

Root word method for Halq'méylem

A way to look at words and their parts of meaning

S'íwes ye Syewalelh Sq'ép

What could be some of the goals for looking at different methodologies?

- **Learning the language**

- Advancing fluency
- Speaking
- Learning how parts of word are put together
- learning about Rules

- **Learning about Stó:lō ways of being, thinking, speaking, and knowing**

- What makes sense when you are learning Halq'méylem, from a Stó:lō perspective ?

Transformation

- Working through mental blocks
- Looking at the language differently

Being connected to one another through language

Creating a safe space to learn and explore the language

Developing a legacy

- Transmitting the language to the younger generations

What is the 'Root word method'?

- It's successfully used in Mohawk territory for the teaching and learning of Iroquoian languages

But what does it mean?

- In Halq'méylem, just like in Mohawk, one single word (especially verbs) can be composed of many *different elements*.
- Finding out about, and studying and these elements is one way to get an understanding for how to be creative if you're learning Halq'eméylem as a second language.

What is the 'Root word method'?

- Words and sentences are not always single units that should be memorized
- Rather, you can learn some 'roots' and combine them, and recombine them in new ways all the time.
- Some of these 'roots' are items that we would call 'verbs' , 'nouns' and 'adjectives' in English.
- But we also have some 'endings', or extra items which linguists call *affixes* and *inflections* (and many other technical terms).
- having an awareness of these 'roots' might allow you by and by to speak more freely and understand spoken Halq'eméylem a bit better, because you understand all the parts of meaning without having to memorize

Many elements to make a “good” word in Halq'eméylem

For **verbs** for example, we need **inflections** to talk about:

- **who** is doing something **to whom** (we need inflection for **subject** and **object**)
 - e.g. kw'êtslexwes
- We need inflection to show us if **if** there is an object or not (e.g. –et-, -l-, etc.). This inflection can show for example:
 - **Control** of the action
 - Action **for someone**, for oneself, to each other
 - **Continuing** or not
 - Action **occurs by itself** or to a body part

VERB	Inflection Control	(Inflection)Object <small>brackets means it's optional. We don't always have an Object</small>	Inflection Subject
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Many elements to make a “good” word

For verbs WITHOUT objects, we use the following inflections for the “doer”, which we will call **Subject**

How do you use different subjects for these verbs?

walk	ímex <u>u</u>
sing	t'ílem
sleep	ítet
play	éwolem

Inflection Subject	
-tsel	I
-chexw	you
--	he/she/it
-tset	we
-chap	you folks
--	they

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What else can be a verb in Halq'eméylem?

Items that are not considered 'verbs' in English can be used like verbs in Halq'eméylem

red, be red

big, be big

good, be good

can you think of others?

Inflection Subject	
-tsel	I
-chexw	you
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-chap	you folks
--	they

Elements to express 'past tense'

we have different ways to express when an action occurs in the past

(2) moving the **subject** inflection to the beginning of the sentence

- **tsel** ewólem I played/ I play (compare: ewólem**tsel**)

can you come up with more examples?

Inflection Subject	
-tsel	I
-chexw	you
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Elements to express 'past tense'

we have different ways to express when an action occurs in the past

- (1) adding a time word, like 'yesterday:
cheláqelh / tseláqelh

áltheltsel tseláqelh I ate yesterday.

Elements to express 'past tense'

we have different ways to express when an action occurs in the past

(3) adding **subject** inflection to past tense helper verbs é or á at the beginning of the sentence

(é or á can be used interchangeably to express recent past)

- á**tsel** lám I went
- é**tsel** kw'étslexw I saw him
- á**chexw** álthel You ate

Can you come up with more examples?

Inflection Subject	
-tsel	I
-chexw	you
--	he/she/it
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Elements to express 'past tense'

(4) using **-(e)lh** AND **subject** inflection on a *helper verb* preceding the main verb (**la** = go, **me/mi** = come, **í:** =here, be here)

- **í:lh****tset** t'ít'élem **We** **were** singing

Inflection Subject	
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-chexw	you
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Elements to express 'past tense'

(4) using **-(e)lh** AND **subject** inflection on a *helper verb* preceding the main verb (**la** = go, **me/mi** = come, **í:** =here, be here)

- **í:lh****tset** t'ít'élem **We** **were** singing
- **í:lh****--** q'óq'éy **he/she it/they** **was** sick

How would you specify : **she** was sick?

Inflection Subject	
-tset	I
-chexw	you
--	he/she/it
-tset	we
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--	they

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- **í:lh****tset** t'ít'élem **We** **were** singing
- **í:lh**-- q'óq'éy **he/she** **it/they** **was** sick
- **í:lh**-- q'óq'éy **thutl'ó** **she** **was** sick

→ how would you say: I was sick ?

Inflection Subject	
-tset	I
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- **í:lh****tset** q'óq'éy **I** **was** sick

Inflection Subject	
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- **í:lh**-- q'óq'éy **he/she** **it/they** **was** sick
- **í:lh**-- q'óq'éy thutl'ó **she** **was** sick
- **í:lh****tset** q'óq'éy **I** **was** sick
- **mí:lh****chexw** maythóx **You** **were** **coming** to help **me**

Inflection Subject	
-tset	I
-chexw	you
--	he/she/it
-tset	we
-chap	you folks
--	they

remember our Object inflections:

- mí:lhchexw maythóx You were coming to help me

- mí:lhtsel máythóme

How would you say this in English?

Inflection Object	
-ox	me
-óme	you
-exw	him/her/it
-ólxw	us
-óle	you folks
-exw	them

Inflection Subject	
-tsel	I
-chexw	you
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-tset	we
-chap	you folks
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Bonus: (if we have time)

How to express future tense

to express something is happening in the future, we simply add **-cha** to the verb or helper verb ***at the end of all other inflections***

(This is different from past -lh, which 'tucks in' before the subject inflection)

lám**tsel**cha

ímex**chexw**cha