i>Tân eshinîkâshuîn?
Shîmûn â?</i> | What is your name?
Simon? |
| P. <i>Mâuât, Pien nitishinîkâshun.
Tân eshpanîn?</i> | No, my name is Peter.
How are you? |
| M. <i>Niminupan. Ek^u tshîn?</i> | I'm fine. And you? |
| P. <i>Apu shûk^u minupaniân.</i> | I'm not feeling (lit. 'going') too well. |
| M. <i>Tân etîn?
Tshitâkushin â?</i> | What's the matter with you?
Are you sick? |
| P. <i>Mâuât, apu âkushiân.
Tânite uetshîn?</i> | No, I'm not sick.
Where are you from? |
| M. <i>Ekuânitshît nûtshtîn. Ek^u tshîn?</i> | I come from Mingan. And you? |
| P. <i>Nâtuâshîsh nîn nûtshtîn.
Tshitâkanîshâu-aimin â tshîn?</i> | I come from Natuashish.
Do you speak English? |
| M. <i>Mâuât, apu âkaneshâu-aimiân,
nimishtikushû-aimin.
Ek^u tshîn tân eshi-aimîn anite
tshîtsuât?</i> | No, I don't speak English, I speak
French.
And you, what language do you
speak at home? |
| P. <i>Nitinnu-aiminân, apu
âkaneshâu-aimiât nîtshtînât.</i> | We speak the Innu language, we
don't speak English at home. |
| M. <i>Apu âkaneshâu-aimîn â?</i> | You don't speak English? |
| P. <i>Mâuât, apishîsh muk^u.</i> | No, only a little bit. |

VOCABULARY

<i>âkaneshâu-aimu</i>	(AI verb)	s/he speaks English
<i>apishîsh</i>	(indecl part)	a little (bit)
<i>apu</i>	(indecl part: negative marker in main clauses)	not
<i>Êkuânitshît</i>	(geographic name)	to, from, at, in Mingan
<i>ishi-aimu</i>	(AI verb)	s/he speaks so, like this
<i>minupanu</i>	(AI verb)	s/he feels (lit. 'goes') fine, s/he is well
<i>mishtikushîu- aimu</i>	(AI verb)	s/he speaks French
<i>nîtschinât</i>	(dep inan noun, locative form)	at our house
<i>shûk^u</i>	(indecl part)	very much, a lot (used with <i>apu: apu shûk^u</i> - not much)
<i>Tân etîn?</i>	question phrase	What's the matter with you? (also: How are you?)
<i>tshîtsshuât</i>	(dep inan noun, locative form)	at your (pl) house

POINTS OF GRAMMAR

I. The Conjunct

In Sheshatshiu Innu-aimun, the verb forms which we have seen to date – whether AI, II, TI or TA – are limited to affirmative main clauses and yes-no questions. These verb forms belong to the INDEPENDENT ORDER. In negative main clauses (i.e. clauses introduced by the negative particle *apu*), as well as in question-word questions (i.e. questions introduced by such interrogative particles as *tshekuen/auen* 'who', *tshekuân* 'what', *tân... ishi-* 'how', *tânite* 'where', *tân ... ishpih* [tâi|pi:] 'when', *tân ... ishpih* 'how much', *tshek^u/tânen(an)* 'which', *tshekuân ... ût* 'why')¹ the verb form used belongs to the CONJUNCT ORDER. Conjuncts are distinguished from corresponding independents not only by the

¹ The form *tshek^u* differs from the others in that it occurs as a pre-form or determiner, which is written as separated from its noun by a hyphen, as in *tsheku-auâss* 'which child'. Note that obviative forms are required for *tshekuen/auen* and *tshekuân* when the focus is on a 'second' 3rd person – typically, when another 3rd person is the subject of the sentence.

possession of a distinct set of inflectional endings, but also by the fact that conjunct verbs do not take personal prefixes. The stem of a conjunct, that is, is exactly the same as the stem to be found in the 3rd person singular of an independent order verb.

