

Blind Wolf – high action sentences
Hul'q'umi'num' Language Academy
tu st'kwas stqeeye' (The Blind Wolf)
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Typical high action sentences

Here you will see a table that highlights some high action sentences from my story Blind Wolf. High action sentences are ones where the characters are engaged in important actions that effect another character or object in the story. Blind Wolf is a story with a lot of high action sentences, because the eagle and the wolf are engaging in activities with each other and with the objects in the world around them. So this story is a great resource for highlighting the manner in which Hul'q'umi'num' is spoken in these contexts.

High action in Hul'q'umi'num' is expressed as a transitive clause: a clause with both a subject and an object. Sometimes both the subject and object are overtly mentioned and sometimes just the object is mentioned. Most often just the object is mentioned because the subject is already understood (Gerds & Hukari 2008). In Hul'q'umi'num' it is evident that these sentences are transitive based on the transitive suffixes displayed in the third column: =*t*, =*st-hw*, and =*nuhw*. When the subject is third person, the verb ends with the subject marker =*us* (Gerds 1988). Here are some examples of some high action sentences in Hul'q'umi'num'

Table 1 Some transitive clauses from Blind Wolf

AUX	VERB	TRANS	3rd Person	OBJECT
'i	le'lum'	ut	us	tu tumuhws.
'i	ts'elhum'	ut	us	tu stuqeye'.
nem'	suwq'	t	us	tu s'ulhtuns.
nem'	'alux	ut	us	tu s'ulhtuns.
ni'	ptem'	ut	us	tu stqeeye'.
ni'	ts'ew	ut	us	tu stqeeye'.
ni'	hwu'alum'	st-hw	us	tu hay 'ul' thi stseelhtun.
ni'	tim	ut	us	tthu shqwaluwuns.
ni'	huqw	nuhw	us	tthu kw'atl'kwa.

This table breaks down the pieces of our language so that learners can gain a better understanding. In the Hul'q'umi'num' language, as seen in this story, the subject is not mentioned repeatedly throughout. We refer to *yuxwule'* at the beginning, and *us* the third person marker attached to the verbs throughout the story to indicate him as the subject, without mentioning his name. In English, we would say the *yuxwule'* was looking at his land, or the *yuxwule'* heard the wolf. However, in Hul'q'umi'num' a subject isn't referred to unless it is being introduced or reintroduced.

Teaching high action sentence structure to learners is necessary to avoid the pitfall of reverting to English sentence structure. I have witnessed, time and time again, that some people will try to translate from an English book going word for word. However, this is an unauthentic way of translating because it goes against our own language structure. Attention must be paid to person-marking in Hul'q'umi'num'. In order to retain our language in its truest form, we can learn, study, and teach through tables such as this, using our own stories.

Ways of Moving the action along

Rule 1: use a lot of verbs, especially motion verbs, don't use many nouns

Notice use of *nem* 'go'

huye' 'leave', suwq' 'looking for', lhakw' 'fly' xwan'chunum' 'run'

Hul'q'umi'num' speakers love to stack up their verbs....several in a row.

Line19, 24 45

Rule 2: use a lot of progressives

plain: t'ilum 'sing' t'it'ulum' 'singing'

Rule 3: use transitive verbs for points of HIGH action.

le'lum'utus	he's looking at it
ts'elhum'utus	he's hearing him
hwu'alum'st-hwus	he's taking it back

Rule 4: when you want to slow the story down to set things up, use dialogue