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Workshop for
Documenting Endangered Languages

October 14 - 17, 2007
The New England Center,
University of New Hampshire,
Durham, NH

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The Mohegan Language Project: Mounting the Web

Prepared by
Stephanie Fielding,
Mohegan

October 2007

Stephanie Fielding
Mohegan Tribe

NSF Documenting Endangered Languages Workshop,
Durham, New Hampshire, 2007
January 5—Sun is clear. I have been to Palmerston.  

January 6—Rain this early morning; snow falling now; already bright.

January 7—Already as I live till another dawn. Sun rising clear; cold this early morning; snow falling; already noon; night.

January 8—Cloudy day, sun rising. Already night; cold; snow gone.

January 9—Cold night; I go to Palmerston. Already night sun gone yellowish clear.

January 10—Sun rising clear, it is good. Cold early morning; already noon; already night. Not windy in the night.

January 11—Cold early morning; cloudy day; rain; snowfall preceded today.

January 12—Sun rising clear, snow falling, cold. Wind is strong, it is windy already noon; night cold.

January 13—Sun rising clear. Cold, already noon; night cold.

January 14—Sun rising clear, this early morning cold, cloudy to bright night.

January 15—Cloudy day, this early morning; cold, snow gone. Cold nearly noon, already night.

January 16—Cold, dim, cloudy; nearly noon; sun very gone. I do not feel well.  

Already night, sun going, gone.

January 17—Rising sun not cloudy this morning. Already noon. It is pleasant tonight.

January 18—Sun rising this early morning cold; snow gone, wind is strong here. Already noon, rush wind here. Night sun gone; cold gone.

January 19—Sun rises cold. Already noon; cold wind outdoors; that's the truth. Already night, cold.

January 20—Cold sun rising; already noon: I do not feel well.

January 21—Rain this early morning, nearly noon; already night again.

January 22—Sun rising this early morning. I have been to Lancing today.

January 23—Cloudy day, snow gone at sun rising yesterday; already night, cold at night.  


—A Mohegan-English dictionary, 1895—

—A Mohegan-English dictionary, 1895—

Stephanie Fielding  Mohegan Tribe

NSF Documenting Endangered Languages Workshop, Durham, New Hampshire, 2007
This is the Mohegan Language Languishing
The Type -m/n- TI verbs make up more than 75% of the VTI words in our dictionary. Although Type -u- TI verbs only make up a small percentage of the words, the likelihood of you using a Type -u- verb is very good, because one of the words is micu-: eat.

This chart shows how to build a Type -m/n- TI word using the absolute form when an object is present.

| Independent verbs: transitive inanimate absolute – m/n-Stem |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| **Person** | **Mohegan forms** | **Translation** |
| 1st person singular | nutakatam | I strike (it) |
| 2nd person singular | kutakatam | you strike (it) |
| 3rd person singular | takatam | he/she strikes (it) |
| 3rd person obviative | takatamwah | he/she (obv.) strikes (it) |
| 1st person plural exclusive | nutakatamumun | he (excl.) strike (it) |
| 1st person plural inclusive | nutakatamumun | he (incl.) strike (it) |
| 2nd person plural | kutakatamumō | you (plural) strike (it) |
| 3rd person plural | takatamwak | they strike (it) |

Nutakatam póhpaskôk: I hit the ball.
In muyótam yoht: The man smells the fire.
Muhkacuks mumuqunum uhkutuq: The boy rubs his knee.
wustaw-, VI/A he makes it for him
  ind 1st sg nuwustawó, nostawó, ind 3rd sg wustawáw,
you and I kuwustawomun, kostaÍamun, imp 2nd sg wustaw,
imp 2nd pl wustawohq, conj 1st wástawak, conj 3rd wástawó

Yohkhik mó wástawak Mohiksinak: Mohegans used to make cornmeal. Mus
katawí wustawáwak yolta, wáci wustawáwak nicuwak: They will be going to
make a fire so that they can make something to eat. Eff

wusto-, VI/I he makes it
  ind 1st sg nuwusto, nosto, ind 3rd sg wustow,
you and I kuwustomun, kostaÍomun, imp 2nd sg wustowush,
imp 2nd pl wustowunq, conj 1st wástnyón, conj 3rd wástók

