

Unit Eleven

Actions Affecting the Subject

11.1 Dialogue.

- | | |
|---|---|
| A. ni ʔə teməθámxəs
lə nə staləs. | ‘Did my wife call me?’ |
| B. heʔe. ni teməθá:m.
mí ʔaʔasθá:m. | ‘Yes. She called you. She is
coming to pick you up.’ |
| A. ʔəy. qaʔtəl ct ceʔ ʔə
k ^w θə ləplít. | ‘Good. We are meeting
with the priest.’ |
| B. nəcím? | ‘Why?’ |
| A. məyítəl ceʔ ʔəʔ John
lə nə məñə. | ‘My daughter and John are
getting married.’ |
| B. ʔəy. ʔlím ʔəw ʔiyəstəl. | ‘Good. They are really happy
together.’ |

11.2 Passives.

A passive is formed by using a suffix on the verb composed of an object suffix followed by the suffix *-əm*:

-θéləm	first person singular
-θá:m	second person singular
-táləm	first/second person plural
-təm	third person

Use a passive sentence when the agent is unknown or unimportant.

ni k ^w ecəθéləm.	‘I was looked at.’
ni k ^w ecəθá:m.	‘You were looked at.’
ni k ^w ecətáləm.	‘We/you (pl) were looked at.’
ni k ^w ecətəm.	‘He/she/it/they were looked at.’

11.3 Repeat.

a. ni k ^w ecəθéləm.	‘I was looked at.’
ni cəwəθéləm.	‘I was helped.’
ni ʔa:θéləm.	‘I was called for.’
ni k ^w ənəθéləm.	‘I was taken.’

ni ʔiwiʔəʔθéləm.	‘I was prayed for.’
ni ʔəlməcθéləm.	‘I was waited for.’
b. ni kʷecəθá:m.	‘You were looked at.’
ni ʔewəθá:m.	‘You were helped.’
ni ʔa:θá:m.	‘You were called for.’
ni kʷənəθá:m.	‘You were taken.’
ni ʔiwiʔəʔθá:m.	‘You were prayed for.’
ni ʔəlməcθá:m.	‘You were waited for.’
c. ni kʷecətáləm.	‘We/you (pl) were looked at.’
ni ʔewətáləm.	‘We/you (pl) were helped.’
ni ʔa:táləm.	‘We/you (pl) were called for.’
ni kʷənətáləm.	‘We/you (pl) were taken.’
ni ʔiwiʔəʔtáləm.	‘We/you (pl) were prayed for.’
ni ʔəlməctáləm.	‘We/you (pl) were waited for.’
d. ni kʷecətəm.	‘He/she was looked at.’
ni ʔewətəm.	‘He/she was helped.’
ni ʔa:təm.	‘He/she was called for.’
ni kʷənətəm.	‘He/she was taken.’
ni ʔiwiʔəʔtəm.	‘He/she was prayed for.’
ni ʔəlməctəm.	‘He/she was waited for.’

11.4 Passive agent.

In the passive sentences above, no mention was made of the agent, that is, the person performing the action. It is possible to mention a third person agent.

11.4a The verb is followed by an agent phrase, which consists of the preposition ʔ; plus a noun phrase.

ni kʷecəθéləm ʔə kʷθə swəʔqeʔ.	‘I was looked at by the man.’
ni ʔi:təm kʷθə nə silə ʔə ʔə sʔeniʔ.	‘My grandfather was thanked by the woman.’

11.4b Sometimes the English translations sounds a lot better if you use the active form rather than the passive form.

ni ʕewəθá:m ʔə lən ten.	‘You were helped by your mother.’/‘Your mother helped you.’
ni ʕiwíʔəltáləm ʔə kʷθə ləplít.	‘We/you (pl) were prayed for by the priest.’/‘The priest prayed for us/you (pl).’
ni ʔəlməctəm ʔə lə sleniʔ.	‘He was waited for by the woman.’/‘The woman waited for him.’
ni kʷecətəm lə Mary.	‘Mary was looked at.’/‘Someone looked at Mary.’

