

Te skemǵ ‘The Beaver’ (Sechelt)

Beaumont, Ronald C. 1985. *she shashishalhem, the Sechelt language: Language, stories and sayings of the Sechelt Indian people of British Columbia*. Penticton, British Columbia: Theytus Books. Typed, formatted and partially re-glossed by Kaoru Kiyosawa, 2007.

1. te x^wámímanas ʔiy ɬe syáqcu-s
ART old.man and ART wife-3SG.POSS
‘There was an old man and his wife

2. ʔiy te ʔímac-ít, miman stúmiš.
and ART grandson-3PL.POSS child man
and their grandson, a young man.’

3. x^wák^wet syáqcu-s,
none wife-3SG.POSS
‘He had no wife,’

qem sǵáǵ-s k^we s-yǵaqcuwam-s.
but wish-3SG.POSS ART NOM-look.for.a.wife-3SG.POSS
‘but he wanted to look for a wife.’

4. ní¹ ʔe te pála sǵílt,
was OBL ART one day,
‘One day,

5. qem ʔi cú ʔímaš stésít ʔe te stúlu.
Then aux go walk near OBL ART river
he went walking along the river.’

6. ʔi ǵál-ʔet cúcu,
aux still-EMPH go[red]
‘While he was going alone,’

7. qem ʔi súx^w-t-as te kwéǵím.
then aux see-tr-3ERG ART (fire)smoking
‘he saw smoke from a fire.’

8. ʔí ǵum s-cú-s k^wé-t-ás.
aux then NOM-go-3SG.POSS have.look.at-tr-3ERG
‘Then he went to have a look.

¹ to be (live, remain, stay) somewhere

9. ʔi súx^w-t-as ʔe ʔúʔqay slánay
 aux see-tr-3ERG ART snake woman
 ‘He saw a snake-woman’
- ʔáʔtex^w ʔe te ʔémstan.
 inside OBL ART house
 inside a house.’
10. ʔíy slánay, steḥ^wét sʔíyúmish ʔe ʔúʔqay.
 good woman, truly pretty ART snake
 ‘She was a fine woman, a very pretty snake.’
11. ʔí ʔum s-q^wál-s te stúmish:
 aux then NOM-speak-3SG.POSS ART man
 ‘Then the man said:’
12. “čálím če q^wálíwan, we yáqcuwam-mí-t-c-an?”
 how art:2SG.POSS heart if look.for.a.wife-REL-TR-2SG.OBJ-1SG.SUB
 “‘How would you feel if I married you?’”
13. ʔí ʔum s-q^wál-s ʔe slánay:
 aux then NOM-speak-3SG.POSS ART woman
 ‘Then the woman said:’
14. “x^wá-čán; x^wá-čáx^w ne sḥáʔ-ax^w.
 NEG-1SG.SUB NEG-2SG.SUB 1SG.POSS desire-2SG.SUB
 “‘Not me; It’s not you that I want.’”
15. cíciycuy ʔe qélum, ʔíq ʔe k^wéla,
 small(PL) ART:2SG.POSS eye wide ART:2SG.POSS belly,
 ‘Your eyes are small, your belly is broad,
16. qíqex^wqex^w=šén; máy-stú-mi-čen.”
 short=legs; dislike-CS-2SG.OBJ-1SG.SUB
 ‘your legs are short; I don’t like you.’”
17. ʔí ʔum s-cú-s ʔeq te míman stúmish.
 aux then NOM-go-3SG.POSS out ART child man
 ‘Then the young man went out.’
18. ʔi cú ʔémíwet ʔe te ʔélewim-s.
 aux go get.home OBL ART home-3SG.POSS
 ‘He went home to his place.’