Contrast:

Independent

<i>nitâkushin</i>	I am sick
<i>âkushu</i>	s/he is sick

Conjunct

<i>apu âkushiân</i>	I'm not sick
<i>apu âkushit</i>	s/he isn't sick

II. The Changed Conjunct

A second way in which a conjunct verb may differ from a corresponding independent lies in the fact that the conjunct may undergo a modification of the vowel of the first syllable. An ordinary conjunct may be made into a CHANGED CONJUNCT through this regular vowel shift, which is presented in the following table:

Vowel correspondences

UNCHANGED	CHANGED	EXAMPLE
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(The changed form is provided in a question-word question, while the vowel of the unchanged form is the same as that of the independent order form given in brackets.)

<i>i</i>	<i>e</i>	<i>Auen pemûtet?</i> (cf. <i>pimûteu</i>)	Who is walking?
<i>a</i>	<i>e</i>	<i>Auennu meshinaimâkut?</i> (cf. <i>mashinaimueu</i>)	Who writes to him/her?
<i>u</i>	<i>ue</i>	<i>Auen kuessikuâshut?</i> (cf. <i>kussikuâshu</i>)	Who is sewing?

<i>î</i>	<i>â</i>	<i>Auen uâ pimûtet?</i> (cf. <i>uî pimûteu</i>)	Who wants to walk?
<i>î</i>	<i>iâ</i>	<i>Auen piâtuât?</i> (cf. <i>pîtuâu</i>)	Who is smoking?
<i>â</i>	<i>iâ</i>	<i>Auennua uiâpamât?</i> (cf. <i>uâpameu</i>)	Who does s/he see?
<i>e</i>	<i>ie</i>	<i>Auennua pieshuât?</i> (cf. <i>peshueu</i>)	Who does s/he bring?
<i>û</i>	<i>iû²</i>	<i>Auen tiûtâk?</i> (cf. <i>tûtam^u</i>)	Who is doing it?
<i>û</i>	<i>û³</i>	<i>Auen e pûshit</i> (cf. <i>pûshu</i>)	Who is leaving?

While changed conjuncts are not found after the negative marker *apu*, they do regularly occur in question-word questions, after *tshekuen*, *tshekuân*, etc. As will later be seen, changed conjuncts also occur in certain types of subordinate clauses.

The above examples show that it is always the vowel of the first syllable of the verb that is affected by the vowel change. Thus if the first syllable is a preverb, it rather than the verbal root will be affected. In similar fashion, the particles *tân...ishi-* 'how', *tân...ishpish* 'how much', *tshekuân...ût* 'why' become, in changed form, *tân...eshi-*, *tân...eshpish* and *tshekuân...uet*, respectively. Here again, the verb root itself is not affected by the initial change.

An alternative to the changed conjunct may also be found in question-word questions, as well as in a variety of subordinate clauses to be treated in later lessons. This, the *e*-conjunct, consists of a conjunct verb form which follows the verbal marker *e*:

Auen e tûtâk? Who is doing it?
(cf. *tûtam^u*)

² The *iû* form is a more recent form created by analogy with verbs containing other long vowels.

³ Traditionally the changed conjunct of verbs with *û* consists of simple addition of *e*, as in *auen e pûshit* here, rather than by a change of vowel.

In Sheshatshiu Innu-aimun, the *e*-conjunct is typically used in question-word questions only with verbs containing the vowel *û* in the first syllable. As will be seen later, the use of the *e*-conjunct in subordinate or embedded clauses is extensive.

