



Smithsonian Institution
National Museum of Natural History

Department of Anthropology
National Anthropological Archives

NAA MS 4800 369

James O. Dorsey papers, circa 1870-1956, bulk 1870-1895

National Anthropological Archives, Smithsonian Institution

Please cite the material in the following format:

"NAA MS [Manuscript Number], National Anthropological Archives, Smithsonian Institution"

For example:

" NAA MS 2108, National Anthropological Archives, Smithsonian Institution"

4800 DORSEY, JAMES OWEN **
DORSEY
PAPERS: Notes on verbs in Tututni (Oregon Athapascan). ca. 1884.
Oregon A. D. 7 pp.
Athapascans
(4.1) ** Negative microfilm reel 33.

369

RDM/67 [old no. 1229 (complete)]

The student should take the different verbs signifying "to eat" and "to drink" and elaborate them in all possible forms of voice, mode, and tense. The same should be done with the different verbs signifying "to go;" the different verbs signifying "to tie;" the different verbs signifying "to hunt;" the different verbs signifying "to fish;" the different verbs signifying "to talk," &c., &c. Many other verbs will occur to him, such as "to stand," "to sit," "to lie," &c., &c.

Some Athapascan verbs are composed of verbal roots prefixed to syllables showing the mode of action.

Among the verbal roots of the Chitsu are the following:
rxā, through (or a hole); tc'e, into; tc'e, piece from the edge; Kqe, across; through the middle. ɣta-yus, break in, a box, glass, &c.
yi, break in two, as wood. ɣtse, lengthwise. ye, groove.
Kurūt-yiya', fall from a height. yi-yē', fall to ground, topple.

Partial Paradigm.

Verbal Root	Modal particles				
	With Knife	scissors	pushing stick	foot (pushing)	push with open hand
Rxa-	-ni'-tās	-ni'-pəɣl	ni'-kət	niɣtɕūs	niɣl-tɕūs ^{niɣl}
Tc'e	-ni'tās	-ni'-pəɣl	ni'-kət	niɣl-tɕūs	
Kqe	-ni'tās	-ni'-pəɣl	ni'-kət	niɣl-tɕūs	
Ta	-ni'tās	-ni'-pəɣl	ni'-kət		
ɣta-yus'			-kət	-ɣltɕūs	
yi				-ɣltɕūs	
ɣtse	-rxi'tās	rxi'-pəɣl	rxi'-kət	-rxi'ɣltɕūs	
ye	-tcūt'tās, or -tcūt'tās		-tcūt'-kət	niɣl-tɕūs niɣl-tɕūs	
Kurūt-yiya'	-rxi'tās		-rxi'-kət	(rxi'ɣltɕūs)	
yi-yē'	-rxi'tās		-rxi'-kət	-rxi'-ɣltɕūs	

*Or by sitting on.

Verbal root	*Pull (with hand)	Kick	burn	shoot	with ax
Rxa	-nit'ɣltɕūtɕl	nit'ɣltɕɔɣl	nit'ɣlnē	-nit'ɣlɣi	nit'ɣlt'ä
Tc'e	-nit'ɣltɕūtɕl	nit'ɣltɕɔɣl	nit'ɣlnē	-nit'ɣlɣi	nit'ɣlt'ä
Kqe	-nit'ɣltɕūtɕl	nit'ɣltɕɔɣl	nit'ɣlnē	-nit'ɣlɣi	nit'ɣlt'ä
Ta		nit'ɣltɕɔɣl	nit'ɣlnē	-nit'ɣlɣi	nit'ɣlt'ä ^{rxi'tās}
ɣta-yus'	-ɣltɕūtɕl	-ɣltɕɔɣl	-ɣlnē	-ɣlɣi	-ɣlt'ä
yi					-ɣlt'ä
ɣtse	-nit'ɣltɕūtɕl	rxi't'ɣltɕɔɣl	rxi't'ɣlnē	rxi't'ɣlɣi	rxi't'ɣlt'ä
Kurūt-yiya'	rxi''	rxi''	rxi''	rxi''	rxi''
yi-yē'	"	"	"	"	"
ye	tcūt'-ɣltɕūtɕl	tcūt'-ɣltɕɔɣl (trampling on)	tcūt'-lē	tcūt'-ɣlɣi	tcūt'-ɣlt'ä

