

Thá:yem te Léxwtel ¹
Literal translation



Kw'e welhíthelh thá:ytes te selyó:lexwe te swōqw'elh
DET² long.time.ago make-they DET elders DET goat.wool.blankets
teli te sá:ys te p'q'élqel teli te smámelet.
from DET wool DET goat from DET mountains
Xéyq'thet li te theqát ye p'q'élqel osu me háme te sá:ys.
scratch-self there DET tree DET goat and.so aux³ come.off DET wool.
Loye hókwexes yutl'ólem kw'es léxwtels. Su kwíkwexetes á:lhtel kw'e swōqw'elh.
only use.it-they they DET blanket-their. so calling.it-they they DET "swōqw'elh"
Lóye te tskwím thiytíls li te stl'pólwelhs tútl'o léxwtel ew lóyò.
only DET red design there DET bottom-of their blanket emph⁴ only
Skw'áy kw'es qéxs kw'e thiytíls lámexw tl'ál, ew loye te léts'a.
can't. that-it much-it. DET. design. aux-you attach emph only DET one.
Tloqá:ys tset hókwex te sá:ys te metú.
today we use.it DET wool-of DET sheep
Yewál kw'as lhíts'eqwt te metú qeyálhes le má:x mekw'.
first that-you cut-hair DET sheep before aux take.off everything
Th'exwót te sá:y. Th'exwótchexw yewál qeyálhes ch'íxwt.
wash.it DET wool. wash.it-you first before dry.it

¹ This text was told by Ts'áts'elexwót, Dr. Elizabeth Herrling with transcriptions provided by Strang Burton in 2004 and Illustrations by Jared Deck. The Stó:lō Shxwelí Language program also produced a book version, as well as an interactive online version. For a full acknowledgement please refer to <http://www.srrmcentre.com/weaving>

² DET means determiner, and refers to words like, te, the, ye and kw'e.

³ aux means auxiliary, which is a type of 'helper verb' and refers to words like me, mi, le, li. An example for an auxiliary in English is the 'have' or 'been' in "I have been singing"

⁴ EMPH means emphasis, like some uses of the English words 'just', 'really'.

Ch'íywx yélhes texqé:yít.

dry. before comb.it

Texqé:yít te sá:y su les xwa hó:y qasu qálets't.

comb DET wook so aux become ready and.so spin.it

lyólem kw'as qálets't te sá:y tloqá:ys.

(it is) ok that-you spin.it DET wook now

Lóye te p'áp'eth'els-mashíl lheq' o le hókwex kw'els qáqelets' te sá:y.

only DET sewing-machine used emph aux use that-I spinning DET wool

Qéx mekw'stá:m hókwexexw kw'as les xwa láts' te shxwtó:mexs te sá:y.

much everything use-you that-you aux become different DET /appearance-of DET wool

Qex p'elyíws te chewōlhp qas te xpá:yelhp kw'es hókwex, hókwex kw'es shxwtó:mexs te sá:y.

much bark-of DET cottonwood-tree and DET cedar.tree that (is) used, use that (for) appearance-of the wool

Mekw' tselets'lóts'tel ch'ích'esem hókwexexw te shxwelís ew stámes.

every many.coloured plants use use-you DET place emph something.

Tskwím...qas te tsqwá:y...qas te skwíkwemel.

red and DET green and DET pink

Su qálets't, qálets't te léxwtel.Osu t'l'álx li te shxwelís kw'as qálets'tcha tútl'ò.

so spin/weave spin/weave DET blanket. So put.it there DET place that.you weave-will it.

Yelíkw mestíyexw qáqelets' teli te t'l'ép kw'es mes iyó:thet, qe éwe lis éy. Ewe lis xwem syó:ys.

Some people spinning from DET bottom that aux start but not (is) aux good. not (is) aux fast work.

Lóye kw'es ew telí se te chíchelh kw'es e me thíyt qesu me stl'epíl.

Only that emph from aux DET top/high that aux aux make.it and.so aux bottom

Kw'xát mekw' te xwéylem yewál qeyálhes thíyt te sxéles.

count all DET string first before make.it DET design

Lets'elóts'teles kw'a thíytexw éwe chexw lámexw t'eqw'ót ta' sá:y.

different.colours-it that-you use.them-you not you go-you cut.it your wool

We lámexw ye t'eqw'et we les xwa chílheqw ta' syó:ys.

if go-you by.way.of cut.it if aux become high.hair your work

Lulh hó:y kw'as má:x.

after finished that you remove.it

Lámes hó:y qesu t'eqw'ót osu lhíkw'et kwálx te álqsels te sá:y.

aux.it finished and so cut.it and so hook.it hide.it DET end—its DET wool

Le hó:y ta' léxwtel.

aux finish your blanket