

Anchoring events and nominals in space and time

Two auxiliaries: 'i and ni'

(1) 'i signals that the event happens in present space or present time.

'i tsun 'i'mush.	“I am walking.” (action on-going)
'i tst 'uw' t'ut'i'w'i'ulh.	“We are praying.”
'ii t'it'ulum'?	“Is she singing?” ('i + 'u question = 'ii)

(2) ni' signals that the event was removed in space or time.

ni' tsun 'imush.	“I walked.” (action completed)
ni' tst kwunut.	“We took it.”
nii ch lemut?	“Did you look?” (ni' + 'u question = nii)

- Leaning person markers follow the auxiliaries 'i and ni'.
- 'i and ni' are part of a family of auxiliaries and demonstratives that distinguish proximal (near the speaker) from distal (away from the speaker) meanings.

	PROXIMAL	DISTAL
VERB/AUXILIARY	'i <i>here/now</i>	ni' <i>there/then</i>
LOCATIONAL /AUXILIARY	'e'ut <i>here</i>	na'ut <i>there</i>
SPATIAL DEMONSTRATIVE	tu'i <i>here, this</i>	tuni' <i>there, that</i>
LOCATIONAL DEMONSTRATIVE	tun'i <i>from here</i>	tun'ni' <i>from there</i>

Table 1: Deictics of space and time

Particle wulh: “now”, “already”, “after”

- place wulh before the auxiliary or main verb.

(3) 'i wulh m'i t'akw'.	“He must have already come home.”
ni' 'u wulh nem' lhu Mary?	“Did Mary go already?”
'i tst wulh tetsul.	“We are already here.”

• Here's a message for your answering machine.

(4) 'uwu tsun 'iin' 'a'mut. qwel ch 'uw' ni'us wulh tintun.

“I'm not at home. Speak after the bell.” (Snuneymuhw dialect)

(5) 'uwu tsun 'iin' 'a'mut. qwel ch 'uw' ni'us wulh tintun.

“I'm not at home. Speak after the bell.”