[tcūt'-tɕɔɣl
rubbing foot
back and
forth]

Verbal roots	By Hitting With stick, club	Grasping with both hands, or grasping too hard	Slapping with (sidewise motion of hand	Gnawing (several bites)
Rxa	nit'-glt'sûs	ni'-sût	ni'-qät	ni'-yâ
Jce	"	"	"	"
Kqe	"	"	"	"
Ta	nit'-glt'säs	"	"	"
glt'a-yüs'	glt'säs	sût	qät	
yi'	glt'sûs			
glt'ee	rxit'-glt'sûs	rx'i'-sût	[rx'i'-qät(?)]	rx'i'-yâ
Kwüt'yi ya'	rx'i'-glt'säs'		(rx'i'-qät')	rx'i'-yâ'
yi-yê'	"		" "	"
ye	tcü'k'el-t'sûs			tc'i'-yâ

	Biting (once)
Rxa	nit'-glt'ku
Jce	"
Kqe	"
Ta	"
glt'a-yüs'	glt'ku
yi'	
Kwüt'yi ya'	rxit'el-ku'
yi-yê'	"
ye	(tcü'k'el-ku?)
glt'ee	rxit'-glt'ku

To cut through (or a hole) with a knife.

To cut a piece from the edge with a knife.

To cut across a string, stick, etc. with a knife. (To cut across the grain)

Pronouns

- S.3 rxi-hi-tc) Rxa-ni-t'äs
- 2 nün-hi wa-ni-t'äs
- 1 ci-hi wa-nic-t'äs
- D.3 näg'gilt'e rxa-ga-ni-t'äs
- 2 näg'nül't'e wa-nu-t'äs
- 1 näg'nül-t'e wa-nit-t'äs
- P.3 tūqwébi rxa-ga-ni-t'äs
- 2 tū'qwe nül-t'e wa-nu-t'äs
- 1 tū'qwe nül-t'e wa-nit-t'äs

- S.3 t'e-ni-t'äs
- 2 t'a-ni-t'äs
- 1 t'a-nic-t'äs
- D.3 t'e-ga-ni-t'äs
- 2 t'a-nu-t'äs
- 1 t'a-nit-t'äs
- P.3 t'e-ga-ni-t'äs
- 2 t'a-nu-t'äs
- 1 t'a-nit-t'äs

- S.3 kqe-ni-t'äs
- 2 kwe-ni-t'äs
- 1 kwe-nic-t'äs
- D.3 kqê-ga-ni-t'äs
- 2 kwe-nu-t'äs
- 1 kwe-nit-t'äs
- P.3 kqê-ga-ni-t'äs
- 2 kwe-nu-t'äs
- 1 kwe-nit-t'äs

As the plural of verbs differs from the dual only in the form of the pronoun, only the above examples of the plural are given.

Unless stated otherwise, all verbs in this appendix are in the Present (or Aorist) Tense.

To cut a hole in with scissors

To cut a piece off with scissors

To cut across with scissors, to cut a string in two, etc.

