



## GRAMMAR NOTES – BRUSHING HAIR DOMAIN

### 1. State of being ʔəs-

The prefix ʔəs- means ‘state of being’. Look at example (1) and note the translation:

(1) ʔəsbalalqid čəd.

ʔəs-	bal	-alqid	čəd
<b>state of being</b>	mix	-hair	I

‘My hair is messed up.’

Literally, ‘My hair is **in the state of being** mixed.’

or even more literal, ‘I am **in the state of being** mixed haired.’

For simplicity, I have only translated the txʷəlšucid sentence in (1) in the current tense. However, there is nothing in (1) that says that the condition is in the current tense. This sentence can be said for a past, current or future condition. When the condition occurs is understood through the context of what is being said or in the case of self-narration, what you are doing.

(Note that (1) also has a new word and suffix: *bal* ‘to mix’ and *-alqid* ‘hair’.)

Notice how the prefix ʔəs- in (2) is used when expressing that the hair is brushed/combed/tidied. Note that the *-əb* ‘self’ at the end of the verb is omitted when expressing the state of the hair.

(2) ʔəsp’əłus čəd.

ʔəs-	p’əł	-us	čəd
<b>state of being</b>	tidy	-face	I

‘My hair is brushed/combed/tidied.’

Literally, ‘My hair is **in a state of being** tidied.’

In txʷəlšucid, ʔəs- ‘state of being’ is rarely used with verbs that involve movement or action. ʔəs- is almost only used with verbs that do not involve movement. Therefore, ʔəs- would not be used in (3) below. It is only used with conditions like (1) or (2) that describe a state of being.



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Again, like (1), it is important to emphasize that the condition expressed in (2) can occur in the past, present or future.

### 2. Expressing a central activity with ʔu-

Example (3) expresses the act of brushing the hair. The verb begins with a new prefix -ʔu-. This prefix is used in a few different ways. In (3), ʔu- brings focus to the fact that the action of brushing your hair is ‘central’ to the domain being self-narrated.

- (3) ʔup'(ə)tusəb čəd.  
ʔu-            p'ət -us -əb čəd  
**central**    tidy -face -self I  
'I am brushing/combing/tidying my hair.'  
or  
'I brushed/combed/fixd my hair.'  
or  
'I will brush/comb/fix my hair.'

Notice that the translation in (3) can be for the past, present or future tense. When the action occurs is only understood through the context of what is being talked about or, in the case of self-narration, what you are doing or have done.

### 3. Two adverbial constructions

English has words that tell you how the action is done, such as *I sang well* and *I worked hard*. *Well* and *hard* (underlined) express how I did the action. *Well* describes how *I sang* and *hard* describes how *I worked*. For English grammar, these type of words are called **adverbs**, i.e., they tell you how the action is done.

Lushootseed has a few different ways to express how an action is done. Two options are listed in this brief grammar using the word *haʔt* ‘good, nice’. To begin our discussion on *haʔt*, let’s first look at how it is used as a verb followed by



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a noun. In (4), *haʔt* is the first word in the sentence followed by *ti* ‘the’ and then the noun *sq’ədʒuʔ* ‘hair’.

- (4) **haʔt**            ti        sq’ədʒuʔ.  
**nice/good**    the        hair  
 ‘The hair is **nice/good**.’

Note that in *txʷəlšucid*, *haʔt* ‘good, nice’ is a verb in (4), while in the English translation *is* is the verb and *nice/good* are the adjective.

*txʷəlšucid* uses a similar construction to (4) for expressing how an action is done. The only difference is that a verb is put in the place of the noun. In (5) *haʔt* is the first word of the sentence followed by *ti* ‘the’ and then the verb *ʔup’(ə)tusəb* ‘brush hair’.

- (5) **haʔt** ti dsup’(ə)tusəb.  
**haʔt**            ti        d-    s-            ʔu-                    p’(ə)t    -us    -əb  
**good/nice**    the        my    NMZR    specific        tidy    -face   -self  
 ‘**Nicely**, I am brushing/combing/tidying my hair.’

The sentence structure in (5) is the same as the construction in (4) except that the noun in (4) is replaced with a verb in (5). Notice that *ʔup’(ə)tusəb* is nominalized with *s-* and the prefix *d-* ‘my’ is used to express the doer of the action, combing hair. Literally, (5) is translated as ‘Nice the my brushing/combing/tidying hair’, where *d-* ‘my’ is used to express the doer of the action of combing hair. When a noun follows a *ti*-word, we say that the noun is in a **ti-phrase**. When a verb follows a *ti*-word, we say that the action is in a **ti-clause**. *ti*-clauses are a form of a dependent clause. **Dependent clauses** are part of a sentence. They have at minimum a verb. Dependent clauses cannot stand alone as a sentence. They are dependent within a sentence, hence the name



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dependent clause. In (5), *haʔt* ‘good/nice’ is the verb of the main sentence, and *ti dsup’(ə)tusəb* ‘the my combing hair’ is a dependent clause within the sentence.

Another way to express (5) is to exchange the position of the verbs. In (6), the main sentence is *ʔup’(ə)tusəb čəd* ‘I am brushing/combing/tidying’. The verb *haʔt* is put after *ʔə tə*. Like a *ti*-clause, an *ʔə-tə-VERB* clause are a type of dependent clause.

- (6) ʔup’(ə)tusəb čəd ʔə tə haʔt.  
 ʔu-            p’(ə)t    -us    -əb    čəd ʔə        tə    haʔt  
 specific    tidy    face self I        ʔə        the good  
 ‘I am brushing/combing/tidying my hair **nicely**.’

We will discuss more on dependent clauses in a later lesson.

### 4. čədə ‘and I’

Look at (7) and notice how the word **čədə** ‘and I’ can be used to make a longer sentence.

- (7) ḳẉədədəx̣ẉ čəd ti p’(ə)tusəb            čədə            p’(ə)tusəbəx̣ẉ.  
 take            I        the brush/comb            **and-I**            comb-hair  
 ‘I take the comb/brush **and I** brush my hair.’

We will discuss this more in another grammar lesson.