Duck Valley Reservation (Owyhee, Nevada)

Tim Thornes
Boise State University

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The Shoshone-Paiute community of Duck Valley includes reservation territory that straddles the Idaho-Nevada border. Recordings of the Duck Valley communolect were made at the home of the speaker’s niece in the presence of several extended family members, including speakers, passive bilinguals and non-speakers alike, as well as children. The speaker was 60 years old at the time and clearly enjoyed recounting Coyote stories. That said, a few of the stories were considered by her family to be a bit too lurid to include here.

**COYOTE AND BEAVER**

†Phyllis Astarloa, Narrator

In this story, the emphasis, according to the speaker, is on the consequences of lying—something Coyote, of course, is known for. The story is somewhat incomplete, by the admission of the speaker, and exhibits expressions of uncertainty, inference, and other interesting features of metanarration. The orthographic convention is the same as that adapted for Burns.

(1) Seme yaisi su idza’a tewau mi’i idza’a unaa,

    simi yaisi su=idza?a tiwau miʔi idza?a una
    one then NOM=Coyote again QUOT Coyote out.there

‘Once again, the Coyote, it is said, Coyote out there,’

(2) me idza’a ka pemitu punni, mino’o pemitu punnisi ka unaa miana,

    mi=idza?a ka=pimi–tu punni minoʔo pimi–tu
    PL=coyote ACC=they–LOC see now they–LOC
    punni–si ka=una mia–na
    see–SEQ ACC=out.there go–PTCP

‘as when you see coyotes going along, now, yonder going,’

(3) himma ikwinachodamina, ikwitachoda tui hannotui miaugaa.

    himma ikwi–načoda–mina ikwi–tačoda tui hanno=tui
    what smell–track–MINA ikwi–track go.along smell–track any where=any

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1 Recorded August 25, 1999, Duck Valley Indian Reservation, Owyhee, Nevada
mi-au–gaa

go–away

‘tracking something by scent, tracking (nose down) while going along just anywhere.’

(4) Uu ka manigyana yaisi.

uu ka=mani–gya–na yaisi
like.so ACC=do–away–PTCP then

‘So, that’s what he was doing.’

(5) Una ka huude kimaba pideugaa mi, una pideugaa.

una ka=huu–di kimaba pidi–u–gaa mii
out.there ACC=flow–NMLZ beside arrive–PFV–away QUOT
una pidi–u–gaa
out.there arrive–PFV–away

‘So where the water was coming, they say, that’s where he arrived.’

(6) Unau chai si tenikwehewene mii.

una–u čaisi tinikwihi–wini mii
out.there–FOC then sing–PROG:SG QUOT

‘And that’s where he was singing, it is said.’

(7) Usu . . . hii gya . . . Hayu usu nani’a?

u–su hii=gya hayu u–su na–ni?a
3SG–NOM thing=MOD how 3SG–NOM MID–call

‘What was that . . . What is it called?’

(8) Beaver? What do you call “beaver”??

(9) Ha’ngiisa!

ha?ŋjiisa
beaver

‘Beaver!’

(10) Ha’ngisa kobaba kemaba’yuna, hipe himmaga huupi himmaga watti,

ha?ŋjisa koba–ba kimaba–?yu–na hipi
beaver face–by beside–from–PTCP thing
himmaga=ga huupi himmaga=ga watti
what=MOD stick what=MOD search:DUR

‘Next to the beaver’s face, looking for a stick or something,’

(11) yah, himma e tenikwehewenemini.

yah himma i=tinikwihi–wini–nimi

‘continuing to sing walking about.’
(12) Ha’ngisa ka tenikwehewene.
   haʔqiisa ka=tinikwihi–wini
   Beaver ACC=sing–PROG:SG
   ‘So the beaver was singing.’

(13) Himma sa’a ‘yu’yuhu puni, himma sa’a ‘yu’yuhu punigyaina mi oo.
   himma=saʔa ?yu~?yuhu puni himma=saʔa
   what=MOD PL~fat see what=MOD
   PL~fat see–HAB–PTCP QUOT DEM
   ‘Looking for something fat, carefully searching for something fat, (they) say so.’

(14) Idza’a u nakkau, ka ene idza’ana.
   idzaʔa u=nakka–u ka=ini idzaʔa–na
   Coyote 3SG:ACC=hear–PFV
   ACC=INT coyote–PTCP
   ‘The Coyote heard him, because that’s how coyotes really are!’