11.4c Sometimes an English sentence can be translated in either the active or the passive in Halkomelem. This is the case when the object is first person singular or plural.

ni kʷecəθámxəs kʷθə swəýqe.
‘The man looked at me.’

OR: ni kʷecəθéləm ʔə kʷθə swəýqeʔ.
‘The man looked at me.’/‘I was looked at by the man.’

ni kʷecətálxʷəs kʷθə swəýqeʔ.
‘The man looked at us.’

OR: ni kʷecətáləm ʔə kʷθə swəýqeʔ.
‘The man looked at us.’/‘We were looked at by the man.’

11.4d Sometimes only the passive can be used. This is the case when the object is second person singular or plural.

ni kʷecəθá:m ʔə kʷθə swəýqeʔ.
‘The man looked at you.’/‘You were looked at by the man.’

NOT: ni kʷecəθáməs kʷθə swəýqeʔ.

ni kʷecətáləm ʔə kʷθə swəýqeʔ.
‘The man looked at you (pl).’/‘You (pl) were looked at by the man.’

NOT: ni kʷecətáləs kʷθə swəýqeʔ.

11.4e Sometimes only the active can be used. This is the case when the agent is first or second person.

ni cən kʷecət kʷθə swəy̯qeʔ.

‘I looked at the man.’

ni ʔə čxʷ kʷecət kʷθə swəy̯qeʔʔ

‘Did you see the man?’

11.5 Passives and noun phrases.

Be careful using actives and passives when there is a noun phrase. If there are two noun phrases, either active or passive can be used.

ni kʷecətəs lə sʎeniʔ kʷθə swəy̯qeʔ.

‘The woman looked at the man.’

OR: ni kʷecətəm kʷθə swəy̯qeʔ ʔə lə sʎeniʔ.

‘The woman looked at the man.’/‘The man was looked at by the woman.’

The agent phrase may either precede or follow the object noun phrase. The preposition ʔə tells you who is performing the action.

ni ɔ̯wələtəm ʔə lə sʎeniʔ kʷθə sce:ʎtən.

‘The woman cooked the salmon.’

OR: ni ɔ̯wələtəm kʷθə sce:ʎtən ʔə lə sʎeniʔ.

‘The woman cooked the salmon.’

If there is only one noun phrase and you use an active sentence, the noun phrase will refer to the object.

ni kʷecətəs kʷθə swəy̯qeʔ.

‘He looked at the man.’

NOT: ‘The man looked at him.’

To say ‘The man looked at him’, use the passive.

ni kʷecətəm ʔə kʷθə swəy̯qeʔ.

‘The man looked at him.’/‘He was looked at by the man.’

11.6 Passive agents and proper nouns.

The passive agent can be a proper noun. Remember that sometimes the English translations sounds a lot better if you use the active rather than the passive.

ni ʕewəθéləm ʔəʕ John.	‘I was helped by John.’/‘John helped me.’
ni kʷecəθá:m ʔəʕ Mary.	‘You were looked at by Mary.’/ ‘Mary looked at you.’
ʔi nayəmtáləm ʔəʕ George.	‘We/you (pl) are being laughed at by George.’/‘George is laughing at us/you (pl).’
ni kʷənətəm ʔəʕ Edna.	‘It was taken by Edna.’/‘Edna took it.’

Some speakers do not use proper nouns as subjects of transitive sentences. Instead they prefer to use the passive.

ni ʕewəθéləm ʔəʕ John.
NOT: ni ʕewəθámxəs kʷθə John.
 ‘John helped me.’

ni ʕewətəm lə sʔeniʔ ʔəʕ John.
NOT: ni ʕewətəs kʷθə John lə sʔeniʔ.
 ‘John helped the woman.’

