GRAMMAR NOTES – SHAVING DOMAIN

Grammar for shaving
revised, 3/26/19, zz

(For simplicity, all of the translations in this grammar only have one tense. However, the translations can be given in any tense: past, present or future. As mentioned before in previous grammar lessons, tense is understood by the context of what is being said or by the context of what is occurring.)

Lushootseed expresses the act of shaving with the word *sax̌* 'to scrape'. Look at and compare the following examples in (1):

(1) (a) **sax̌**adəxʷ čəd ti dgədgax̌əd.

sax̌-a-d-əxʷ	čəd	ti	d-gədgax̌əd
scrape-CONNECTER-CTL-BEARING.INFO	I	the	my-armpit

'I shave my underarm(s).'
Literally, 'I **scrape** my armpits.'

(b) **sax̌**šədəbəxʷ čəd.

sax̌-šəd-əb-əxʷ	čəd
scrape-leg-self-BEARING.INFO	I

'I shave my leg(s).'
Literally, 'I leg-**scrape** myself.'

(c) **s(a)x̌**usəbəxʷ čəd.

sax̌-us-əb-əxʷ	čəd
scrape-face-self-BEARING.INFO	I

'I shave my face.'
Literally, 'I face-**scrape** myself.'

The root *sax̌* 'scrape' is also used for 'razor' and 'electric razor'. Look at (2) and notice the prefix and suffixes that occur with *sax̌* 'scrape' to create these words.

(2)   (a)   **s(a)x̌**usəbəd
         sax̌-us-əb-əd
         scrape-face-self-tool.for
         'razor'

    (b)   səxʷ**s(a)x̌**ayqsəb
         səxʷ-**sax̌**-ayqs-əb
         by.means.of-**scrape**-chin-self
          'electric razor'

The word *ɬəx̌* 'spread' is used for shaving cream and using shaving cream. Look at and compare the words in (3). Notice how prefixes and suffixes work in conjunction with *ɬəx̌* 'spread' in order to create new words.

(3)   (a)   **ɬ(ə)x̌**usəb
         ɬəx̌-us-əb
         spread-face-self
         '**spread** something on own face'

    (b)   dxʷ**ɬ(ə)x̌**usəb
         dxʷ-**ɬəx̌**-us-əb
         thing.that-**spread**-face-self
         'shaving cream'

Prefixes and suffixes are part of a larger category called **affixes**. Languages vary as to how many affixes there are. English has quite a few, including affixes such as: *re-* 'again' (**re**view 'view again'); *-logy* 'a speaking, theory, science (bio**logy** 'science of life and living things'); and *ethno-* 'race, culture' (**ethno**graphy 'science of the description and classification of the races of humans'). However, when English is compared to txʷəlšucid (and other Salish languages), txʷəlšucid uses affixes more than English. As an example, compare all of txʷəlšucid in the

examples within this grammar lesson with their English translations. In all of the examples there are far more affixes used in the txʷəlšucid than in the English.

There are a couple of points to be made from this insight about this difference in affix use. First of all, the increase of affix use in languages such as txʷəlšucid over English often results in a speaker's greater awareness of what these affixes mean and how they are used. The second important insight is how the difference in affix use between these two languages affects how words are constructed for nouns. English does use affixes to name things, as mentioned above (*review, biology, ethnology*). However, because affixes are not used as often as in txʷəlšucid, English also employs the use of compounds. **Compounds** are words that are made up of two words, such as *class-room*, *break-fast* and *arm-pit* (the dash (-) is used to highlight the word breaks). In addition, there are also compounds where the words are not written as one word, such as *electric razor*, *shaving cream*, *and action figure.*

txʷəlšucid also uses compounds but they are rare. Compounds can occur with the connecter *-ɬə-*, as in *x̌əɬ-əɬ-x̌əč* sick-connecter-mind, 'sad, depressed' (literally, 'sick-mind'). Compounds can also be used for place names or names for a large quantity of something at a specific location. Examples are: *hikʷ x̌ʷəlč* 'ocean' (literally, 'big saltwater') and *hikʷ stuləkʷ* 'Columbia River' (literally, 'big river'). Again, though, compounds are rarely used. Rather than compounds, txʷəlšucid prefers using affixes for constructing words for nouns. <u>This is an important fact to remember when forming new words for English translations</u>.