LESSON 19

TA CONJUNCT INVERSE FORMS; THE CONJUNCT DUBITATIVE; IMPERSONAL FORMS; AI/II UNSPECIFIED SUBJECT FORMS

DIALOGUE

Mânî mâk Ân

M.	*Apu tshî mishkâkut Tshân ûtâuia.*	John's father can't find him (John).
	Uîshâmiku ûtâuia tshetshî nikûtet.	His father is asking him to get firewood.
A.	*Nuâpamâ(tî) Tshân apu shûk^u shâshîsh.*	I saw John a little while ago.
	Apu tshissenimak tshetshî uîtsheuâkue (nânâ) Pûnissa ekussenitî.	I don't know whether he (absent) went fishing with Puniss.
M.	*Tshîmâ mishkâkut ûtâuia.*	I wish his father could find him.
	Mîtshennua mîta tshe tâshkaikâu.	There's a lot of wood for them to split.
A.	*Apu tshissenimimakî Tshân ûtâuia tshetshi tâshkaitshenikue e peikussinitî.*	I don't know whether John's father can split the wood by himself.

VOCABULARY

mishkueu[1]	(TA verb)	s/he finds him/her
mîtshennua	(II verb, obviative plural)	there are many (of), there are a lot of
nikûteu	(AI verb)	s/he gets firewood
peikussu	(AI verb)	s/he is alone
tâshkaim^u	(TI verb)	s/he splits it
tâshkaitsheu	(AI verb)	s/he splits wood

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[1] This inverse form in the above Dialogue, **mishkâkut**, results from the fact that historically the form is **mishkaueu**; in the direct form the *a* is deleted. (See also Fn 1, page 78.)

| *uîshâmeu* | (TA verb) | s/he invites him/her |
| *uîtsheueu* | (TA verb) | s/he goes with him/her |

POINTS OF GRAMMAR

I.   TA Conjunct Inverse Forms

As in the independent, the TA verb in the conjunct possesses a set of inverse endings for use when the hierarchy of person is reversed, that is, when a 3rd person subject takes a 1st or 2nd person object, an obviative (3') subject takes a 1st, 2nd or 3rd person object, and when a 2nd person subject takes a 1st person object. Conjunct inverse forms follow for the verb *uâpameu* 's/he sees him/her'. In addition, direct forms are provided for 2nd person subjects and 1st person objects.

A.   3RD PERSON SUBJECT

1.   1st person singular (1s) object

| *apu* | *uâpam* | *it* | s/he doesn't see me |
| *apu* | *uâpam* | *îht* | they don't see me |

2.   1p object (exclusive)

| *apu* | *uâpam* | *îmît* | s/he doesn't see us |
| *apu* | *uâpam* | *îmîht* | they don't see us |

3.   21p object (inclusive)

| *apu* | *uâpam* | *itâk^u* | s/he doesn't see us |
| *apu* | *uâpam* | *itâkut* | they don't see us |

4.   2s object

| *apu* | *uâpam* | *ishk* | s/he doesn't see you |
| *apu* | *uâpam* | *ishkâu* | they don't see you |

5.   2p object

| *apu* | *uâpam* | *itâk^u* | s/he doesn't see you (pl) |
| *apu* | *uâpam* | *itâkut* | they don't see you (pl) |

B.   3' (OBVIATIVE) SUBJECT (SG OR PL) > 3 (NON-OBV) OBJECT

    1.   3s object

apu	*uâpam*	*ikut*	s/he doesn't/they don't see him/her (e.g. Mary's son doesn't see Mary)

    2.   3p object

apu	*uâpam*	*ikutâu*	s/he doesn't/they don't see them

C.   2ND PERSON SUBJECT > 1ST PERSON OBJECT (DIRECT)

    1.   1s object

apu	*uâpam*	*în*	you (sg) don't see me
apu	*uâpam*	*îekᵘ*	you (pl) don't see me

    2.   lp object (exclusive)

apu	*uâpam*	*îât*	you (sg or pl) don't see us

D.   1ST PERSON SUBJECT > 2ND PERSON OBJECT (INVERSE)

    1.   2s object

apu	*uâpam*	*itân*	I don't see you
apu	*uâpam*	*itât*	we don't see you

    2.   2p object

apu	*uâpam*	*itikut*	I don't see you (pl)
apu	*uâpam*	*itât*	we don't see you (pl)

