

Frogs Say 'Kováááhe'^{1,2}
By Josephine Glenmore

Na'èstse káse'éehe éhnóhtséstovósesto heške, "Éohkeóxóhevoöne oonáhá'e óhmónenéstoo-
hévoséstse?"

"Héméhe, naa kováááhe, éohkéhevoöne, éxheséstse.

Naa éxhohátse'tóheséstse máhtamáhááhe, Kováááhe móxheševéhehevóhe hevóxaho.

English Translation:

One young woman reportedly asked her mother: "what do frogs say when they first croak?"

Well, they say "Kováááhe", [the mother] said.

The daughter reportedly laughed at the old woman. 'Kováááhe' was the name of her son-in-law.

Morphological Glossing:

- (1) *Na'éstse káse'éehé énohtséstovósesto heške,*
Na'éstse káse'éehé é-nohtséstovó-sesto heške,
 One young.girl 3-ask.sth-RPT.OBV mother.of.x
“Éohkeóxóhevoöne oonáhá'e
“É-ohke-óxó-hevoöne oonáhá'e
 3-HAB-what.say³-say.3.PL.AN frog.PL
óhmónenéstoohévoséstse?”
òh-móne-néstoo-hé-vose-stse?”
 CNJ.SUB.IT-newly-make.noise- Q[?]-3.PL-RPT
 ‘One young woman reportedly asked her mother: “what do frogs say when they first croak?”’
- (2) *"héméhe, naa kováááhe, éohkéhevoöne, éxheséstse”*
héméhe, naa kováááhe, é-ohké-hevoöne, é-h-he-sest
 well and onomatopoeia 3-HAB-say.3.PL.AN 3-PST-say-RPT
 ‘Well, they say “Kováááhe”, [the mother] said.’
- (3) *naa éxhohátse'tóhesestse máhtamáhááhe*
naa é-h-hohátse'tóhe-sest máhtamáhááhe
 and 3-PST-laugh.at.AN- RPT old.woman
 ‘[The daughter] laughed at the old woman.’
- (4) *Kovááhe móxheševéhehevóhe hevéxaho.*
Kovááhe mó-h-heševéhe-he-vó-he he-véxah-o
Kovááhe INF-PST-be.called-Q[?]-3-Q[?] 3.POSS-child.in.law-OBV
 ‘Kovááhe was the name of her son-in-law.’

Abbreviations

-	morpheme boundary
=	clitic boundary
.	meaning part boundary, e.g.: walk.to
1	First Person
2	Second Person
2:1	Second Person acting on First Person
3	Third Person
<i>ahte</i>	reflexive/reciprocal verbal affix
AN	Animate
AGT	Agentive suffix, like ‘-er’ in English
CAT	Cataphoric preverb
CIS	Cislocative
CNJ	Conjunct
DEL.IMP	Delayed Imperative
DIR	Direct Voice ⁴
DIS	Distal
DIM	Diminutive
EMPH	emphatically, very much
EP	Epenthetic sound
FIA	Final Intransitive Animate
FTI	Final Transitive Inanimate
HAB	Habitual
HEDGE	Hedge/discourse filler, e.g. ‘like’ or ‘uh’ in English
IMP	Imperative
INAN	Inanimate
INF	Inferential/Dubitative Evidential
INT	Intensifier
INV	Inverse voice ⁵
IRR	Irrealis
IT	Iterative
OBL	Oblique
OBV	Obviative
PCS	Process
POSS	Possessive
PRF	Perfective
PST	Distant past (recent past/present is not marked)
PURP	Purposive
RCP	Reciprocal
RFL	Reflexive
RPT	Reportative Evidential
RES.PCS	Process, with focus on the result state
SUB	subjunctive
TRL	Translocative

¹ This text has been reformatted, more loosely translated, and morphologically glossed by Sarah Murray with the help of Wayne Leman and Dr. Richard Littlebear. Support for this work was provided by a Phillips fund grant from the American Philosophical Society.

² This text was originally transcribed by Wayne Leman and is published in Leman, Wayne (ed). 1987. *Náévâhóó’ôhtséme / We Are Going Back Home: Cheyenne History and Stories Told by James Shoulderblade and Others*. Memoir 4. Winnipeg: Algonquian and Iroquoian Linguistics. Pages xvi + 436. It was told to him by Mrs. Glenmore in 1986, who passed away in 1990. Wayne says of her “She was a special friend and a gifted Cheyenne

language teacher. We spent many wonderful hours together recording her language. She had a gift for remembering Cheyenne words and translating them to English". Wayne also notes "Many non-Cheyennes will miss the wonderful humor of this piece. In Cheyenne culture there is an avoidance relationship between women and their sons-in-law. The woman and her son-in-law should not speak to each other. So when the woman of this story uttered her son's name, it was breaking a cultural taboo and was considered really funny to everyone." (http://www.geocities.com/cheyenne_language/kovaahe.htm)

³ This is a preverb that questions the content

⁴ 1st or 2nd person subject acting on 3rd person object in the conjunct order

⁵ Cheyenne Dictionary: "Inverse voice means that a third person subject is "acting upon" a first or second person, or that an obviated third person is acting upon a proximate third person."