III. AI Conjunct Paradigms

The unmarked conjunct form will now be presented in totality for an AI verb, i.e. a verb with an animate subject and no object. This form may be translated into English by an ordinary non-past (i.e. 'present') tense. The verb chosen is the *â*-stem *nîpâu* 's/he is asleep', which is represented below in the conjunct form after the negative marker *apu*:

1	<i>apu</i>	<i>nîp</i>	<i>â</i>	<i>iân</i>	I'm not asleep
2	<i>apu</i>	<i>nîp</i>	<i>â</i>	<i>in</i>	you (sg) are not asleep
3	<i>apu</i>	<i>nîp</i>	<i>â</i>	<i>t</i>	s/he is not asleep
3'	<i>apu</i>	<i>nîp</i>	<i>â</i>	<i>nitî</i>	s/he (obv) is not asleep (pronounced as palatalized [nɕi])
lp	<i>apu</i>	<i>nîp</i>	<i>â</i>	<i>iât</i>	we (excl) are not asleep
21p	<i>apu</i>	<i>nîp</i>	<i>â</i>	<i>iâk^u</i>	we (incl) are not asleep
2p	<i>apu</i>	<i>nîp</i>	<i>â</i>	<i>iek^u</i>	you (pl) are not asleep
3p	<i>apu</i>	<i>nîp</i>	<i>â</i>	<i>ht⁴</i>	they are not asleep

As seen in the AI independent, there is variation in the stem-final vowel of the AI verb type. The following chart gives a 1st and 3rd person singular conjunct for the various AI stem types:

e-stem

1	<i>apu</i>	<i>pimût</i>	<i>e</i>	<i>iân</i>	I don't walk
3	<i>apu</i>	<i>pimût</i>	<i>e</i>	<i>t</i>	s/he doesn't walk

u-stem

1	<i>apu</i>	<i>nikam</i>	<i>u</i>	<i>iân</i>	I don't sing
3	<i>apu</i>	<i>nikam</i>	<i>u</i>	<i>t</i>	s/he doesn't sing

î-stem

1	<i>apu</i>	<i>shûtshish</i>	<i>î</i>	<i>ân⁵</i>	I'm not strong
3	<i>apu</i>	<i>shûtshish</i>	<i>î</i>	<i>t</i>	s/he isn't strong

⁴ *h* is not pronounced; see next page for explanation.

⁵ In stems ending in *î* or *i*, the initial *i* of the ending is not written.

i-stem

1	<i>apu pûsh</i>	<i>i</i>	<i>ân</i>	I'm not leaving (by car, plane, boat, skidoo)
3	<i>apu pûsh</i>	<i>i</i>	<i>t</i>	s/he is not leaving

Note that with a 2nd singular subject, the form would be *apu pûshîn* < *pûsh + i + in*.

n-stem

1	<i>apu takushin</i>	-	<i>iân</i>	I'm not coming
3	<i>apu takushin</i>	<i>i</i>	<i>t</i>	s/he is not coming

While the 3rd singular form above is written *apu takushinit*, it is pronounced as *takushint*.

For stems which have a long vowel, the *-h* in the 3p ending *-ht* is not pronounced but designates a change in tone or voice pitch, which marks the plural. For stems which have a short vowel or end in *-n*, the *-h* designates lengthening of the vowel in the plural:

i-stem

3	<i>apu pûshit</i>	s/he is not leaving
3p	<i>apu pûshîht</i>	they are not leaving

n-stem

3	<i>apu takushinit</i>	s/he is not coming
3p	<i>apu takushinîht</i>	they are not coming

IV. Conjunct Past Tense Forms

A past tense of any conjunct verb used in a main clause after *apu* is formed by means of the preverb *tût*, as in:

<i>Apu âkushiân.</i>	I'm not sick.
<i>Apu tût âkushiân.</i>	I wasn't sick.

Question-word questions, however, use independent rather than conjunct past tense forms to refer to past time, as in:

<i>Auen tshîtûtepan?</i>	Who was leaving?
<i>Tânite tshuâpamâ(tî)?</i>	Where did you see him/her?

V. The Future Marker in Negative Main Clauses

Negative main clauses may be made to refer to future time through the insertion of the preverb *tshika tshî* in all three persons.

Examples:

<i>Apu pûshit.</i>	S/he isn't leaving (by vehicle).
<i>Apu tshika tshî pûshit.</i>	S/he won't be leaving.
<i>Apu âkushiân.</i>	I'm not sick.
<i>Apu tshika tshî âkushiân.</i>	I won't be sick.

