

Activity 8

Phrasal Differences in Cree-Innu

In previous activities, we have observed differences of sounds and of vocabulary across the Cree-Innu dialect continuum. Here, we will look at variation in phrasing and the use of words to ask a simple question. You will note vocabulary differences, but also differences in the way the verb is inflected (e.g. Independent versus Conjunct Order).

Instructions:

- ▶ Open the Linguistic Atlas found at www.atlas-ling.ca.
- ▶ Go to the ‘greetings’ category.
- ▶ Select the phrase “What are you doing?”.
- ▶ Click on each marker on the map and listen carefully.
- ▶ When you find the speakers listed below, copy the phrase on the corresponding line.

Write out each phrase and compare the question words and the verbs.

- ▶ Rita Daniels - Métis Cree - Buffalo Lake _____
- ▶ Minnie Mckenzie - Woodland Cree - La Ronge _____
- ▶ Jean Okimasis - Plains Cree - White Bear 1) _____
2) _____
- ▶ Marguerite Sanderson - Swampy Cree - Moose Lake _____
- ▶ Nicole Petiquay - Atikamekw - Wemotaci _____
- ▶ Frances Visitor - East Cree - North - Wemindji _____
- ▶ Silas Nabinicaboo - Naskapi - Kawawachikamach _____
- ▶ Sylvie Malec - Innu - Natashkuan _____

Answer:

- | | |
|---|---|
| ▶ Rita Daniels - Métis Cree - Buffalo Lake | kīkwāy ē-osīhtāyan? |
| ▶ Minnie Mckenzie - Woodland Cree - La Ronge | tānisi kititahkamikisin? |
| ▶ Jean Okimasis - Plains Cree - White Bear | 1) tānisi ē-itahkamikisiyan?
2) kīkwāy ē-tasihkaman? |
| ▶ Marguerite Sanderson - Swampy Cree - Moose Lake | tānisi ē-itōtaman? |
| ▶ Nicole Petiquay - Atikamekw - Wemotaci | Tan e totaman. |
| ▶ Frances Visitor - East Cree - North - Wemindji | taan aa iyihitiyin. |
| ▶ Silas Nabinicaboo - Naskapi - Kawawachikamach | taan aatiyin. |
| ▶ Sylvie Malec - Innu - Natashkuan | Tshekuan etutamin? |

Question words:

kīkwāy / tshekuan ~ tānisi / taan/tan
“what” “how”

Verbs of “doing”:

osīhtā- / itahkamikisi- / tasihk- / tōt-/tot-/tut- / (iy)ihiti-