

Kwak'wala Speaker: Mildred Child (MC)
Linguist: Katie Sardinha (KS)
Recording date: June 21, 2015

Short Text

t'lawile 'forgetting'¹

English prompt²

So last time James went fishing, he forgot to bring his jacket and he got really cold out on the water. Now this time, James didn't want to forget his coat. So he left it by the door to help him remember to bring it. Sure enough, when it was time to leave, James didn't forget to bring his coat. He went and he fished until lunchtime, when he started to feel hungry. When he looked in his bag, he realized that he had forgotten his lunch. So suddenly he remembered that he had left it on the table in the kitchen. And that make James feel really silly.

Kwak'wala Version:

la'mux la gwałalux Jamesax kas le' kitla. la'misux, axaya, xis ha'me'tle' dła'wis dadat'sawakw, la'mux ax'i sis dadat'sawakw ka ki'se's t'lawile'x laxada 'naxwala xa t'axala. 'wa:lasux k'ana'is'id, ki'sux mal'kwala xus dadat'sawakw la'a kitlax łanswał. la'misux o: ikux noke'yes, la'misux la. la'mux 'walas kitla. la'mux ola pusk'ax'ida. la'misux duxwt'so xis gwoksam. o: 'yaksa'mux noke'. lux t'lawile' xis ha'me'. o'misux la pusk'agasa'. la'misux o'am ki'i, waxa, kiyo:s yanamsux. la'misux o'am la wodzamała ne'nakwa.

¹ The Kwak'wala word for 'forget' is pronounced as either *t'lawile* or *t'tiwe* by different speakers.

² The methodology of this exercise was as follows: KS read a made-up story in English, and MC was instructed to tell the story back in Kwak'wala as she remembered it. The point of the exercise was not for MC to tell back the story exactly as it was said to her in English, but for MC to rephrase the gist of the story in her own words, in Kwak'wala.

Kwak'wala Version, Line-By-Line³

- (1) la'mux la gwałalux Jamesax kas le' kitła.
'James was getting ready to go fishing.'
- (2) la'misux, axaya, xis ha'me'tle' dła'wis dadat'sawakw,
'There was his to-go lunch and his coat,'
- (3) la'mux ax'i sis dadat'sawakw ka k'i'se's t'lawile'x laxada 'naxwala xa t'axala.
'he put his coat near the door so he wouldn't forget it.'
- (4) 'wa:lasux k'ana'is'id, k'i'sux mal'kwala xus dadat'sawakw la'a kitlax lanswal.
'He had gotten really cold, he didn't remember his coat when he went fishing yesterday.'
- (5) la'misux o: ikux noke'yes, la'misux la.
'His heart felt good, and so he went.'
- (6) la'mux 'walas kitła.
'He went out and really fished.'
- (7) la'mux ola pusk'ax'ida.
'And he got really hungry.'
- (8) la'misux duxwt'so xis gwoksam.
'Then he looked into his bag.'
- (9) o: 'yaksamux noke'.
'Oh, his heart just sank.'
- (10) lux t'lawile' xis ha'me'.
'He had forgotten his food.'

³ The English translations provided here are paraphrases made by KS, based off of discussion that took place with MC after the text was recorded.

- (11) o'misux la pusk'agasa'.
'He was just starving, poor guy.'
- (12) la'misux o'am kif'i, waxa, k'iyos yanamsux.
'So he just went out and tried to fish, but he didn't catch anything.'
- (13) la'misux o'am la wodamala ne'nakwa.
'And so he just went home looking sad.'

