Part VIII

THE THANKSGIVING - PART ONE

A traditional act before any Iroquoian gathering is for someone to give the Thanksgiving address or the "opening" as it is often called. This is a part of the oral tradition and can be quite short or very lengthy depending on the speaker's skill and the occasion. It is not a memorized text but varies from speaker to speaker and from occasion to occasion. It involves the thanking of creation from the earth to the sky world and how much gets included is part of the variation. What follows is a list of one version of the parts of the world that are thanked. Later we will offer a simple way to turn this list into a short version of the thanksgiving itself.

katyóhkwa  the people

yukhinulhá ohwátsyá  mother earth
(yukhi- she to us; -nulha- be mother to; o- prefix; -hwátsy- earth; -a suffix)

onekliʔshúhaʔ  the grasses
(o- prefix; -anekl- grass; -i? suffix; -shuhaʔ plural suffix)

áhsá naʔtekutahnuʔtéle  three sisters (corn, beans, and squash)
(áhsá three; naʔte- partitive and dualic; -ku- feminine plural; -atahnutle- sibling)

awáhihteʔ  strawberry

onuhkwathoˈkú  medicines
(o- prefix; -nuhkwa- medicine; -hoku plural suffix)

oyukwaʔuˈwé  tobacco
(o- prefix; -yukw- tobacco; -aʔ suffix; -uwe- native or original)

kalutaʔshúhaʔ  trees
(ka- prefix; -lut- tree; -aʔ suffix; -shuhaʔ plural suffix)

kutíli  animals
(kuti- feminine plural prefix; -lyo- animal)

ohnekanushoˈkú  waters
(o- prefix; -hnékanus- water; -hoku plural suffix)
otsiʔtahaʔšúhaʔ  
(birds  
(o- prefix; -tsiʔtaha- bird; -? suffix; -šuha? plural suffix)

owelaʔšúhaʔ  
(winds  
(o- prefix; -wel- wind or breath; -a? suffix; -šuha? plural suffix)

latishakayuté:se  
(thunderers  
(lati- plural prefix; -shakayute- thunder; -?se? serial suffix)

shukwaʔtsiha otáhalaʔ  
elder brother the sun  
(shukwa- he to us prefix; -ʔtsiha- elder brother; o- prefix; -tahal- sun, -a? suffix)

yukhihsóthaʔ wehní:tale  
grandmother moon  
(yukhi- she to us prefix; -hsot- grandparent, -ha? suffix; w- prefix; -ehniʔtal-moon)

yotsistohkuwá:lú  
(stars  
(yo- prefix; -tsistohkwal- star, -u- distributive suffix)

kayé niyukwé:take tehutlihwatenyá:thaʔ  
the four messengers  
(kaye four, ni- partitive; -y- someone prefix; -ukwe- person; -t- nominalizer; -ake counting verb; te- dualic prefix; -hu- they prefix; -at- reflexive; -lihw- tradition, -atenyaʔt- bring, -ha? serial suffix)

shukwayaʔtisu  
the creator  
(shukwa- he to us prefix; -yaʔt- body; -is(a?)- create, -u perfective suffix)
COMPLEX SENTENCES

Since an Oneida verb is essentially a clause, a sentence in Oneida is complex when it has more than a single verb in it. The syntax of the language helps specify the relation between the verbs. There are many possible relations, but here are a few basic types.

Adverbial subordination
In this type one verb expresses the time, place, manner, condition, comparison or extent of the other verb. In English we typically do this with subordinating conjunctions such as when, if, because, or until. Oneida has particles or combinations of particles that perform similar functions.

- ta=t  if
- to=kát  if
- né· tsi?  because
- né· aolí-wa? tsi?  because (the reason that)
- né· tsá·kat tsi?  the same as
- tsi? ni·yót tsi?  the way that
- tsi? niyo·lé tsi?  until, as far as
- tsi? niosno·lé tsi?  as soon as, as fast as
- kanyó  when

Seldom in languages is there just a single way to express an idea and so there are alternatives to these particles. Consider, for example, several ways to express when. Besides the regular particle kanyó, there is a verb prefix called the coincident (see page 115) that can be used. Sometimes the subordination is implied rather than expressed as when the particle oná then or now is repeated with verbs.

- kanyó  Åhatuhkályake?  when he gets hungry
- tshikeksá  when I was a child
- oná wahatuhkályake? oná wahatekhu·ní.  (coincident prefix tshi-)  when he got hungry, he ate

Complementation
Many verbs express relations about beings and objects, but many also express relations about events and situations. He wants some pie expresses a relationship between him and the pie, but he wants you to get her some pie expresses a relationship between him and an event of your getting her some pie. We can say that your getting her some pie is expressed by a verb that completes (is a complementation of) the verb want. English has a number of syntactic constructions for this type of complementation including a that clause, with or without the that expressed

- I hear (that) he's going hunting
- I want him to go hunting
- or an -ing clause
I prevented him from going hunting.
Oneida also has several syntactic constructions for verb complementation. Here are four of them.

1. coordination
   Sometimes two independent verbs are used without any coordinating particle and the complementation is simply inferred.
   
   lothu=té wa?tyohA' léhte?  he hears it yelled = he hears some yelling
   tahatáhsawa? wahatekhu'ní:  he began he ate = he began to eat

2. particle subordination
   The particle tsi? can be used like the English word that to mark a complement clause.
   
   lonúhte tsi? wahatolátha?  he knows that he is going hunting
   washakohlo'li: tsi? Ahatolátha?  he told them that he will go hunting
   lothu=té tsi? wahutolátha?  he heard that they are going hunting
   ka'túhe? tsi? wahatolátha?  it means that he is going hunting

3. indefinite prefix
   Many times the complement verb is expressed with the indefinite prefix a-.
   
   washakohlo'li: ahutolátha?  he told them to go hunting
   wa?thotilihwayA'tá:se? ahutolátha?  they decided to go hunting

4. future prefix
   The complement verb can also be expressed with the future prefix A-.
   
   wa?thotilihwayA'tá:se? A hustolátha?  they decided that they will go hunting

Here are some very common verbs that typically are used with complement verbs:

wakatu>weiskwá:tu  I enjoy (doing something)
   (-atu>wekswa?t- -ha? serial; -e? punctual; -u stative)

wahatká'lahte?  he stopped (doing something)
   (-atkálahht- -ha? serial; -e? punctual; -u stative)

yutewyatétha?  she practices (doing something)
   (-atewyateht- ha? serial; -e? punctual; -u stative)

sate?nyA'tá  try! (doing something)
   (-ate?nyAt- -ha? serial; -A? punctual; -e? stative)

Relative clauses
Sometimes a sentence becomes complex because one of the nouns in it is described by another verb - a situation or event. We can start with a simple verb

lothale?  he is talking

and then add a noun to identify the pronoun lo- in the verb

lothale? (ne?n) Wilu  Bill is talking
or we could add a verb used as a noun to identify that pronoun

\textit{lóthale? ne?n shakotátyahse?} \textit{their spokesman (he speaks for them) is talking}

or we could describe that pronoun with another verb directly

\textit{lóthale? ne?n ká-tho lanákle?} \textit{the one who lives here is talking}

or by using the particles \textit{tsi? ka=yá:} \textit{the one who.}

\textit{lóthale? tsi? ka=yá: ká-tho lanákle?} \textit{the one who lives here is talking}

The particles \textit{tsi? náhte? that which or whatever} can be used for objects or abstractions.

\textit{lothu=té tsi? náhte? wa?ki’lu} \textit{he hears what I said}