19. ǎi ʔáħic ʔe te léʔáı-s, ǎi ǧáwam.
 aux lay.down OBL ART bed-3SG.POSS aux cry
 ‘He lay down on his bed and cried.’
20. ǎı ǧum s-wálat-it² ʔe ıe síla-s:
 aux then NOM-ask-PASS OBL ART grandmother-3SG.POSS
 ‘Then his grandmother asked him:’
21. “čálım-čex^w, ʔımac?
 what-2SG.SUB grandson
 “‘What is the matter with you, grandson?’
22. čálım ʔe s-ǧáħawam?”
 why 2SG.POSS NOM-crying
 ‘Why are you crying?’”
23. “ǎı qáqaláwát-c-as, yáʔ ...ıııı...
 aux making.fun.of-1SG.OBJ-3ERG Granny ...eeee...
 “‘She called me a lot of things, Granny ...eee...(he cries)’
24. cíciycuy=álus-čen-k^wa,³ yáʔ ...ıııı...
 small=eye-1SG.SUB-claimed Granny ...eeee...
 ‘She said I had small eyes, Granny ...eee...’
25. ǎıq-láwi=čen-k^wa, yáʔ ...ıııı...
 wide=belly-1SG.SUB-claimed Granny ...eee...
 ‘She said I had a broad belly, Granny ...eeee...’
26. cíciycuy=náč=úya-čen-k^wa, yáʔ ...ıııı...”
 small=back=hands-1SG.SUB-claimed Granny ...eeee...
 ‘She said that I had small fists, Granny ...eeee.’”
27. ǎı ǧum s-ǧáwam-s ıe síla-s.
 aux then NOM-cry-3SG.POSS ART grandmother-3SG.POSS
 ‘Then his grandmother cried.’

² “passive” (negative, in s-nominalizations)

³ reportative?

28. “ní-án-qa

there-1SG.SUB-if.only

‘‘If only I had been there

k^w s-ti-s ná-t-cí-m ʔe ɫe ʔúɫqay.
ART NOM-have-3SG.POSS say-2SG.OBJ-PASS OBL ART snake
when the snake said it to you.’

29. ǰ^wúyut-čen-stewá, ne ʔímac.”

kill(her)-1SG.SUB-would 1SG.POSS grandson

‘I would have killed her, my grandson.’”

30. ʔí ǰum ǰál s-x^wáwam-s te stúmish.

aux then still NOM-cry-3SG.POSS ART man

‘The man was still crying.’

31. “čálím-čex^w-la ʔe s-ǰál-ʔet ǰáǰawam?”

why-2SG.SUB-EMPH 2SG.POSS NOM-still-yet cry[red]

‘‘Why are you still crying then?’’

32. ʔí ǰum s-ʔút-s še čámq^weɫ,

aux then NOM-call-3SG.POSS ART cloud,

‘Then she called a cloud,

33. qem ʔí ǰum s-q^wéǰ-s te čámq^weɫ,

and aux then NOM-come-3SG.POSS ART cloud

‘and then the cloud came,

steǰ^wít ʔíyém sčéɫ.

very strong rain

Bringing very heavy rain.’

34. ʔi léč te stúlu.

aux fill.up ART river

‘The river rose.’

35. ʔi séɫǰ te ǰémstan-s ɫe ʔúɫqay sɫánay.

aux drift.away ART house-3SG.POSS ART snake woman

‘The snake-woman’s house drifted away.’

36. ʔi séɫx ɫe ʔúɫqay.

aux drift.away ART snake

‘The snake drifted away.’

37. ʔi ʕálsam-nú-mut
aux catch.on-NC-REFL
'She managed to hang on

ʔe te séʔálín sísiya.
OBL ART stick.out small.tree
to a small tree protruding from the bank.'

38. ʔi čát qʷál ʔe slánay:
now speak ART woman
'The woman now said:'

39. “ʔíy-stú-mi-čen, skémʕ.”
like-CS-2SG.OBJ-1SG.SUB Beaver
'I like you, Beaver.'

40. ʔi qʷál te skémʕ:
aux speak ART Beaver:
'Beaver said:'

41. “xʷá-čáxʷ ne sʕáʕ-axʷ.”
NEG-2SG.SUB 1SG.POSS desire-2SG.SUB
'“I don't want you.”'

42. ʔi ʕum s-ǰʷúy-s ʔe ʔúʔqay,
aux then NOM-die-3SG.POSS ART snake
'Then snake died,

43. qem ʔi ʕum s-húy-s.
and aux then NOM-end-3SG.POSS
and that was the end of her.'