Kwak'wala Dictionary

axaya	'whatnot [pause filler]'
ax'i(d) (=s)(lax)	'to put (something)(somewhere)'
dadat'sawakw	'coat'
duxwtso (=x)	'to look inside (something)'
gwoksam	'bag'
ha'me'	'food'
ik	'good'
kitla	'to fish, go fishing'
kana'is'id	'to start to feel cold'
ki's	'no, not'
kiyos	'there is no, there are no'
la	'to go'
gwalala	'to get ready'
malkwala (=x)	'to remember (something)'
ne'nakw	'home, to go home'
noke'	'heart, mind'
ola	'truly'
puskax'id	'to get hungry'
taxala	'door'
wax	'try'
wodzamała	'to look sad, to have a sad face'

yanam (=s)	‘catch, yield; what was caught (by someone)’
’naxwala (=x)	‘near (to something)’
’walas	‘big, very’
’yaksa’m	‘bad’
łanswał	‘yesterday’
tławile’ (=x)	‘to forget (something)’

Kwak’wala Analysis⁴

(1) la’mux la gwałalux Jamesax kas le’ kitła.

la’mux	la	gwałalux	Jamesix	
la =’m =ux	la	gwał -al =ux	James = (a)x	
AUX = VER = D2	go	start -CONT = D2	James = V2	
	kas	le’	kitła	
	k(a) = is	la = a = i’	kitł -a	
	PREP = 3.REFL.POSS	go = EMB = NMZ	fish -A	

‘James was getting ready to go fishing.’

⁴ The Kwak’wala analysis here was carried out by KS on December 19, 2021, and is a work in progress. All errors are my own.

(2) la'misux, axaya, xis ha'me'tle' dla'wis dadat'sawakw,

<u>la</u> ' <u>misu</u> <u>x</u>		<u>a</u> <u>x</u> <u>aya</u>	<u>x</u> <u>i</u> <u>s</u>
<u>la</u>	= 'm = (w)is	= <u>ux</u> <u>a</u> <u>x</u> <u>aya</u>	= <u>x</u> = is
AUX	= VER = and.so	= D2 whatnot	= ACC = 3.REFL.POSS

<u>ha</u> ' <u>me</u> ' <u>t</u> <u>le</u> '	<u>d</u> <u>la</u> ' <u>wis</u>	<u>dadat</u> ' <u>sawakw</u>
<u>ha</u> ' <u>me</u> ' = tɬ = e'	<u>d</u> <u>la</u> ' <u>w</u>	= is
food = FUT = I3	together.with	= 3.REFL.POSS coat

'There was his to-go lunch and his coat,'

(3) la'mux ax'i sis dadat'sawakw ka k'i'se's t'lawile'x laxada ' naxwala xa t'axala.

<u>la</u> ' <u>mu</u> <u>x</u>	<u>a</u> <u>x</u> ' <u>i</u>	<u>sis</u>	<u>dadat</u> ' <u>sawakw</u>	<u>ka</u>
<u>la</u>	= 'm = <u>ux</u> <u>a</u> <u>x</u>	-x'id = s = is	<u>dadat</u> ' <u>sawakw</u>	<u>ka</u>
AUX	= VER = D2 do	-BEC = INST = 3.REFL.POSS coat		PREP

<u>k</u> ' <u>i</u> ' <u>se</u> ' <u>s</u>	<u>t</u> ' <u>la</u> <u>wile</u> ' <u>x</u>
<u>k</u> ' <u>i</u> ' <u>s</u> = a = i' = s	<u>t</u> ' <u>la</u> <u>wile</u> ' = <u>x</u>
NEG = EMB = NMZ = 3.POSS	forget = ACC

<u>la</u> <u>x</u> <u>ada</u>	<u>'naxw</u> <u>ala</u>	<u>xa</u>	<u>t</u> ' <u>ax</u> <u>ala</u>
<u>la</u> = <u>x</u> = a = da	<u>'naxw</u> - <u>ala</u> = <u>x</u> = a	<u>xa</u>	<u>t</u> ' <u>ax</u> <u>ala</u>
PREP = ACC = D4 = DET near	-STAT = ACC = D4		door

'he put his coat near the door so he wouldn't forget it.'

(4) 'wa:lasux k'ana'is'id, ki'sux malkwala xus dadat'sawakw la'a kitlax l'answal.