11.7 Summary chart: active and passive.

			OBJECT				
			FIRST SINGULAR	FIRST PLURAL	SECOND SINGULAR	SECOND PLURAL	THIRD
SUBJECT	THIRD COMMON	ACTIVE	-θámxəs	tálxʷəs	—	—	(-təs)
		PASSIVE	-θéləm	-táləm	-θá:m	-táləm	-təm
	THIRD PROPER	PASSIVE	-θéləm	-táləm	-θá:m	-táləm	-təm

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Actives and Passives

Which ones are right?

1. John looked at you.
 - + a. ni k^wecəθá:m ʔəǎ́ John.
 - b. ni k^wecəθáməs k^wθə John.

2. He helped John.
 - + a. ni cewətəs k^wθə John.
 - + b. ni cewətəm k^wθə John.

3. The woman thanked him.
 - a. ni cí:təs ʔə lə sɛniʔ.
 - b. ni cí:təs lə sɛniʔ.
 - + c. ni cí:təm ʔə lə sɛniʔ.
 - d. ni cí:təm lə sɛniʔ.

4. Your mother called you.
 - a. ni temətəs lən ten.
 - b. ni teməθáməs lən ten.
 - c. ni teməθá:m ʔəǎ́ lən ten.
 - + d. ni teməθá:m ʔə lən ten.

5. My father called for me.
 - + a. ni ʔa:θéləm ʔə k^wθə nə men.
 - b. ni ʔa:θámx k^wθə nə men.
 - + c. ni ʔa:θámxəs k^wθə nə men.
 - d. ni ʔa:θámxəs ʔə k^wθə nə men.

Homework 24 Actives and Passives

Translate

1. ni teməθá:m ʔə lən ten.
2. ni ǵ^wələtəm ʔə lə sleniʔ k^wθə səplíl.
3. ni ʔə k^wənətəm k^wθə qeqələʔ
4. ni ʔə xləθá:m ʔəǰ Maryʔ
5. ni ʕi:təm k^wθə swəyʔqeʔ ʔəǰ John.
6. Did John look at you?
7. The man helped him.
8. Mary is laughing at me.
9. You (pl) prayed for him.
10. The woman waited for you (pl).

11.8 Reflexives.

The reflexive suffix *-θət* on a verb indicates that the action was done to oneself.

k^wələxt
'shoot it'

k^wələxθət
'shoot yourself'

q̣aʔt
'put it in with it'

q̣aʔθət
'join'

θəyt
'fix it'

θəyθət
'fix yourself', 'train', 'get better'

čəy^wx^t
'dry it' 'dry yourself'

čəy^wx^wθət

11.9 Reciprocals.

The reciprocal suffix *-təl* on a verb means 'each other' or 'together'.

čewət
'help him'

čawətəl
'help each other'

ʔik^wət
'throw it away'

ʔik^wətəl
'get separated from each other'

maləq^wət
'mix them in'

maləq^wtəl
'mix with each other'

ʔiməx
'walk'

ʔiməxtəl
'walk together'

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What do these words mean?

ía:nθət (íen ‘go out of sight’)

ǰətál

ǰaʔtəl

θəytəl

məǰáθət (məǰ ‘get full of food’)

k^waʔtəl (k^wiʔéʔ ‘get separated’)

ǰiyətəl

ləǰ^wəθət (ləǰ^wət ‘cover it’)

c

Homework 26 Reflexives and Reciprocals

Translate

1. ni ct temətəl.
2. ni təw' k^wayəθət.
3. ni qa'θət 'ə k^wθə hiwáləm.
4. ni cəy'x^wθət k^wθə sq^wəméy.
5. ni 'ə ce:p cawətəl?
6. ni cən θey'θət 'ə k^wθə sq^weɪ.
7. ni xləθət 'ə k^wθə lem.
8. ni qa'təl 'ə k^wθə sqa'təls tə staləw.