Yo yopówik nuwusto nusóp: This morning I made my cornmeal mush; Nunáníu
mó wustów sóp: My grandmother used to make cornmeal mush. Wámi cáqansh
iwák Manto wustów yush: All things say God made them. Eff

wusuh-, VI/A he makes him
  ind 1st sg nuwus'ho, ind 3rd sg wus'háw, you and I kuwus'hómun,
imp 2nd sg wusuh, imp 2nd pl wus'hohq, conj 1st wás'hak, conj 3rd wás'hók

Mut tápi nuwus'ho nahak: I cannot make myself. Eff

wut'hki-, VA/I he dwells, lives at ‘have as one’s land’
  ind 1st sg nuwut'hkí, nót'hkí, ind 3rd sg wut'hki,
you and I kuwut'hkimun, kót'hkimun, imp 2nd sg wut'hkísh,
imp 2nd pl wut'hkíq, conj 1st wáht'híyón, conj 3rd wáht'hkit

Wut'hkísh wuyohtiyókanuk: Live in peace. [SO]

wut'hkíwók, VI address, residence
  plural wut'hkíwókansh, locative wut'hkíwókanuk

Cáqan kuwut'hkíwók: What is your address?

wutamók, NA tobacco pipe
  plural wutamókanak, locative wutamókanuk

Wutamókanak pášaw: Bring the pipe!

wutatam-, VA/I he drinks
  ind 1st sg nuwutatam, notatam, ind 3rd sg wutatam,
you and I kuwutatamun, kotatatamun, imp 2nd sg wutatamsh,
imp 2nd pl wutatamoq, conj 1st wáhtatamón, conj 3rd wáhtatak

Wutatamóhutuc wući ópúsk tatamwávic: Let him drink from the medicine
cup. Áiqí wutatamsh kíht’hanupáq: Don’t drink the seawater!

wutáhum, VI strawberry ‘heart-berry’
Hello. How are you?
Mohegan Language Project

These are other resources that are available and soon to come that will help you learn the Mohegan Language. More will come.

Download Resources

- Dictionary: Mohegan-English
- Grammar Paradigms
- English-Mohegan Word Finder

More ways to listen...
1. Prayers
2. Songs
3. Person Names
4. Job Names

My favorite links
- wwww.mohegan.nsn.us
- cornell.edu/collections/fielding

Our goal is fluency...

For many of us who are already adults, fluency is not likely. But we can learn some phrases, we can become literate in the language, and we will be able to carry on simple conversations in Mohegan. It will be up to the next generation to take on the mission of fluency.

One of the best ways to learn a language is to hear it. You can hear the Mohegan language...
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Lesson #2 - Goodbye

Saturday, October 6, 2007
The podcast teaches you to say goodbye and introduces you to commands.

When you are finished with the podcast...

Let us go home.
It was nice to have met you.
Goodbye.

This lesson will teach you to say...

Goodbye.

Exercise #2 - Goodbye

These are individual lessons in the Mohegan Language that work primarily with phrases. There will be short grammar rules, and on a separate downloadable podcast, exercises with English and Mohegan phrases spoken as well as time for you to repeat the phrases aloud.
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Goodbye.

When you are finished with the podclass download the
Exercise 1: Hello
Wednesday, October 3, 2007

This exercise will help you memorize a simple conversation, so that you can feel it on your tongue. The idea is to get you to speak. Don’t hold back.

First you will hear the English, then the Mohegan translation followed by a space of time long enough to let you speak your new words. The Mohegan phrase and the accompanying silence are repeated three times. When you are finished, start over.

Play it until you know it.
In this exercise you will learn to say:

Hello
How are you?
Listen

Shortly you will have selections of prayers, songs, Mohegan names given to people, and names of jobs.

These will have audio links, so that you can hear the words and download them to your mp3 player. This way you will be able to learn what you want to learn.
Videocasts

This section is still under construction. Years ago the Tribe made a series of videos to turn into interactive CDs. This will happen and you will see them here. Be patient.

Lesson 1: Hello. How are you?
Wednesday, October 3, 2007
This is just a place holder. It is a stretched version of the first podclass. Please don’t see it as a serious attempt to make a video cast.

Go to archive

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