- S.3 Rxa-ni-pēsł
- 2 wa-ni-pēsł
- 1 wa-nic-pēsł
- D.3 rxa-ga-ni-pēsł
- 2 wa-nu-pēsł
- 1 wa-nit-pēsł

- S.3 t'e-ni-pēsł
- 2 t'a-ni-pēsł
- 1 t'a-nic-pēsł
- D.3 t'e-ga-ni-pēsł
- 2 t'a-nu-pēsł
- 1 t'a-nit-pēsł

- S.3 kqe-ni-pēsł
- 2 kwe-ni-pēsł
- 1 kwe-nic-pēsł
- D.3 kqê-ga-ni-pēsł
- 2 kwe-nu-pēsł
- 1 kwe-nit-pēsł

To punch or push (a hole) thro (with a stick, etc)

To punch or push a piece off

To smunch or push across or thro' the middle

- S.3 rxa-ni-kēt
- 2 wa-ni-kēt
- 1 wa-nic-kēt
- D.3 rxa-ga-ni-kēt
- 2 wa-nu-kēt
- 1 wa-nit-kēt

- S.3 t'e-ni-kēt
 - 2 t'a-ni-kēt
 - 1 t'a-nic-kēt
 - D.3 t'e-ga-ni-kēt
 - 2 t'a-nu-kēt
 - 1 t'a-nit-kēt
- with a stick, spear, etc.

- S.3 kqe-ni-kēt
 - 2 kwe-ni-kēt
 - 1 kwe-nic-kēt
 - D.3 kqê-ga-ni-kēt
 - 2 kwe-nu-kēt
 - 1 kwe-nit-kēt
- with a spear

To make a hole through (as paper) by grasping with both hands too hard

To tear off a piece by grasping or pressing too hard

To break a stick in two by grasping with both hands.

- S.3 rxa-ni-sūt
- 2 wa-ni-sūt
- 1 wa-nic-sūt
- D.3 rxa-ga-ni-sūt
- 2 wa-nu-sūt
- 1 wa-nit-sūt

- S.3 t'e-ni-sūt
- 2 t'a-ni-sūt
- 1 t'a-nic-sūt
- D.3 t'e-ga-ni-sūt
- 2 t'a-nu-sūt
- 1 t'a-nit-sūt

- S.3 kqe-ni-sūt
- 2 kwe-ni-sūt
- 1 kwe-nic-sūt
- D.3 kqê-ga-ni-sūt
- 2 kwe-nu-sūt
- 1 kwe-nit-sūt

To cut thro' the top of a box lengthwise or with the grain, with a knife

To make a bush or topple + fall by cutting with a knife.

To cut a groove in wood with a knife. 231

S3 gta-yus'

S3 gltse-rxi-täs

S3 yi-ye'-rxi-täs'

S3 ye-teüt-täs

2

2 gltse-rxi-täs

2 mi-ye'-rxi-täs'

2 ye-teüt-täs

1

1 gltse-rxi-täs

1 mi-ye'-rxi-täs'

1 ye-teüt-täs

D3

D3 gltse-gi-rxi-täs

D3 gi-yi-ye'-rxi-täs'

D3 ye-gä-teüt-täs

2

2 gltse-wu-täs

2 mi-ye'-wu-täs'

2 ye-teu-täs

1

1 gltse-rxit-täs

1 mi-ye'-rxit-täs'

1 ye-teit-täs

P3

P3 gltse-gi-rxi-täs

P3 gi-yi-ye'-rxi-täs'

P3 ye-gä-teüt-täs

2

2 gltse-wu-täs

2 mi-ye'-wu-täs'

2 ye-teu-täs

1

1 gltse-rxit-täs

1 mi-ye'-rxit-täs'

1 ye-teit-täs

The prefix is glee or gltse. Both seem to be in use.

So inflect Kurüt-yi-ya' rxi-täs. (S.2 Kurüt mi-ya' rxi-täs; D.3 Kurüt gi-yi-ya' rxi-täs')

Another form of the 3d. S. of this verb is ye-teit-täs/teit. Prob. intended for D.1.

To cut lengthwise with scissors (not at the edge of an ob.)

S3 gltse-rxi-pész

2 gltse-rxi-pész

1 gltse-rxi-pész

D3 gltse-gi-rxi-pész

2 gltse-wu-pész

1 gltse-rxit-pész

To break (in) a box, glass, etc. by punching

To split lengthwise by punching with end of stick, etc.

