

Small Number and the Old Canoe

Story Transcript: English and Huu-ay-aht

Benson Nookemis recorded the Nuuchahnulth Version of the story himself on a dictaphone cassette recorder and submitted the tape to the Matchcatcher Team. The story was transcribed by Henry Kammler with the assistance of students of the Nuuchahnulth language at U of Munich: Merlin Detschey, Julia Haslinger, Susanne Mors, Lara Stephan, and Filip Wissert from Institut für Ethnologie, München, Germany.

ʔanahʔis Huksyuu ʔuhʔiš qiick^wiʔaʔʔi čapac.

ʔuklaa ʔanahʔis Huksyuu sučaqʔičʔaʔ meʔiʔqac. Wiwipalča saačink. ʔukčiqʔas natnaniqšak. Wiiyaʔaʔ ʔuušwaa ʔani wiwipalča saačink meʔiʔqacʔi. Naniiqsu ʔusimʔaʔ ʔasiik ʔuuk^wiʔ ʔaxaas ʔinksyiqhtin. "ʔusimʔaʔeʔic", waaʔaʔ naniiqsu, "pisatukquuk hitaash ʔuupaath ʔukscaʔinminhukʔitqak. ʔuuʔuuqukma ʔupaa. ʔupiičʔiʔaʔ." Kamitqšʔaʔaʔ meʔiʔqacminhʔi. Hitinqsaʔ ʔawaa čaʔakʔi hinas. Tapatsiʔaʔaʔ q^waaʔapʔaaqʔuusiʔaʔ pisatuk. ʔiihʔii Mitxyuu ʔuklaa meʔiʔqac: "ʔuṅaaḥcuumin ṁuksyṅi ʔaaskaacištuʔapqun tuuxtuux^wap hiłcpriičiʔhčikap yaqʔaaqʔuusin sayeeʔiyaʔak." Tapatsiʔaʔaʔ meʔiʔqacminhʔi ʔani ʔusimʔaaqʔ ʔuʔʔii ʔuʔaaʔ ṁuksyṅi. ʔuṅaaḥsiʔaʔaʔ.

ʔanahʔisʔi Huksyuu yaacsiʔaʔ yee sayeeʔii ʔuṅaaḥ ʔaskaalquu ṁuksyṅi. Hisiiʔik^waqstinuʔaʔ ʔaqmaptʔi yaaq. Wahyaʔasʔaʔweʔin caqyaqasʔaʔ čapac ʔuuk^wiʔ hiyaqsteʔi huptaas. Čaniiʔaʔ ʔani yaaqqa ʔaqmaptʔi. ʔakisšiʔaʔ, ʔuḥsaatanuʔaʔ ʔani ʔuuuqta. Naṅaaničsiʔaʔ yaaʔʔii čapacʔi. ʔiiʔisck^waʔ hił huptis ʔuusaahi yaaqʔii ʔaqmapt. ʔakisšiʔaʔ taastaasaʔ yaa ʔani ʔuuuqta tuḥčiti. Naṅaaničsiʔaʔ čapacʔi ʔatquu yaaʔakaʔat tuḥčiti. Niłk^wafaqstuʔaʔ, haaʔinčʔiʔaʔ yaaqšcaʔinʔitq. Kamitquk^waʔaʔ hinin meʔiʔqacminhʔi.

Načuʔaʔaʔ yaqii q^wayiiʔitq. ʔikaasiʔaʔ čapacʔi ʔani ʔuʔaaʔ ʔuʔaaʔ. "Qiick^wiʔaʔma ʔahkuu hił," waaʔaʔaʔ. ʔiihmaa čapacʔi. "Qumistayakituusi ʔahkuuʔi?" Waaʔaʔaʔ ʔiihʔii Mitxyuu ʔukleeʔi: "Qumaaqʔičʔaʔuusi q^wiyimtiiʔaʔ ʔahkuu ʔuuk^wiʔ?" Tapatsiʔaʔaʔ. Hayaapaʔsiʔaʔaʔ ʔani pipisatuk^wiʔaʔ. ʔiičʔiʔaʔaʔ ʔuumacuk yaa čapacʔi, yaqck^wiʔuusi ʔuuhwaaʔ.