'walasux		k'ana'is'id		ki'sux		malkwala	
'walas	= ux	k'ana'is	-x'id	ki's	= ux	malk -al	-a
big/very	= D2	feel.cold	-BEC	NEG	= D2	remember	-CONT -A
xus		dadat'sawakw		la'a			
= x	= us	dadat'sawakw		la	= a	= i'	
= ACC	= 3.REFL.POSS	coat		AUX	= EMB	= NMZ	
		kitlax		l'answal			
		kitl -a	= x	l'answal			
		fish -A	= ACC	yesterday			

'He had gotten really cold, he didn't remember his coat when he went fishing yesterday.'

(5) la'misux o: ikux noke'yes, la'misux la.

la'misux		o:		ikux		
la	= 'm	=(w)is	= ux	o	ik	= ux
AUX	= VER	= and.so	= D2	EXCLAM	good	= D2
		noke'yes		la'misux		la
		noke'	= s	la	= 'm	=(w)is
		heart/mind	= 3.POSS	AUX	= VER	= and.so
					= D2	go

'His heart felt good, and so he went.'

(6) la'mux 'walas kitla.

<u>la</u> ' <u>mu</u> x		'walas		kit <u>la</u>	
<u>la</u>	= 'm	= <u>ux</u>	'walas	kit <u>l</u>	-a
AUX	= VER	= D2	big/very	fish	-A

'He went out and really fished.'

(7) la'mux ola pusk'ax'ida.

<u>la</u> ' <u>mu</u> x		ola		pusk' <u>ax</u> 'ida	
<u>la</u>	= 'm	= <u>ux</u>	ola	puska -x'id	-a
AUX	= VER	= D2	truly	hungry	-BEC -A

'And he got really hungry.'

(8) la'misux duxwt'so xis gwokssam.

<u>la</u> ' <u>mi</u> s <u>u</u> x		<u>du</u> xwt'so	<u>x</u> is		gwoks <u>sa</u> m
<u>la</u>	= 'm	= (w)is	= <u>ux</u>	duk <u>w</u> -t'so	= <u>x</u> = is gwoks <u>sa</u> m
AUX	= VER	= and.so	= D2	see -inside = ACC	= 3.REFL.POSS bag

'Then he looked into his bag.'

(9) o: 'yaksa'mx noke'.

o:	'yaks <u>a</u> 'm <u>x</u>		no <u>k</u> e'
o	'yaks <u>a</u> 'm	= u <u>x</u>	no <u>k</u> e'
EXCLAM	bad	= D2	heart/mind

'Oh, his heart just sank.'

(10) lux t'lawile' xis ha'me'.

lu <u>x</u>		t' <u>l</u> awile'		<u>x</u> is		ha'me'
l <u>a</u>	= u <u>x</u>	t' <u>l</u> awile'	= <u>x</u>	= is		ha'me'
AUX	= D2	forget	= ACC	= 3.REFL.POSS		food

'He had forgotten his food.'

(11) o'misx la pusk'agasa'.

o'mis <u>x</u>		la		pusk' <u>a</u> gasa'		
o	= 'm	= (w)is	= u <u>x</u>	l <u>a</u>	pusk' <u>a</u>	= g <u>a</u> s = a'
so	= VER	= and.so	= D2	AUX	hungry	= poor.thing = I3

'He was just starving, poor guy.'

(12) *la'misux o'am kil'i, waxa, k'iyos yanamsux.*

<i>la'misux</i>		<i>o'am</i>		<i>kil'i</i>		<i>waxa</i>	
<i>la</i>	= 'm	= (w)is	= ux	<i>o</i>	= 'm	<i>kitɬ</i>	-x'id
AUX	= VER	= and.so	= D2	so	= VER	fish	-BEC
						<i>try</i>	-A

<i>k'iyos</i>	<i>yanamsux</i>		
<i>k'iyos</i>	<i>yanam</i>	= s	= ux
NEG.EXIST	catch	= 3.POSS	= d2

'So he just went out and tried to fish, but he didn't catch anything.'