To make topple + fall by punching with end of stick, etc.

To make a groove in by punching with end of a stick

S3 gta-yus'-kët

S3 gltse-rxi-kët

S3 yi-ye'-rxi-kët'

S3 ye-teüt-kët

2

2 gltse-rxi-kët

2 mi-ye'-rxi-kët'

2 ye-teüt-kët

1

1 gltse-rxi-kët

1 mi-ye'-rxi-kët'

1 ye-teüt-kët

D3

D3 gltse-gi-rxi-kët

D3 gi-yi-ye'-rxi-kët'

D3 ye-gä-teüt-kët

2

2 gltse-wu-kët

2 mi-ye'-wu-kët'

2 ye-teu-kët

1 gltse-rxit-kët

1 mi-ye'-rxit-kët'

1 ye-teit-kët

*carpenter's gouge, etc.

To break (in) glass, etc. by grasping too hard

To split (lengthwise) by grasping too hard

[To indent, or make a groove by grasping too hard]

S3 gta-yus'-süt

S3 gltse-rxi-süt

2 gltse-rxi-süt

1 gltse-rxi-süt

D3 gltse-gi-rxi-süt

2 gltse-wu-süt

1 gltse-rxit-süt

To make a hole through paper, etc., by slapping (sidewise) with the hand

- S.3 rxa-ni'-qät
- 2 wa-ni'-qät
- 1 wa-nič'-qät
- D.3 rxa'-qa-ni'-qät
- 2 wa-ni'-qät
- 1 wa-nit'-qät

To tear or knock off a piece from the edge by slapping with the hand

- S.3 tce-ni'-qät
- 2 tca-ni'-qät
- 1 tca-nič'-qät
- D.3 tce'-qa-ni'-qät
- 2 tca-ni'-qät
- 1 tca-nič'-qät

To break a string in two by slapping with the hand

- S.3 kqe-ni'-qät
- 2 kqwe-ni'-qät
- 1 kqwe-nič'-qät
- D.3 kqê'-qa-ni'-qät
- 2 kqwe-ni'-qät
- 1 kqwe-nit'-qät

To knock one ob. into another by slapping (sidewise) with the hand

- S.3 ta-ni'-qät
- 2
- 1

To gnaw a hole through (biting more than once)

- S.3 rxa-ni'-yã
- 2 wa-ni'-yã
- 1 wa-nič'-yã
- D.3 rxa'-qa-ni'-yã
- 2 wa-ni'-yã
- 1 wa-nit'-yã

To gnaw a piece off the edge (after several bites)

- S.3 tce-ni'-yã
- 2 tca-ni'-yã
- 1 tca-nič'-yã
- D.3 tce'-qa-ni'-yã
- 2 tca-ni'-yã
- 1 tca-nit'-yã

To gnaw a ^{stick}plariat, etc. in two

- S.3 kqe-ni'-yã
- 2 kqwe-ni'-yã
- 1 kqwe-nič'-yã
- D.3 kqê'-qa-ni'-yã
- 2 kqwe-ni'-yã
- 1 kqwe-nit'-yã

To gnaw into.

- S.3 ta-ni'-yã

To bite ~~force~~ through (at one bite)

- S.3 rxa-nitgl'-ku
- 2 wa-ni-gl'-ku
- 1 wa-ničl'-ku
- D.3 rxa'-qa-nitgl'-ku
- 2 wa-ni-gl'-ku
- 1 wa-ni-gl'-ku

To bite a piece off the edge (at one bite)

- S.3 tce-nitgl'-ku
- 2 tca-ni-gl'-ku
- 1 tca-ničl'-ku
- D.3 tce'-qa-nitgl'-ku
- 2 tca-ni-gl'-ku
- 1 tca-ni-gl'-ku

To bite ^{stick}a string, etc. in two (at one bite)

- S.3 kqe-nitgl'-ku
- 2 kqwe-ni-gl'-ku
- 1 kqwe-ničl'-ku
- D.3 kqê'-qa-nitgl'-ku
- 2 kqwe-ni-gl'-ku
- 1 kqwe-ni-gl'-ku

To bite into (at one bite)

- S.3 ta-nitgl'-ku

Knock a hole through with a stick or club.

