

Kwak’wala Speaker: Violet Bracic (VB)
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Short Text: *ixp’a* ‘yummy’

English prompt¹

Vicky came home one day when her mom was baking. When Vicky walked in the door, it smelled really good. She wasn’t sure what it was that she smelled, but it was really really nice and appetizing. She asked her mom what the smell was, and her mom told her she was baking a strawberry cake. Vicky sniffed again, and she immediately recognized the smell of strawberry. Her mom opened the oven to check on it, and the smell got even stronger. It really smelled like strawberries. Uh, Mabel took a fork and tasted a little piece of the cake. It tasted good, but it wasn’t sweet enough, so she sprinkled some sugar on top and put it back in the oven. Pretty soon the cake was finished. They let it cool down a bit, and then they tasted it. It tasted really good. It was nice and sweet. They ate the cake until they were satisfied, or full. And then the kitchen smelled like cake and strawberries that whole day.

Kwak’wala Version

gax’mux Vickyx ne’nakwa. la’mux misala xada ha’miksilatsu’. la’misux watla xis abamp, “ ’masus ha’miksilatsu’wo’s? ” “ha’miksilan xada lagu ke’gasa’ ”, ’nikida abamp. “o”, ’nikux Vickyx. la’misux Vickyx ’nik’e’kala kis axstude’ xada ka’abudat’si kis duxw’ide’ xa ke’gas. la’misux p’ax’i xa ke’gas, ’i’st’akwe hi’ida sugwa. la’misux gan’wa sa sugwa laxa ke’gas. la’misux edakas laxada ka’abudat’si. la’mis gwalida ke’gas ha’miksila. la’misux ha’mx’i xa ke’gas dlu’wis abamp. tu:ma la xip’ida ke’gas. o’misuxda ha’miksi’lasax, o’am misala sada lagu xada ’nala.

¹ The methodology of this exercise was as follows: KS read a made-up story in English, and VB was asked to tell the story back in Kwak’wala as she remembered it. The point of the exercise was not for VB to tell back the story exactly as it was said to her in English, but for VB to rephrase the gist of the story in her own words, in Kwak’wala.

Kwak'wala Version, Line-By-Line²

- (1) gax'mux Vickyx ne'nakwa.
'Vicky came home.'
- (2) la'mux misala xada ha'miksilatsu'.
'She smelled what was cooking.'
- (3) la'misux watla xis abamp, " 'masus ha'miksilatsu'wo's? "
'Then she asked her mom, "What are you cooking?"
- (4) "ha'miksilan xada lagu ke'gasa' ", 'nikida abamp.
'I'm cooking a strawberry cake", said her mom.
- (5) "o", 'nikux Vickyx.
'Oh", said Vicky.
- (6) la'misux Vickyx 'nik'e'kala kis axstude' xada ka'abudat'si kis duxw'ide' xa ke'gas.
'Then Vicky thought she would open the oven to take a look at the cake.'
- (7) la'misux p'ax'i xa ke'gas, 'i'st'akwe hi'ida sugwa.
'Then she tasted the cake, and it didn't seem to have enough sugar.'
- (8) la'misux gan'wa sa sugwa laxa ke'gas.
'Then she added some sugar to the cake.'
- (9) la'misux edakas laxada ka'abudat'si.
'Then she put it back into the oven.'

² The English translations provided here are paraphrases made by KS, based off of discussion that took place with VB after the text was recorded.

- (10) la'mis gwaŋida ke'gas ha'miksila.
'And so the cake finished cooking.'
- (11) la'misux ha'mx'i xa ke'gas dlu'wis abamp.
'Then she ate the cake with her mom.'
- (12) tlu:ma la ixp'ida ke'gas.
'The cake tasted really good.'
- (13) o'misuxda ha'miksi'lasax, o'am misala sada lagu xada 'nala.
'As for the kitchen, it smelled like strawberries that day.'

