

Witsuwit'en blends

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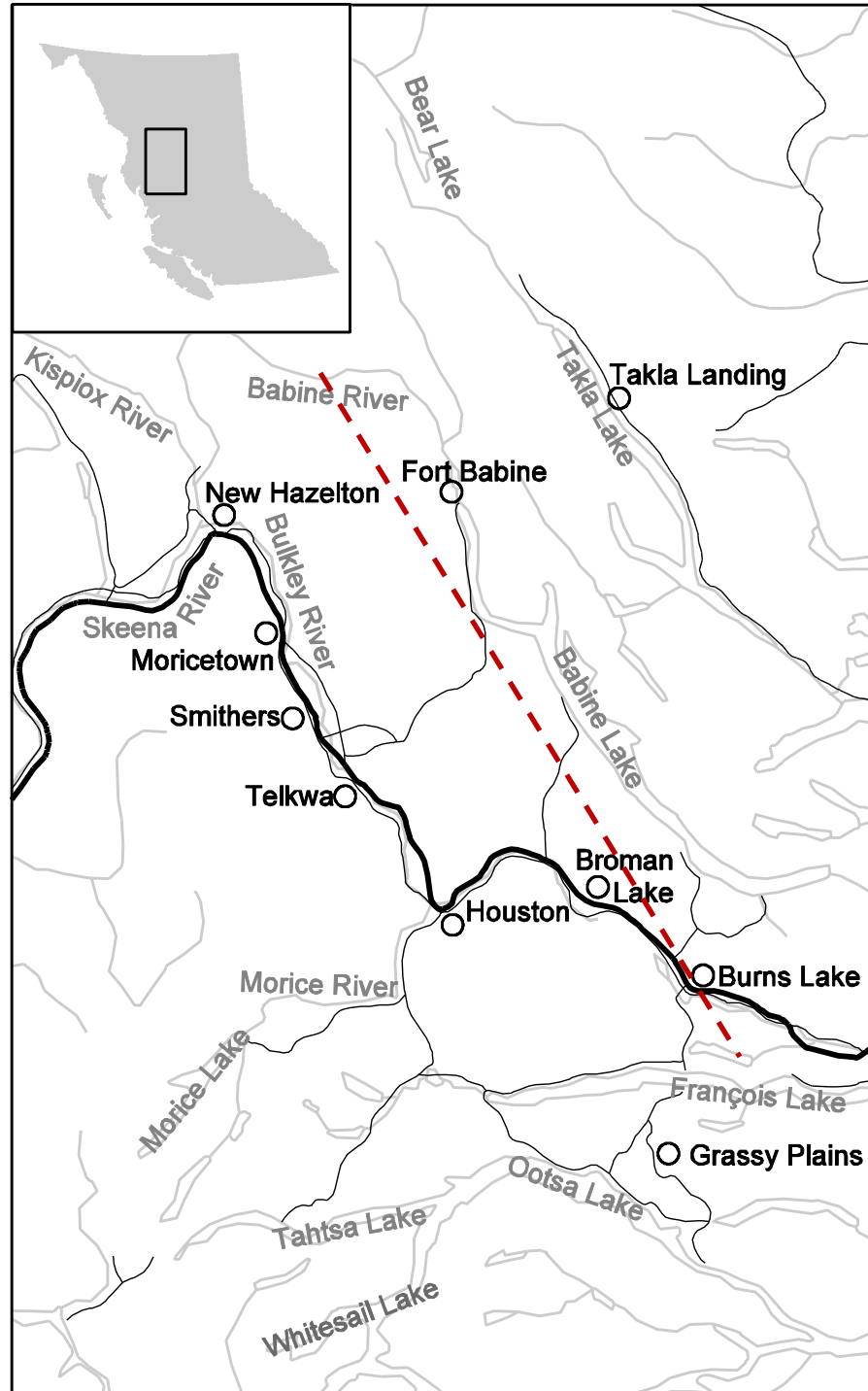
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Witsuwit'en communities

British
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Bulkley R. [Widzin Kwah] at Telkwa [Nde' İlkwah]



China Nose [Tsë Zul]



Hudson Bay Mt. [Ts'idek'iy']

Bulkley R. at
Moricetown Canyon
[diyik]



Some Witsuwit'en professors



Alfred Joseph



Mabel
Forsythe



Pat Namox



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Alfred



Lillian Morris, Roy Morris

Dene Languages Conference 2000

Moricetown, BC



John Alderete, Tanya Bob, Ted Fernald



Michael Krauss



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Dick Alec, Tanya Bob, Henry Mitchell



Theresa Tait, Maryann Alec



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“Blend”

- Two (or more) words which are combined into one word by leaving out some of the sounds in one or both words.
- English blending strategy: onset + ~onset
 - *brunch* (1895) < *breakfast* + *lunch*
 - *Brangelina* () < *Brad* + *Angelina*
 - *Brexit* (2012) < *British* + *exit*
- A historical process of word formation



Blending in Dene languages

- Created many disjunct prefixes/preverbs
- Witsuwit'en final C deletion

 – tsäk ‘open fire, camp fire’ (ë = [ɛ], i = [i])

- tsäk lidi ‘campfire tea’

– tsë#d- (0,e) ‘in, into fire’

-  • Tsëdisle. ‘I put them in the fire.’
-  • Kwilet winize tseydin’ay. ‘He/she contributed 60 (dollars).’ (lit. ‘put 60 in the fire’)

One vs. two stresses

- Bi”ni” ‘his/her mind’
- Mi” ni” ‘he/she is observing a taboo’

More Witsuwit'en free and bound forms

- hah topic/focus
 - din dinī hah 'indzin. 'This person is a man.'
- ha#
 - din dinī ha'indzin. 'This person is a man.'
- nts'ë 'where'
 - Nts'ë honye? 'Where did he/she go?'
- nts'oo# where?
 - < nts'i 'where' + ho# 'forth, out'
 - Nts'oonye 'Where did he/she go?'






