KWIN TLAYAM LO HANIS TLII’IIS
Let’s Speak the Hanis Language

BY PATTY WHEREAT- PHILLIPS

Well, as some of you may already know, we are beginning a native language program. First we’re working on Hanis. To those more interested in Milluk or Siuslaw/Umpqua, this early work on Hanis will help you too! For one thing, we’re going to use the same orthography (writing system) for all the languages, they share a lot of sounds, and so a bit of practice at Hanis will give you a step up in learning Milluk or Siuslaw/Umpqua later.

There will eventually be recordings of words available, both online and on CDs. But seeing and hearing words can help reinforce them in your memory, so from here on out we are going to use one writing system to represent the Native words. Here is the pronunciation chart to help you do that.

THE VOWELS:
The native languages have pretty much all the same vowels English does. Here is how to represent those sounds:

- a: Like the ‘a’ in father
- e: Like the flat sort of ‘a’ in words like cat, sat. Some linguists thought this sound was more like halfway between the short ‘e’ sound in bet, set.
- i: Like the short ‘I’ in bit, sit.
- ii: Like the long ‘ee’ sound in weed, deed.
- o: This one will be very unlike how you usually picture sounds represented by ‘o’. We’ll be using it to represent the schw, or neutral vowel. This is like the ‘a’ in about, or the ‘a’ in sofa. A kind of an ‘uh’ sound.
- u: Like the vowel in good, book, brook.
- uu: Like the ‘oo’ sound in proof. As we’ll learn later, sometimes in words this sound comes out more like the long ‘o’ sound in boat.

Combinations of two vowels – diphthongs – will be represented by ai for the ‘i’ in bite, and au for the ‘ow’ sound in gout.

THE CONSONANTS:
For most consonants – like b, d, g, h, j, k, l, m, n, p, s, t, z, assume they are similar to English. However, Hanis (and Milluk and Siuslaw/Umpqua too) contain some consonant sounds NOT found in English. Or at least a little bit different. So we’ll illustrate them here.

- ts: This is just like the ‘ts’ sound you find at the end of English words like cats. Unlike English, in Hanis the ts sound can be found at the beginning of words. It takes just a bit of practice to get comfortable saying it at the start of a word, like the word tiatai, evening low tide.
- hl: hl will stand in for a sound that is, essentially, a silent l. To make this sound, pretend you are about to say ‘l’ a. Put the tip of your tongue behind the top of your upper front teeth, but instead of voicing it to make an ‘l’ sound, blow air. This is a common sound in Hanis, like the word hla, to go.
- tl: Like a voiceless version of the ḏl sound in English words like paddle, muddle.
- x: This is a raspy h sound. For students of German, this is like the ch in German words like Bach.
- xx: A raspy h sound like above, but pronounced further back in the mouth.
- gh: This is the voiced version of the x.
- q: A sound like k, but pronounced further back in the mouth.
- ‘: The apostrophe will stand in for what is called a glottal stop. It is a break between vowels, like what you get between the two syllables of uh-oh. Also, the glottal stop can follow a consonant, making the consonant ‘pop’, like in the word k’a, rope.

New Staff in Family Services

BY DOTTIE GARCIA, FAMILY SERVICES COORDINATOR

Family Services is pleased to welcome Iliana Kazmierczak as the new Caseworker Aide, replacing Delilah Baldwin who moved to the Health Dept. Iliana is a Tribal member. She is married to Gene Kazmierczak and they have one son, Cody, who is 13 years old and in 8th grade at Sunset Middle School. Prior to working with the Tribe, Iliana worked in the mortgage industry. She brings with her great organizational skills, attention to detail and warm customer service. We are pleased to have her here and hope you will stop by and welcome her when you have a chance.

We are also pleased to welcome Morgan Gaines, a Tribal member and a senior at Southern Oregon University, in Ashland, Oregon. Morgan is doing her Capstone Senior Project by interning with Family Services through December 2009. Morgan has already shown her dedication and vast skill set in helping the department plan and host the Indian Child Welfare Conference the end of October in Florence. She will be graduating in March 2010 and is open to any fabulous job offers! Please also welcome Morgan when you meet her.

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