(13) *la'misux o'am la wodzamała ne'nakwa.*

<i>la'misux</i>		<i>o'am</i>		<i>la</i>		<i>wodzamała</i>	
<i>la</i>	= 'm	= (w)is	= ux	<i>o</i>	= 'm	<i>la</i>	<i>wos</i>
AUX	= VER	= and.so	= D2	so	= VER	go	<i>-(g)am</i>
						<i>sad</i>	-face
							-STAT

<i>ne'nakwa</i>	
<i>ne'nakw</i>	-a
home	-A

'And so he just went home looking sad.'

Glossing Conventions and Abbreviations

Gloss	Morphs	Notes
-		affix boundary
=		clitic boundary
~		reduplicant boundary
!		hardening mutation
◦		softening mutation
:	v:	dramatic vowel lengthening
1	= <u>a</u> n	first person singular
1.EXCL	= <u>a</u> nu' <u>x</u> w	first person plural exclusive (“we and not you”)
1.EXCL.OBJ	ga <u>x</u> anu' <u>x</u> w	first person plural exclusive object, instrumental or accusative case (“us and not you”, “to us and not you”, “from us and not you”, “of us and not you”)
1.EXCL.POSS	= <u>a</u> nu' <u>x</u> w	possessed by first person plural exclusive
1.INCL	= <u>a</u> n's	first person plural inclusive (“we including you”)
1.INCL.OBJ	ga <u>x</u> an's	first person plural inclusive object, instrumental or accusative case (“us including you”, “to us including you”, “from us including you”, “of us including you”)
1.INCL.POSS	= <u>a</u> n's	possessed by first person plural inclusive
1.OBJ	ga <u>x</u> an	first person singular object, instrumental or accusative case (“me”, “to me”, “from me”, “of me”)
1.POSS	= <u>a</u> n	possessed by first person
2	= s	second person
2.OBJ	lotł (UR), loł	second person object, instrumental or accusative case; the final consonant frequently spirantizes in natural speech
2.POSS	= u's, = us	possessed by second person
3.POSS	= s	possessed by third person

3.REFL.POSS	= i's, = is, = u's, = us	possessed by third person who is coreferent with the sentential subject or topic; = u's is used with medial (D2) referents, = i's is used with distal (D3) referents
A	-a, = a	the suffix is a default stem-final vowel, corresponding in many instances with Greene's (2013) 'final vowel', but which may have other functions as well; the clitic is epenthetic (Littell 2016:546-8)
ABIL	weł	ability modal, "can"
ACC	= x̄	accusative case
ACC.PASS	-saŵ (UR), -su'	accusative passive, a voice suffix targeting arguments that are marked with accusative case in active clauses; realized as -saŵ when followed by a vowel and as -su' elsewhere (Littell 2016:519) ⁵
ADD.FOC	= xa	additive focus (Littell 2016)
APPOS	ya	appositive
AUG	-dzi	augmentative
AUX	la-	auxiliary verb, historically related to the verb <i>la-</i> 'to go'
BE.1	nugwa	first person copula (Littell 2016)
BE.2	su	second person copula (Littell 2016)
BE.D1	ga	third person proximal copula (Littell 2016)
BE.D2	yu	third person medial copula (Littell 2016)
BE.D3	he	third person distal copula (Littell 2016)
BEC	-x'id (UR), -x'i, -'i, -d, -nd, -ud	become operator, momentaneous aspect, inchoative; marks transition predicates (Greene 2013, Sardinha 2018, 2020); the allomorphy of this suffix is discussed in Boas (1947:365)
C	(various)	consonant

⁵ The same phonological rule applies for the realization of dłaŵ (UR)/dłu', a conjunctive predicate which is glossed as 'with', 'and', or 'or' as appropriate given the context.