Witsuwit'en blends

- Not just verbs
- 'fox' PA *nax̣-¹Gəts'-e: (Leer 2005:308)
 - ~ *na:-¹Gəts'-e: (lit. 'eye-twisted')
 - Witsuwit'en **ne**ggizgi < ne- 'eye' + -ggiz 'crossed' + gi '?'
 - c'**inegh** 'an eye, eye of something'



Blending via final C deletion

- -kak ‘surface’
 - yin **kak** ‘on earth, over (the) land’ 
 - yin **kak** widini’ ‘human being’ (lit. ‘earth's person’)
 - Yin**ka**dini’ ‘First Nations, Native American person’ 
 - -**kak**’ët ‘wound’ (lit. ‘surface cavity’)
 - bikak’ët ‘his/her wound’ 

- Nu'ts'ini" < nu' 'upriver' + ts'ah
'towards' + ni" pl.

- ...pn Dik'az Tl'e'nli"
- dial W
- gl *Parrot L.
- com [Gisdewe] territory
- sp AG
- genxr dik'az
- genxr li"\$2
- src AJ/JK 86-2:20 [n)dek'aaz] "crotch" [n)tl'enli"]
"flows toward", AM, CA/JK 86:24 [n)dek'aa{y,z}
tl'enlii] "flows from rough area" "upper Parrot Lake"
- com "crotch" refers to [n)tl'e-] not [n)dek'aaz]
- etym dik'ay zi"] "trout species" + [tl'e'nli"]

- Khiyt < khiy tah
- Unusual iy in closed syllable

Delete final C, cont.

- dzut'ikw 'vest'

~ dzut t'ikw

coat short






- c'iyebe' 'dried strip of fish meat'

– -yet 'flesh' + be' 'dry fish'



Delete final C, cont.

- **tah** ‘among, on’
 - yin tah ‘on the land, traditional territory’ 
- yin **timi**” ‘low-bush blueberry’ (lit. ‘berry on land’) 
- yin **tidilk’in**’ ‘strawberry’ (lit. ‘that which is red on the land’) 



Delete final C, cont.

- **-tl'äghe** 'pubic hair' (**-tl'ët** 'crotch' + **-ghe** 'hair')

– bitl'ët 'his/her crotch'



– bitl'äghe 'his/her pubic hair'

- **-nebeghe** 'eyelash' (**-negh** 'eye' + **-begh** 'edge, around' + **ghe** 'hair')


• binebeghe 'his/her eyelash'

• binebegh 'around his/her eye'

• bibegh 'its edge, around it'



Delete final C, cont.

- Scin**le**bes ‘September’
 - scin**legh** ‘timberline’ + -bes ‘round (full moon)’ (PN) 
- **Bi**wini ‘Owen L.’
 - < **bit** ‘char’ wini ‘there is’ (AJ)

Delete initial consonant

- K'udini” ‘Carrier people of Ft. St. James area’
- [n)k'uu denii] CA, MA/JK 86:1 "different people“
- Cf. lhk'u] "smart; different"

Syncope

- = word-internal unstressed vowel deletion
 - *fav*orite ['feɪvɹɪt] vs. *Ever*ett ['ɛvɪɹɪt]
 - *fam*ily ['fæmli] vs. *Em*ily ['ɛmɪli]
 - *interest* vs. *interim*

- C'olilh 'spring time'
- C'olhde' 'last spring'

- Kwis co wini", Whis co wini" Hudson Bay Ranch
- Kwiscawni", Whiscawni"

Witsuwit'en blending via syncope

- bitnidli 'clothing'



– < bi dini nli

in it person 3sg is

- ~ bi dinidli
- A passivized deverbal noun
- -e dini -li 'wear'
 - Liblet yi dini nli. 'The priest is wearing it.'

Syncope, cont.

- Minges ‘June’
- ~ **Binin c’itges**
 - < binin ‘its month’ + c’itges ‘things are spawning’
 - **bn** > **m**

Syncope, cont.

- 'awtoka 'just anything, whatever, wrong thing'
 - < 'awet 'then' wika 'on account of'
- ~ 'atoka
- ~toka

- 'Awtoka yelhdic. 'He/she says just anything.' 'He/she is talking out of turn.'

Syncope, cont.

- Lho Nits'ay 'boundary line, southwest side, Kw'is territory'
 - < lho 'glacier' + ni' 'in back' + si'ay 'it is'
 - ('ay > ts'ay)
- C'itsewh Dzilh Ts'ay 'peak north of Goosely L.'
 - < c'itsewh 'downhill' + dzilh 'mountain' + si'ay 'it is'
 - (s'ay > ts'ay)

Syncope, cont.

- k'indzigil 'perfume'
 - LM: “it sounds like short word for”
k'inizdilgit (lit. 'that which we spray on
(ourselves)')
- -ggilcelics 'thread on bolt'
 - Biggilcelics c'itsiy' sili'. 'It (bolt) is stripped.'
 - etymology?

Summary

- Witsuwit'en blending creates new words and/or reshapes existing words
 - Delete final C
 - Syncope
 - Sometimes with other sound changes

Misiyh!



Moricetown L.