II.   The Dubitative Conjunct

As in the independent, two tenses of the dubitative – the neutral or 'present' and the past – are to be found in the conjunct. The dubitative present is typically found in a wish after the particle *tshîmâ* ('I wish, if only'), in an 'if' clause in the past, or in a clause dependent on the main verb 'don't know', as in **apu tût tshissenimak iâkushikue** 'I did not know

whether s/he was sick'. The dubitative present usually occurs in the
changed form (i.e., with a 'changed' first syllable vowel) except when it
follows the particle *tshîmâ*. It is characterized in the 1st and 2nd persons
by the appearance of *u* before the (regular) conjunct ending and *e* after it;
in the 3rd person, the characteristic ending is *-kue*. An AI paradigm
follows by way of example.

AI Dubitative Neutral[2] **('Present') Conjunct** (using the changed form of
the verb *nipâu* 's/he is asleep')

1	*nep*	*â*	*uâne*	if (only) I were asleep
2	*nep*	*â*	*une*	if (only) you were asleep
3	*nep*	*â*	*kue*	if (only) s/he were asleep
3'	*nep*	*â*	*nikuenî*	if (only) s/he (obv) were asleep
lp	*nep*	*â*	*uâtshe*	if (only) we (excl) were asleep
21p	*nep*	*â*	*uâkue*	if (only) we (incl) were asleep
2p	*nep*	*â*	*uekue*	if (only) you (pl) were asleep
3p	*nep*	*â*	*kuenit*	if (only) they were asleep

The past tense of the conjunct dubitative is formed from the ordinary
(indicative) conjunct – which occurs, for example, in negative main
clauses – by the simple addition of *-âkue* after the indicative conjunct
endings. The past dubitative conjunct is usually found in contrary-to-
fact 'if' clauses with past time reference, such as 'If I had known it (I
wouldn't have left)'. An AI verb follows in the dubitative preterit
conjunct, by way of illustration.

AI Dubitative Preterit ('Past') Conjunct

1	*nip*	*â*	*iânâkue*	if I had been asleep
2	*nip*	*â*	*inâkue*	if you had been asleep
3	*nip*	*â*	*tâkue*	if s/he had been asleep
3'	*nip*	*â*	*nitâkuenî*	if s/he (obv) had been asleep
lp	*nip*	*â*	*iâtâkue*	if we (excl) had been asleep
21p	*nip*	*â*	*iâkuâkue*	if we (incl) had been asleep
2p	*nip*	*â*	*iekuâkue*	if you (pl) had been asleep
3p	*nip*	*â*	*tâkuenit*	if they had been asleep

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[2] The term Conjunct Indirect has been introduced as an alternative for Conjunct
Dubitative Neutral (Drapeau 1986). Similarly, the term Conjunct Hypothetical
has been suggested as an alternative for Conjunct Dubitative Preterit.

III. Impersonal Forms

Any AI verb may take not only 1st, 2nd, 3rd or obviative subjects; in addition, there exists a set of inflectional endings which may be termed 'impersonal', since they refer to an indefinite animate actor. Such forms consist of the addition of *-nânu* (or obviative *-nânnu*) to the AI stem to yield, for example, *nipânânu* 'people are asleep', 'there is sleeping going on'. Impersonal forms of the *â*-stem verb just illustrated are provided for the various forms of the independent and conjunct:

Independent

Indicative	Present	3	*nipânânu*	people are sleeping
		3'	*nipânânnu*[3]	people are sleeping (e.g. at someone else's place)
	Past	3	*nipânânîpan*	people were sleeping
		3'	*nipânânnîpan*	
Dubitative	Present	3	*nipânânîtshe*	perhaps people are sleeping
		3'	*nipânânnîtshe*	
	Past	3	*nipânânîkupan*	perhaps people were sleeping
		3'	*nipânânnîkupan*	

Conjunct

Indicative	Present	3	*apu nipânanût*	people are not asleep
		3'	*apu nipânannût*	
Dubitative	Present	3	*nepânânûkue*	if only people were asleep
		3'	*nepânânnûkue*	
	Past	3	*nipânânûtâkue*	if people had been asleep
		3'	*nipânânnûtâkue*	

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[3] Although the 3 and 3' forms are spelled differently, they are pronounced identically by the speaker and thus appear only once on the recording.

While *-nânu* may be added to all AI-stem types, an alternative morpheme *-ânu* may be found instead in the case of *e*- and *i*-stems. This *-ânu* replaces the stem vowel *e*- and *i*-, as in *pimûtânu* (alternatively *pimûtenânu)* 'people are walking', from *pimûteu* 's/he walks', or *atussânu* (alternatively *atussenânu*) 'there is work going on', from *atusseu* 's/he works'.

IV. AI and II Unspecified Subject Forms

In addition to the indefinite subject verb forms just outlined, Innu-aimun also possesses an 'unspecified subject' paradigm for intransitive verbs. Semantically, these resemble passives, and are best translated into English by passives. The AI unspecified subject form is based on a TA stem. In the first and second persons, in fact, this TA stem is similar to the TA inverse stem: contrast the TA inverse form 'he sees me' *nuâpamik^u* with the unspecified AI 'I am seen' *nuâpamikaun*, where the final *-kaun* is pronounced as *-kûn*.

The third person AI unspecified subject form consists of the TA stem to which the AI final *-âkan(i)* plus appropriate AI mode/tense inflection is added (e.g., *uâpam + âkan + u* 's/he is seen'; *apu tût uâpam + âkani + t* 's/he was not seen'). II unspecified subject forms are very similar, in that they consist of the appropriate TI stem plus the II final *-âkan* plus the appropriate inflection. Thus 'it is seen' corresponds to *uâpât + âkan + u*, and 'it is not seen' is translated as *apu uâpât + âkani + t*.

EXERCISES

I.   Use the following example as a model to give the conjunct direct (3 → 3') and inverse (3' → 3) forms of the verbs provided:

Verb:	*mîtâteu*	s/he misses him/her
Direct:	Who does Mary miss?	*Auennua/Tshekuennua miâtâtât Mânî?*
Inverse:	Who misses Mary?	*Auennua/Tshekuennua miâtâtikut Mânî?*

1.   Verb: *nâshueu*   s/he follows him/her

      Direct: Who is he following?
      Inverse: Who is following him?

2.   Verb: *mâshîkueu*   s/he fights, wrestles
                                                 him/her
      Direct: Who is he fighting?
      Inverse: Who is fighting him?

3.   Verb: *matshenimeu*   s/he hates him/her

      Direct: Who does she hate?
      Inverse: Who hates her?

4.   Verb: *utâmaueu*   s/he hits him/her

      Direct: Who does she hit?
      Inverse: Who hits her?

5.   Verb: *petueu*   s/he hears him/her

      Direct: Who does he hear?
      Inverse: Who hears him?

II.   Translate the following sentences into English:

     1.   *Nîminânu.*
     2.   *Âkushinânu.*
     3.   *Itâkanu.*
     4.   *Tshîtâpamâkanu.*
     5.   *Mishuâkanuat*
     6.   *Apu tût tshissenitak iâkaneshâu-aimuâne.*
     7.   *Tshîmâ nekamukue.*
     8.   *Tshîmâ tshîuekuenit.*

Additional Vocabulary

nikamu	AI verb	s/he sings
âkaneshâu-aimu	AI verb	s/he speaks English
tshîtâpameu	TA verb	s/he looks at him/her
tshîueu	AI verb	s/he goes home