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Techniques for Creating Neologisms for Awakening Languages

Create a New Word

English *text* > Chitimacha *tex-* /tef/ ‘to text’, *text-* /teft/ ‘to text someone’

Borrow a Word

- (1) wak-ate-waʼnérvious
 1sg.P-MID-DUM-nervous
 ‘I’m nervous’

French *café* / Spanish *café* > Chitimacha *kahpi*, Navajo *gohwééh*

Borrow a Meaning

- (1) tusaayugaa-t maqpigaa-t
 receive.news-pl sheet_of_paper-pl
 ‘newspaper’ < English ‘newspaper’

Extend the Meaning of a Word

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|-----|----|-------------|------------------|---|------------------|
| (2) | a. | xux kut | ‘orange’ (fruit) | > | ‘orange’ (color) |
| | b. | nabin | ‘raw’ | > | ‘green’ |
| | c. | kuuci | ‘bonnet’ | > | ‘woman’s hat’ |
| | d. | dzantem | ‘soft’ | > | ‘light in color’ |
| | e. | heex paacpa | ‘frybread’ | > | ‘bread’ |

Use an Existing Pattern

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|-----|-------------|---|------------|
| (3) | naksti-hana | > | niiki-hana |
| | sale-house | | sick-house |
| | ‘store’ | | ‘hospital’ |

Derive a New Word

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|-----|------------------|-------------------|---|----------------------|
| (4) | Verb > Verb | gaste- ‘be cold’ | > | gaspa- ‘refrigerate’ |
| | Verb > Noun | neemaq- ‘teach’ | > | neemaam ‘teacher’ |
| | Verb > Adjective | yaq- ‘grow’ | > | yaagi ‘grown, adult’ |
| | Noun > Noun | kima- ‘believe’ | > | kimti ‘reason’ |
| | Noun > Verb | nakti ‘a dress’ | > | nakti- ‘to dress’ |
| | Noun > Adjective | kipi ‘meat, body’ | > | kipink ‘physical’ |

Create a Compound Word

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|-----|---------------------------|---|---|
| (5) | <i>hanxaqa</i> ‘door’ | < | <i>hana</i> ‘house’ + <i>xaq</i> ‘mouth’ |
| | <i>jaayup-</i> ‘sunbathe’ | < | <i>jaqa</i> ‘sun’ + <i>yup-</i> ‘bathe’ |
| | <i>qatinahdzi</i> ‘size’ | < | <i>qatin</i> ‘large’ + <i>nahdzi</i> ‘size’ |

Use a Description

- | | | | |
|-----|--|------------------|-------|
| (6) | duskunkatsi | getuyna | hana |
| | metal | they_usually_hit | house |
| | ‘smithy’ (‘house (where) they usually beat metal’) | | |

- (7) dzampuyna
they_usually_spear
'a spear' (lit. 'they usually spear')

Describe the Physical Characteristics

- (8) bek'erek'os 'it's red on 3sg' ('s/he's got measles') (Dene Sųliné; Rice 2012:42)
(9) sař'ie 'it is black' ('grayling fish') (Dene Sųliné; Rice 2012:49)
(10) bałai 'that which is round' ('button', used to refer to the French) (Dene Sųliné; Rice 2012:23)
(11) egóthéchéaé 'its neck is big' ('sucker (fish)') (Dene Sųliné; Rice 2012:49)
(12) kix qatin 'big dog' ('horse') (Chitimacha)

Describe Based on Similarities

- (13) dzehte- 'trap-like' ('make a lacrosse/stickball play') (Chitimacha)
(14) ciixte- 'leaf-like' ('be leafy') (Chitimacha)
(15) neka xix gamin 'long-nosed devil' (mythological creature > 'elephant') (Chitimacha)
(16) gųnaze 'little worm (pupa, maggot)' ('rice') (Dene Sųliné; Rice 2012:22)
(17) ets'eze gaiaze 'little white kidney' ('chickadee') (Dene Sųliné; Rice 2012:23)
(18) łué 'of/like whitefish' ('fish') (Dene Sųliné; Rice 2012:49)

Describe the Material, Important Pieces, or Salient Features

- (19) iti çanaha 'wooden wheel' ('car, cart') (Choctaw; Byington 2001:405)
(20) tełk'ali 'clean sock one' ('weasel') (Dene Sųliné; Rice 2012:47)
(21) jéthchené 'fishhook-wood' ('fishing pole') (Dene Sųliné; Rice 2012:53)
(22) xa?a 'it (SRO) comes out' ('it's dawn') (Dene Sųliné; Rice 2012:62)

Describe the Action or Result of the Action

- (23) dzintups 'crumb-eater' ('pigeon') (Chitimacha)
(24) ná'adhi 'that which is cut twice' ('square') (Dene Sųliné; Rice 2012:23)
(25) sa ghe?ał 'the sun, it (SRO) is moving' ('the clock is ticking') (Dene Sųliné; Rice 2012:63)
(26) waaswaasmank 'cricket' (< waas waas 'noise a cricket makes') (Chitimacha; Swadesh 1953a:27)
(27) jaaxaqa 'hot mouth' ('rice') (Chitimacha; Swadesh 1953a:65)

Describe the Purpose or Function

- (28) vhakv em pvtakv 'law's foundation' ('constitution') (Creek; Martin & Mauldin 2000:218)
(29) helk'édhi / telk'idhi 'the thing that shoots' ('gun, rifle') (Dene Sųliné; Rice 2012:27)

Use Associated Words

- (30) Ciqix Panq 'leaf month' ('November') (Chitimacha)
(31) bescho nené 'big knife country' ('America') (Dene Sųliné; Rice 2012:22)

Use a Metaphor

- (32) a. gu sedak 'worms are eating me' ('cancer')
b. dekoth sedak 'phlegm is eating me' ('I have a cold')
c. shíratth'en sedak 'heartburn is eating me' ('I have heartburn')
d. ya sedak 'lice are eating me' ('I have/am infested with lice')

Use Nouns for Adjectives

(33) *xux hukatsi* ‘park’ < *xux* ‘tree’ + *hukatsi* ‘field’

(34) we niik-m
DET be.sick-A.NZR
‘the sick one’

(Chitimacha; Swadesh 1953b:A65b.8)

Use Adjectives or Demonstratives for Adverbs

Chitimacha *juugi* may mean either ‘quick’ or ‘quickly’

- (35) a. da ‘this (close by)’
b. daat ‘this time’ (‘now’)
c. daatenk ‘after this time’ (‘from now on’)
d. daatk ‘being now’ (‘now’)
e. danki ‘at there (close by)’ (‘nearby’)