CAUS	-mas	causative (Sardinha 2015)
CONN	= <u>x</u> a	connector; appears as a host for enclitics following the first-person enclitic; some speakers consistently uses = <u>x</u> a for this purpose, while some other speakers use = <i>t</i> a in the same position for the same purpose
CONT	- <u>a</u> la	continuative aspect; marks process predicates (Greene 2013; Sardinha 2018, 2020)
D1	= ga	third person proximal deictic determiner (this, right here”) (Nicholsen and Werle 2009)
D2	= u <u>x</u> , = w	third person medial deictic determiner (“this, close by”) (Nicholsen and Werle 2009); The = w morph is realized in some third person medial DPs in the accusative case
D3	= i	third person distal deictic determiner (“that, over there”) (Nicholsen and Werle 2009)
D4	= a	existential deictic determiner (Black 2011)
DET	= da, = d	determiner, ostensive marker (Black 2011); the distribution of = d is unique from = da and is restricted to copular clauses (Littell 2016:111-112)
DIM	= bido, = bidu	diminutive; the two variants are in free variation
DIM.PL	= ’man <u>i</u> xw	diminutive plural
DIR.ATEL	-(g) <u>a</u> ł	atelic directional (Rosenblum 2013)
DIST.PAST	= wa’ł	distant past tense
do	<u>a</u> x-	dummy verbal root
EMB	= a	embedding vowel (Littell 2016:604-606)
EMPH	-dzo	emphatic
EXCLAM	o	exclamatory (“Oh!”); the tongue root is back and low compared with the English exclamation “Oh!”
FUT	= tł	future
GER	-’ina <u>y</u> i	gerund

GRAD.ADV	- <u>n</u> akw <u>al</u> a	a gradual advancement; indicates progression towards a telos
HYP	= u', = lax	hypothetical, uncertain; these clitics appear in conditional and modal clauses, but their precise semantics is not well understood
I3	= e', = a'	third person distal invisible
IMP	= <u>l</u> a, = ga	imperative
INDEF	gwi	indefinite root (“do thusly”)
INST	= s	instrumental case (Sardinha 2017)
INST.PASS	-ayu	instrumental passive, a voice suffix targeting arguments that are marked with instrumental case in in active clauses
INTENS	= kas	intensifier
JF		judged form
LOC	-al	locative lexical suffix (“on”)
LOC.PASS	-'as	locative passive, a voice suffix targeting arguments that occur in locative prepositional (la) phrases in active clauses
make.noise.CONT	-(k)'ala	continuative aspect; form used for describing events involving emissions of sound
MOD	= <u>x</u> ant, wax	modal; = <u>x</u> ant is an epistemic modal; wax is glossed as ‘try’ in contexts where this meaning is apparent and as MOD elsewhere
NEG	(k)i's	negation
NEG.EXIST	kayos	negative existential (“there is no”, “there are no”)
NMLZ	= i', = ay', - <u>a</u> m, - <u>a</u> ł, - <u>a</u> nam, -'ima	nominalizer; - <u>a</u> m, - <u>a</u> ł, and - <u>a</u> nam weaken (lenite) a preceding consonant, while -'ima hardens (glottalizes) a preceding consonant
PEJ	-o'ł	pejorative
PL	Ci	plural
PART	-kw	participle, result nominalizer

PREP	la, <u>ka</u>	preposition; la is a preposition that introduces locative arguments (“at”, “to”, “from”, etc.), while <u>ka</u> is a preposition that introduces causes, reasons, and purposes (“because”, “for”, “in order to”)
PRSNTV	= as	presentative (Littell 2016:263)
QUES	= a	question
REC.PAST	= xd	recent past tense
RECIP	= ap’	reciprocal (“each other”, “one another”); triggers vowel lengthening in the stem
REPORT	= ǐ	reportative evidential
SO	o	“so”, “just”; used to signal object or VP focus (Littell 2016)
sound.BEC	-ga’ɫ	become operator, momentaneous aspect, inchoative; used for describing events involving emissions of sound
STAT	-ała	stativizer (Sardinha 2018)
VER	= ’m	verum focus (Littell 2016).
VOC	<u>gan</u>	vocative; <u>gan</u> refers specifically to an infant girl
v1	= (i)k (UR), = (i)x	third person proximal visible; the final consonant often spirantizes
v2	= (i) <u>x</u>	third person medial visible
VF		volunteered form
WH	wǐ	generic wh-element

Feedback welcome at katie.sardinha@gmail.com!