- S.3 rxa-nitgl'-tsûs
- 2 wa-ni-gl'-tsûs
- 1 wa-ničl'-tsûs
- D.3 rxa'-qa-nitgl'-tsûs
- 2 wa-ni-gl'-tsûs
- 1 wa-ni-gl'-tsûs

Knock a piece off the edge with a club, etc.

- S.3 tce-nitgl'-tsûs
- 2 tca-ni-gl'-tsûs
- 1 tca-ničl'-tsûs
- D.3 tce'-qa-nitgl'-tsûs
- 2 tca-ni-gl'-tsûs
- 1 tca-ni-gl'-tsûs

Break a cord, etc. in two by hitting with a stick, etc.

- S.3 kqe-nitgl'-tsûs
- 2 kqwe-ni-gl'-tsûs
- 1 kqwe-ničl'-tsûs
- D.3 kqê'-qa-nitgl'-tsûs
- 2 kqwe-ni-gl'-tsûs
- 1 kqwe-ni-gl'-tsûs

To knock into, with a bat, stick, etc.

- S.3 ta-nitgl'-tsûs

Kick a hole through

- S.3 rxa-nitgl'-tägl
- 2 wa-ni-gl'-tägl
- 1 wa-ničl'-tägl
- D.3 rxa'-qa-nitgl'-tägl
- 2 wa-ni-gl'-tägl
- 1 wa-ni-gl'-tägl

Kick off a piece

- S.3 tce-nitgl'-tägl
- 2 tca-ni-gl'-tägl
- 1 tca-ničl'-tägl
- D.3 tce'-qa-nitgl'-tägl
- 2 tca-ni-gl'-tägl
- 1 tca-ni-gl'-tägl

Break a stick, cord etc. with foot

- S.3 kqe-nitgl'-tägl
- 2 kqwe-ni-gl'-tägl
- 1 kqwe-ničl'-tägl
- D.3 kqê'-qa-nitgl'-tägl
- 2 kqwe-ni-gl'-tägl
- 1 kqwe-ni-gl'-tägl

Kick an ob. into.

- S.3 ta-nitgl'-tägl

To break (in) glass, etc.,
by slapping (with the
hand moving side-wise)

To split by slapping
can hardly be
used!

To make topple over by
slapping (side-wise motion
of hand)

S.3 glta-yūs'-qät

[S.3 eltee-rxi'-qät
2 eltee-rxi'-qät
1 eltee-rxi'-qät
D3 eltee'qi-rxi'-qät
2 eltee-wū'-qät
1 eltee-rxit'-qät]

S.3 yi-yê'-rxi-qät'
2 mi-yê'-rxi-qät'
1 mi-yê'-rxi-qät'
D3 qi-yi-yê'-rxi-qät'
2 mi-yê'-wū-qät'
1 mi-yê'-rxit-qät'

S.3 ye-

To split by gnawing

To make topple over
by gnawing

To gnaw a groove in

S.3 eltee-rxi'-yā
2 eltee-rxi'-yā
1 eltee-rxi'-yā
D3 eltee'qi-rxi'-yā
2 eltee-wū'-yā
1 eltee-rxit'-yā

S.3 yi-yê'-rxi-yā'
2 mi-yê'-rxi-yā'
1 mi-yê'-rxi-yā'
D3 qi-yi-yê'-rxi-yā'
2 mi-yê'-wū-yā'
1 mi-yê'-rxit-yā'

S.3 ye-tei'-yā'
2 ye-tei'-yā'
1 ye-tei'-yā'
D3 ye'qät
2
1

To split by biting
(at one bite)

To make topple over by
biting (at one bite)