(15) “Ah, hau e manakwi?” mi.
   ah hau ii manakwi mii
   ah how you act:DUR QUOT
   ‘“So, what are you doing there?” (he) asked.’

(16) “Kai ne yaa, sekwimiakainemi,” mii gya sa’a ha’ngisa.
   kai nii yaa sikwi–mia–kai–nimi
   NEG I here only–go–ABOUT–RNDM:SG
   mii=gya=sাʔa haʔqiisa
   QUOT=MOD=MOD Beaver
   ‘ I’m not doing a thing, just going along,” so that Beaver must have been saying.’

(17) “Oo himma e kwattina?” mii.
   oo himma i=kwatti–na mii
   DEM what 2SG=search–PTCP QUOT
   ‘“So, what are you looking for?” saying.’

(18) “Kai du ne himma. E chaisi hayu?”
   kai du nii himma ii čaisi hayu
   NEG also I what you then how
   ‘‘I’m not (doing) a thing. And you?’ ’

(19) [Teekwi–] u tenikwehe chaisi, eetu, nagedza pisa’yu eniwene mi.
   u=tinikwihi čaisi ii–tu nagidza pisa–ʔyu ini–wini
   3SG:ACC=sing then you–LOC truly good–NOM say–PROG
“What are you singing along that sounds so good?” (Coyote) said.

(20) “Kai, himma sokona inate wattina, himma sa kadu’u watti,” mi.


(22) Ha’ngisa kai u teekwi.

(23) Yaisi, idza’a setahu, idza’a setahu, miu.

(24) Himma sa’a yuyuhugena, himma sa’a yuyuhugena?

(25) “Miu ha e?” mi.

(26) Oono yaisi gya, ha’ngisa u deegweu, “aha, uu manina,” mi.
(27) Oo ka yaisi ka kutsu sii unate ga te sayana ka paawaitu ka woisana pisa.

oo  ka=yaisi  ka=kutsu  sii
DEM  ACC=then  ACC=cow stomach
una–ti=ga  ti=sayana
there–LOC=MOD  LOGO=guts
ka=paa–wai–tu  ka=woisa–na  pisa
ACC=water–AREA–to  ACC=wash–PTCP  good
‘So, then, the cow’s belly,’ inside (there), (he) took it and washed it somewhere in the water very well.’

(28) Hau ga yaisi una uka huupi watti, miausi.

hau=ga  yaisi  una  u–ka  huupi  watti
how=MOD  then  there  3SG–ACC  stick  search
mia–u–si
go–PFV–SEQ
‘So, it must have been as he went to look for the stick.’

(29) Ka te chuhugaana oisu ‘ma’wiukaasi.

ACC=LOGO=fat–have–PTCP  DEM–EMPH  leave–PFV–away–SEQ
‘The fat he had collected, he left there.’

(30) Me patunapa ga peno’o oi’yu koohau, u sayana ka kadu’u ‘mani [yai]si u su’au.

mi=patunapa=ga  pino?o  oi–?yu  koohau–u
PL=intestine=MOD  as.well  DEM–from  pick.up–PFV
u=sayana  ka=kadu’u  ?mani
3SG.POSS=guts  ACC=gone  do
yaisi  u=su?a–u
then  3SG:ACC=consume–PFV
‘So, they also came and got it, the guts, and left; and there was nothing left, having gone and consumed all of it.’

(31) Usu yaisi oi prittegaasi, u sayana kadu’u.

u–su  yaisi  oi  pitti–gaa–si  u=sayana  kadu’u
3SG–NOM  then  DEM  arrive–away–SEQ  3SG.POSS=guts  gone
‘When he got over there, the sayana was all gone.’

2 Translator was uncertain of the exact body part reference here for the term sayana.
3 A side comment by the speaker.
(32) Oono ka ha’ngisa peno’o ka idza’a settakiu, u wadzi susagwaipeni, ka hayu niitama ga.

‘And then the Beaver got angry with Coyote, but kept his anger hidden and didn’t let on’

(33) Oo chaisi, oo teka tewawa nazu’akeu.

‘So then, all that he had gathered was eaten up.’

(34) Oo ka yaisi issayaino oo pe kima’yusu oi’yu koohau.

‘Because when he lied, someone came along and stole it.’

(35) Mi’i usu peno’o usu.

‘And that’s that story as well.’

(36) Kai kwaya nanatekwina usu oo.

‘That’s not a story from too far back.’

(37) Oo ugau manina peno’o.

‘That’s his doings (that Coyote).’

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4 Translator also gave the additional comment, “It could mean that it’s not far from being the real truth.”