ʔiihʔii Nuutxyuu ʔuklaa hiiqšʔiʔaʔatuk ʔuʔaqstuʔaʔ, ʔaača ʔuhʔaʔuk hiiqšʔiʔaʔ. "Hawiiqʔah," waaʔaʔ. "ʔusimʔaʔin hawaasqun," waaʔaʔ yuuq^waa haawiihaʔʔi, meʔiʔqacminhʔi. Yuuq^waaʔaʔ hawiiqstuʔaminhʔaʔ. Kamitqšʔiʔaʔaʔ huʔacačʔiʔaʔ hiiyathʔitq.

ʔanahʔisʔi Huksyuu walʔiʔaʔ kamitquk^waʔ hiʔukʔitq naniiqsu ʔuuk^wiʔ humiishtin ʔaxaas.
Haaʔinʔaʔaʔ yaa meʔiʔqacʔi "nee neenʔi," naniiqsakʔi ʔuuk^wiʔʔaʔ. Naʔiʔaʔ naniiqsu, naaʔapuʔaʔ
yaa. "ʔaqisʔaʔhʔakʔa," waaʔaʔ. "Yanuuq^wiʔʔaʔ ʔahʔnii hiʔsaataʔitqak." "ʔaqisk^waʔiʔaʔhʔakʔa,"
waaʔaʔat ʔaaʔaatuu. Hayaapaʔiʔaʔ ʔani caqaasit yaa. ʔiiqʔiʔaʔ naniiqsakʔi ʔani ʔuuyip ʔapac.
"Qiiʔisck^waʔma hiis yee hitinqisʔi. Suʔiiqqʔiʔhʔmatakck^waʔ hiʔ," waaʔaʔ ʔapatʔiʔ.

ʔiixʔiʔaʔ yaa naniiqsu. "Hamaʔamah ʔahʔniiʔi ʔapacʔi," waaʔaʔ. "ʔuupimtma ʔahʔnii ʔaaxuk
ʔapacʔi ʔahkuu hiʔathqin. ʔuʔitma ʔuuk^wiʔ yaqukwitiis nuwiiqsu ʔahʔaaʔaʔ ʔaʔa qalaatik
qalaatikukʔi," waaʔaʔ yaa naniiqsuʔi. "Haʔatakuk^witma yaqukwitiis naniiqsu huʔtakminh ʔuuk^wiʔ
ʔapac, ʔiinuuʔ ʔuuk^wiʔ. Naacsahʔak yaa qacʔeʔi ʔiinuuʔ hiʔ ʔiihʔii maʔas hiisʔatuʔas? ʔuʔitmaʔaʔ
ʔuuk^wiʔ yaqukwitiis neʔiiqsuminʔuksi."

Tuupʔiʔaʔʔitq meʔiʔqacʔi wikʔuuʔitq weʔiʔcuʔ taataapatʔiʔaʔ. "Yuuq^waamihsamah ʔusiikquus
ʔapac ʔahʔaaʔaʔ ʔiinuuʔ q^waa q^wack^wiiʔitq yaqwiimit. ʔaaʔatuuʔaaqʔah naniiqsakqas ʔamiiʔik
qumaaʔakituusi yuk^wiiqsuminʔ nuwiiqsakitʔi. ʔaʔa qacʔa muu suʔa qumaaʔakituusi," waaʔaʔ
ʔahʔaa ʔapatʔiʔaʔ.

ʔaaʔatuuʔaʔ ʔanahʔisʔi Huksyuu: ʔunaakiiʔ waa qumaamituk^wituusi naniiqsu qalaatikminh?
Taataapatʔiʔaʔ: ʔaʔa qacʔa muu suʔa. Hawiiʔiʔaʔ taataapata.