To bite a groove in
(at one bite)

S.3 eltee-rxitgl'-ku
2 eltee-rxitgl'-ku
1 eltee-rxiel'-ku
D3 eltee'qi-rxitgl'-ku
2 eltee-wūl'-ku
1 eltee-rxit'-ku

S.3 yi-yê'-rxitgl'-ku'
2 mi-yê'-rxitgl'-ku'
1 mi-yê'-rxiel'-ku'
D3 qi-yi-yê'-rxitgl'-ku'
2 mi-yê'-wūl'-ku'
1 mi-yê'-rxit'-ku'

[S.3 ye-tei'gl'-ku?]

To batter, stave or break
(in) a box, glass, etc.

To split by hitting
with a mallet + wedge

To make topple over by
hitting with a club, etc.

To knock a groove in
with a club, etc.

S.3 glta-yūs'gl'-tsās
2 glta-si'gl'-tsās
1 glta-siel'-tsās
D3 glta'qi-yūs'gl'-tsās
2 glta-si'gl'-tsās
1 glta-siel'-tsās

S.3 eltee-rxitgl'-tsās
2 eltee-rxitgl'-tsās
1 eltee-rxiel'-tsās
D3 eltee'qi-rxitgl'-tsās
2 eltee-wūl'-tsās
1 eltee-rxit'-tsās

S.3 yi-yê'-rxi'gl'-tsās'
2 mi-yê'-rxi'gl'-tsās'
1 mi-yê'-rxiel'-tsās'
D3 qi-yi-yê'-rxi'gl'-tsās'
2 mi-yê'-wūl'-tsās'
1 mi-yê'-rxit'-tsās'

S.3 ye-tei'gl'-tsās (sic)
[2 ye-tei'gl'-tsās?]
[1 ye-tei'gl'-tsās?]
[D3 ye-tei'qi'gl'-tsās?]
[2 ye-tei'gl'-tsās?]
[1 ye-tei'gl'-tsās?]

Break glass, box etc. by kicking

Split by kicking, etc

Make topple over by kicking

Batter in by trampling on

S.3 glta-yūs'gl'-tägl
2 glta-si'gl'-tägl
1 glta-siel'-tägl
D3 glta'qi-yūs'gl'-tägl
2 glta-si'gl'-tägl
1 glta-siel'-tägl

S.3 eltee-rxitgl'-tägl
2 eltee-rxitgl'-tägl
1 eltee-rxiel'-tägl
D3 eltee'qi-rxitgl'-tägl
2 eltee-wūl'-tägl
1 eltee-rxit'-tägl

S.3 yi-yê'-rxi'gl'-tägl'
2 mi-yê'-rxi'gl'-tägl'
1 mi-yê'-rxiel'-tägl'
D3 qi-yi-yê'-rxi'gl'-tägl'
2 mi-yê'-wūl'-tägl'
1 mi-yê'-rxit'-tägl'

S.3 ye-tei'gl'-tägl'
2 mi-e'-te'gl'-tägl'
1 mi-e'-te'gl'-tägl'
D3 ye-tei'qi'gl'-tägl'
2 mi-e'-te'gl'-tägl'
1 mi-e'-te'gl'-tägl'



Smithsonian Institution
National Museum of Natural History

Department of Anthropology
National Anthropological Archives

The Smithsonian Continues to research information on its collections. Contact Smithsonian for current status.

Please observe the following rules for file sharing, which are intended to help protect the integrity of the material and associated information.

- Do not incorporate material into a publicly accessible database or website without checking with the National Anthropological Archives (NAA).
- Do not post whole manuscripts to a social media site, such as a blog, Facebook page, Twitter feed, etc;
- Do not modify or obscure the source information or copyright notice included in the material;
- If you deposit the material in a tribal library or resource center, make sure that the library or resource center knows the source of the original material and is aware of these rules. Please let the NAA know where material is deposited so that we can guide community members to it.

Questions? naa@si.edu.