Kwak'wala Dictionary

abamp	'mother'
axstud (= x)	'to open (something)'
duxw'id (= x)	'to look at (something)'
edaka (= s)(la x)	'to return, put back (something)(somewhere)'
gan'wa (= s)(la x)	'to add (something)(to somewhere)'
gwaŋ	'to stop, finish, quit'
ha'miksila (= x)	'to make food, cook (something)'
ha'miksilatsu'	'what is being cooked'
ha'mx'id (= x)	'to eat (something)'
hiŋ'a	'to have enough, suffice'
ixp'a	'to taste good'
ka'abudat'si	'oven'
ke'gas	'cake'
(k')i's	'no, not'
lagu	'strawberry'
ne'nakw	'home'
'nala	'day'
'nik	'to say'

'nik'e'k <u>ā</u> la (<u>kā</u>)	'to think (to do something)'
mis <u>ā</u> la (= <u>x</u>)	'to smell, sniff (something)'
mis <u>ā</u> la (= s)	'to smell (of something)'
p' <u>ā</u> x'id (= <u>x</u>)	'to taste (something)'
sugwa	'sugar'
w <u>ā</u> t <u>ā</u> (= <u>x</u>)	'to ask (someone)'
t <u>ū</u> ma	'really, very'

Kwak'wala Analysis³

(1) gax'mux Vicky ne'nakwa.

gax'mux	Vicky	ne'nakwa	
gax = 'm = ux	Vicky = (a)x	ne'nakw	-a
come = VER = D2	Vicky = v2	home	-A

'Vicky came home.'

³ The Kwak'wala analysis here was carried out by KS on December 20, 2021, and is a work in progress. All errors are my own.

(2) la'mux misala xada ha'miksilatsu'.

la'mux		misala		xada	
la	= 'm = ux	mis	-al -a	= x = a = da	
AUX	= VER = D2	smell	-CONT -A	= ACC = D4 = DET	

ha'miksilatsu'
 ha'miksila -saw
 make.food -ACC.PASS

'She smelled what was cooking.'

(3) la'misux watla xis abamp, " 'masus ha'miksilatsu'wo's? "

la'misux		watla		xis		abamp
la	= 'm = (w)is	= ux watl -a	= x = i(')s	abamp		
AUX	= VER = and.so	= D2 ask -A	= ACC = 3.REFL.POSS	mother		

'masus ha'miksilatsu'wo's
 'mas = us ha'miksila -saw -a = us
 what = 2.POSS make.food -ACC.PASS -A = 2.POSS

'Then she asked her mom, "What are you cooking?"

(4) “ha’miksilan xada lagu ke’gasa’ ”, ’nikida abamp.

ha’miksila <u>n</u>		x <u>a</u> da		la <u>g</u> u		ke’g <u>a</u> sa’
ha’miksila	= a <u>n</u>	= x	= a	= da	la <u>g</u> u	ke’gas = a’
make.food	= 1	= ACC	= D4	= DET	strawberry	cake = I3

’nikida		a <u>b</u> amp	
’nik	= i	= da	a <u>b</u> amp
say	= D3	= DET	mother

“I’m cooking a strawberry cake”, said her mom.

(5) “o”, ’nikux Vickyx.

o	’niku <u>x</u>	Vicky <u>x</u>
o	’nik = u <u>x</u>	Vicky = (a) <u>x</u>
EXCLAM	say = D2	Vicky = v2

“Oh”, said Vicky.

(6) la'misux Vickyx 'nik'e'kala kis axstude' xada ka'abudat'si kis duxw'ide' xa ke'gas.

<u>la</u> 'misu <u>x</u>			
<u>la</u>	= 'm = (w)is	= u <u>x</u> Vicky = (a) <u>x</u> 'nik	-!e <u>k</u> -a <u>l</u> -a
AUX	= VER = and.so	= D2 Vicky = V2 say	-in.mind -CONT -A
<u>ki</u> s		a <u>x</u> stude'	xada
<u>ka</u> =	= i(')s	a <u>x</u> -stu -x'id	= a = i' = x = a = da
PREP	= 3.REFL.POSS do	-open -BEC	= EMB = NMZ = ACC = D4 = DET
ka'abudat'si	<u>ki</u> s		du <u>xw</u> 'ide'
ka'abudat'si	<u>ka</u>	= i(')s	du <u>xw</u> -x'id = a = i'
oven	PREP	= 3.REFL.POSS see	-BEC = EMB = NMZ
	<u>xa</u>	ke'gas	
	= x = a	ke'gas	
	= ACC = D4	cake	

'Then Vicky thought she would open the oven to take a look at the cake.'