VI. It's not / that's not

The notions **it's not/that's not** are not expressed by *apu* + conjunct; rather, they are expressed by the verb-like pronoun *namaieu* (usually contracted to [miyew] or [miyu]). This form may be followed by the obviative marker **-(i)nu**.

<i>Namaieu nîn nitûsh.</i>	That's not my canoe.
<i>Namaieunu ûn utûsh.</i>	That's not his/her canoe.
<i>Auen nenu utûsh?</i>	Whose canoe is that?
<i>Tshân nenu ushtesha utûtinu.</i>	It's John's older brother's canoe.
<i>Namaieunu Tshân utûsh.</i>	It's not John's canoe.

VII. AI Reflexive Verbs

The conjunct of AI reflexives is identical to that of the *u*-stem conjuncts outlined above. As seen in Lesson 13, reflexives are formed by the addition of the reflexive marker **-(i)tîshu** to a TA stem (e.g., *uâpam* + *itîsh* + *u* 'see oneself').

Examples:

<i>Apu uâpamitîshuiân.</i>	I don't see myself.
<i>Apu tût uâpamitîshuiek^a.</i>	You (pl) didn't see yourselves.

EXERCISES

I. Translate the following main clause conjuncts into English:

1. *Apu mâiân.*
2. *Apu ishinîkâtâkanû⁶ an Mânî.*
3. *Apu anite tshika tshî tât.*
4. *Apu tshî nipâin â?*
5. *Apu mûpiât.*
6. *Apu⁷ natauiek^u.*
7. *Apu tût pîtutshet.*
8. *Apu uî atusseiân.*
9. *Apu pîtuânitî Tshân ûtâuia.*
10. *Apu tshika tshî takushinîht.*
11. *Apu auen tshika tshî nâtshi-kusset.*
12. *Shuâush apu tshika tshî nataut.*

II. Translate the following question-word questions into English (remember that each contains a changed conjunct):

1. *Tân eshinîkâshut?*
2. *Tân eshpish tshûuet?*
3. *Tshekuen nepâkuet?*
4. *Tânite uetshîn?⁸*
5. *Tshekuânnu uet takushinit?*
6. *Auen nâmit?*
7. *Tshekuen piâpit?*
8. *Tânite pâtuât?*
9. *Auen nepâkuet?*
10. *Tân eshpish tshîtûtein?*

Additional Vocabulary

pâpu (AI verb)

s/he laughs

⁶ *ishinîkâtâkanu*, the AI impersonal form of the TA verb *ishinîkâteu* 's/he names him/her', is best translated as an English passive 's/he is named'.

⁷ The word *apu* may be contracted to *pu*.

⁸ The 3s changed form of the verb *ûtshû* is *uetshît*. The initial *u*-vowel was originally short and followed by *h*, but later was lengthened after the loss of *h*.

III. Translate the following negative sentences into Innu-aimun:

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. He isn't hungry. | 2. John isn't laughing. |
| 3. I'm not singing. | 4. You're not well. |
| 5. I'm not strong. | 6. You're (pl) not walking. |

IV. Translate the following sentences into Innu-aimun:

1. Who is smoking?
2. Where do you (pl) come from?
3. Who is leaving?
4. Who is singing?
5. We (excl) aren't dancing.
6. Why are they sleeping?
7. Who is eating?
8. What is your (pl) name?
9. Who is leaving tomorrow?
10. When are you (sg) going to the store?

V. Translate the following sentences into Innu-aimun, using *namaieu* or a form thereof:

1. Is that John's tree?
No, it's not his tree.
2. Is that your (pl) money?
No, it's not our money.
3. Is that our (incl) gas?
No, it's not our gas.
4. Is that your child?
No, it's not my child.
5. Is that their caribou?
No, it's not their caribou.

VI. Translate into English:

1. *Tân etit?*
2. *Âkushu. Nânitam ushtushtam^u.*
3. *Tânite uâ itûtet?*
4. *Natûkunitshuâpît uî itûteu.*