

Grammar explanation written by Virginia Beavert

SAHAPTIN YAKIMA DIALECT SUBJECT PRONOUNS:

Aw nash wínasha táwnkan.
 Aw na wínasha táwnkan.

Now I am going to town.
 Let's go to town.

You will note that the clitic is attached to the time element (aw = now), which is interpreted by the listener to mean {we are} going {to town} right now.

Since I am a novice English language linguist, I leave the rest up to those who have more experience documenting linguistic interpretations. I can provide the Native Sahaptin language sentences in a language I have understood all my life.

Personal Pronouns:

Ink nash wínasha _____
Napiiník na wínasha _____
Namák na wínasha _____
Pmak pawínasha _____

I am going to _____
We (you and I, not him) are going _____
We (all of us) are going _____
They (not we) are going _____

I have been corrected by some linguists with these groups of sentences. I must have been misunderstanding my Native People all my life and they haven't corrected me, However I realize that preservation of language must be written correctly for the benefit of the future generation natives. The first thing I tell those I work with, that I KNOW and understand my language the way I learned it. Perhaps I was learning too many dialects in our village where I grew up. My father spoke the Columbia River Umatilla dialect, my mother spoke the Yakima River dialect, and my great, great grandmother spoke the lower Columbia Klikatat language. I had uncles who lived with us, who spoke the lower Snake River Palouse dialect. I learned all of those languages and dialects as a child.

Personal Pronouns in Sahaptin are distinguished by single, dual, and plural as well as I, you, we, s/he/it, they (person). Here is the set you need to know now:

I ink
 we two napiiník
 we all namák

 you imk
 you two iminík
 you all imák

 s/he/it p nk
 they two piiník
 they all pmak

	Singular	Dual	Plural
1 st Person (I, we)	ink	napiiník	namák
2 nd Person (you)	imk	iminík	imák
3 rd Person (s/he/it, they)	p nk	piiník	pmak

These are subject pronouns, USUALLY NOT USED! We've made it through 11 weeks of class using them hardly at all. They are used to be formal, to clear away potential misunderstanding, or for emphasis.

These do not take the place of clitics or verb prefixes. If you are adding a pronoun, you still need a clitic or verb prefix:

ink nash waníksha Joy.

imk nam waníksha Bri.

pmak patkwátana ílachxi sapl l.

Usually the pronoun will be the first word in the sentence. The clitic (if the subject is I, you, or we you need a clitic) likes to be the second thing in the sentence. It will go after the pronoun.