(7) la'misux p'ax'i xa ke'gas, 'i'sdak'we hi'ida sugwa.

<u>la</u> 'misu <u>x</u>			
<u>la</u>	= 'm = (w)is	= u <u>x</u> p' <u>ak</u> -x'id	= x = a ke'gas
AUX	= VER = and.so	= D2 TASTE -BEC	= ACC = D4 cake
'i'st'akwe		hi'ida	sugwa
(k)'i's -xst'akw	= i	hi'	-x'id -a sugwa
NEG -seem	= D3	enough	-BEC -A sugar

'Then she tasted the cake, and it didn't seem to have enough sugar.'

(8) la'misux gan'wa sa sugwa laxa ke'gas.

la'misux		gan'wa	sa	sugwa
la	= 'm = (w)is	= ux gan'wa	= s = a	sugwa
AUX	= VER = and.so	= D2 add	= INST = D4	sugar
		laxa		ke'gas
		la	= x = a	ke'gas
		PREP	= ACC = D4	cake

'Then she added some sugar to the cake.'

(9) la'misux edakas laxada ka'abudat'si.

la'misux		edakas
la	= 'm = (w)is = ux	edak -a = s
AUX	= VER = and.so = D2	return -A = INST
		laxada
		la = x = a = da
		PREP = ACC = D4 = DET
		ka'abudat'si
		ka'abudat'si
		oven

'Then she put it back into the oven.'

(10) la'mis gwalida ke'gas ha'miksila.

la'mis		gwalida		ke'gas	ha'miksila
la	= 'm = (w)is	gwal = i = da	ke'gas	ha'miksila	ha'miksila
AUX	= VER = and.so	finish = D3 = DET	cake	make.food	

'And so the cake finished cooking.'

(11) lá'misux há'mx'i xa ke'gas dhu'wis abamp.

<u>l</u> á'misux		<u>h</u> á'mx'i	<u>x</u> a		ke'gas			
<u>l</u> á	= 'm	= (w)is	= ux	<u>h</u> á'm	-x'id	= x	= a	ke'gas
AUX	= VER	= and.so	= D2	eat	-BEC	= ACC	= D4	cake
		d <u>h</u> u'wis			<u>a</u> bamp			
		d <u>h</u> áw	= i(')s		<u>a</u> bamp			
		together.with	= 3.REFL.POSS		mother			

'Then she ate the cake with her mom.'

(12) thu:ma la ixp'ida ke'gas.

t <u>h</u> uma	la	<u>i</u> xp'ida				ke'gas
t <u>h</u> uma	<u>l</u> a	ik	-p'a	= i	= da	ke'gas
really	AUX	good	-taste	= D3	= DET	cake

'The cake tasted really good.'

(13) o'misuxda ha'miksi'lasax, o'am misala sada lagu xada 'nala.

o'misux <u>da</u>				ha'miksi'l <u>asax</u>			
o	= 'm	= (w)is	= ux	= da	ha'miksila	- 'as	= (a)x
so	= VER	= and.so	= D2	= DET	make.food	-place	= v2
o'am		mis <u>ala</u>		sada		la <u>gu</u>	
o	= 'm	mis	-al	-a	= s	= a	= da
so	= VER	smell	-CONT	-A	= INST	= D4	= DET
x <u>ada</u>				'n <u>ala</u>			
= x				= a			
= ACC				= D4			
= DET				day			

'As for the kitchen, it smelled like strawberries that day.'

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> <u>a</u> nu' <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> <u>a</u> n'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> <u>a</u> n	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	= <u>x</u>	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) ⁴
ADD.FOC	= <u>xa</u>	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

⁴ 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	-gaʔ	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	wi	generic wh-element

