Frogs Say ‘Kovááhe’ \textsuperscript{1,2}
By Josephine Glenmore

Na'ëstse káse'éhe éhnóhtséstovósesto heške, "Éohkeóxóhevoöne oonáhá'e óhmónenéstoo-hévoséstse?"
"Héméhe, naa kovááhe, éohkéhevoöne, éxheséstse.
Naa éxhohátse'tóheséstse máhtamáháhe, Kovááhe móxheévëhevöhe hevëxaho.

English Translation:

One young woman reportedly asked her mother: “what do frogs say when they first croak?”
Well, they say “Kovááhe”, [the mother] said.
The daughter reportedly laughed at the old woman. ‘Kovááhe’ was the name of her son-in-law.
Morphological Glossing:

(1) Na’estse káse’e/ehe énóhtséstovó/sesto heške,
Na’estse káse’e/ehe é-nóhtséstovó-sesto heške,
One young.girl 3-ask.sth-RPT.OBV mother.of.x

“Éohkeóxóhevoóne oonáhá’e
“É-ohke-óxó-hevoóne oonáhá’e
3-HAB-what.say^3-say.3.PL.AN frog.PL
óhmóne-néstoo-hé-vo/se-stse?”
CNJ.SUB.IT-newly-make.noise- Q^2-3.PL.RPT
‘One young woman reportedly asked her mother: “what do frogs say when they first croak?”’

(2) "hémehe, naa kovááhe, éohkéhevoóne, éxheséstse”
hémehe, naa kovááhe, é-ohkè-hevoóne, é-h-he-sest
well and onomatopoeia 3-HAB-say.3.PL.AN 3-PST-say-RPT
‘Well, they say “Kovááhe”, [the mother] said.’

(3) naa éxho/hátse’tohese/sest máhtamáhááhe
naa é-h-ho/hátse’tohe-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-heševé/hé/vó-he hevéxah-o
Kovááhe INF-PST-be.called-Q^2-Q^2 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
ahte 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. Náévähoo'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.”