

OŠPÁYE 15

M-CORES

M-cores usually come in two forms, one of which has a *y* or *w* followed by a nasal vowel and the other which just has a nasal vowel in the stem right after the place of conjugation. In both cases conjugating for *l* is done by placing an *m* immediately before the nasal vowel, deleting the *y* if necessary.

yaŋké	úŋ	iwáŋǵe	ečhúŋ
He was sitting.	He used it.	He asked her it.	He did it.
maŋké	múŋ	imúŋǵe	ečhámuŋ
I was sitting.	I used it.	I sat down.	I did it.

Note that in one of the examples the syllable *waŋ* becomes *muŋ*: not only is the *m* added but the vowel itself is changed! This is a common pattern in all *m*-cores that have the syllable *waŋ*. . Also, in another of the examples there is neither a *w* or *y* but instead an extra *a* is inserted immediately before the conjugation. This may make *m*-cores seem complex, but the good news is that this is by far the least common conjugation pattern for Dakota cores.

In the Lakota dialect, all forms which in Dakota have *waŋ* appear instead with the syllable *ywŋ*, so instead of *iwáŋǵe* they have *iyúŋǵe*, making this change appear less strange

DOER MARKERS

The following are the four basic affixes used to conjugate *m*-cores for the doer of the action. Only the affixes for *l* and *you* delete the *y/w* of the

original word if it exists; while *uŋ* usually appears in the same location, it does not cause the original *y/w* to be deleted.

m	n	uŋ	-
I	you	You & I	he/she/it

Thus, given the active *m*-core *yaŋké*, we can already express the following different meanings:

maŋké	naŋké	uŋyaŋke	yaŋké
I am sitting.	You are sitting.	You & I are sitting.	He is sitting.

As with other cores, the plurals are made by suffixing *-pi*

n-pi	uŋ-pi	-pi
you guys	us	they

And so, we have the remaining three possible forms of *yaŋké*:

maŋkápi	uŋyaŋkapi	yaŋkápi
You guys are sitting.	We are sitting.	They are sitting.

Just for reference, here are all of the conjugations of the other *m*-cores mentioned at the beginning of this section; *úŋ*, and *iwáŋǵe*:

múŋ	núŋ	uŋk'úŋ	úŋ
I used it.	You used it.	You & I used it.	She used it.

núŋpi	uŋk'úŋpi	úŋpi
You guys used it.	We used it.	They used it.

imúŋǵe	inúŋǵe	uŋkiwaŋǵe	iwáŋǵe
I asked her it.	You asked her it.	You & I asked her it.	He asked her it.

inúŋǵapi	uŋkiwaŋǵapi	iwáŋǵapi
You guys asked her it.	We asked her it.	They asked her it.

Notice that when the affix *uŋ* occurs directly before a nasal vowel, the ejective sound *k'* is inserted giving *uŋk'* instead of *uŋk*.

UNDERGOER AFFIXES

Again, the list of undergoer affixes for *m*-cores is identical with that of both *wa*-cores and *bd*-cores:

ma	ni	uŋ	-
me	you	me & you	him/her/it
	ni-pi	uŋ-pi	wičha
	you guys	us	them

These object affixes do not delete the *y/w* in the original form or change the vowel *aŋ* to *uŋ*, but simply occur directly before it in conjugation. For example, the following are all forms of *iwáŋǵA* conjugated with the object affixes.

imáwaŋǵe	iníwaŋǵe	uŋkíwaŋǵe	iwáŋǵe
He asked me it.	He asked you it.	He asked me & you it.	He asked her it.
	iníwaŋǵapi	uŋkíwaŋǵapi	iwíchawaŋǵe
	He asked you guys it.	He asked us it.	He asked them it.

TWO MARKERS IN M-CORES

Just like the case of *wa*- and *bd*-cores, the default ordering of the affixes is that the undergoer comes first, and the doer second. Some examples of this pattern are as follows:

iwíchamuŋǵe	uŋkínuŋǵapi	imáwaŋǵapi
I asked them it.	You asked us it.	They asked me it.

The same exceptions to this general pattern that happened in the case of *bd*-cores also happen here (including the double-conjugations).

Again, *uŋ* precedes all affixes other than *wičha*, even when *uŋ* is used as the doer of an action. This causes the same strange ordering of the doer and the undergoer in the case of *we did it to you*, for example

akáj uŋníyaŋkapi

We sat on you.

Instead of the (wrong) expected form *niúŋyaŋkapi.

In *m*-cores as well, the affix *čhi* is used to express the fact that *I* am doing something to *you*. The form that would be naively expected, **nim*, is never used.

ičhíwaŋğe ičhíwaŋğapi

I asked you it. I asked you guys it.

Again, in the case that *you* are the doer and *I* am the undergoer of the action, double conjugation occurs where the affix *maya* is used, but the conjugation *n* is as well, forming the complex affix *mayan* as in the following example.

If the syllable immediately following the conjugations is *wa*, then the *a* becomes *u* as well

imáyanuŋğe

You asked me it.

This conjugation pattern also happens in the *you did it to us* form, where not only is *uŋya* used, but the following *y* in the stem becomes an *n*, and the nasal vowel changes if necessary. Consider the following form of *wíwaŋğA*, for example.

wíuŋyanuŋğapi

You questioned us.

Here as well the combination *wičhawŋ* is often contracted to the single affix *wičhuŋ*. This affix is used even when *uŋ* is usually prefixed, such as in the example below:

uŋkíwaŋğapi iwíčhuŋwaŋğapi

We asked her it. We asked them it.

Instead of the (incorrect) form **uŋkíwíčhawanaŋğapi*.

Below is a table of all the possible two-affix combinations for *m*-cores, followed by a fully conjugated example.

	I	YOU	WE	HE SHE/IT	THEY
ME		maya		ma	ma-pi
YOU	čhi		uŋni-pi	ni	ni-pi
US		uŋyan-pi		uŋ-pi	uŋ-pi
HIM HER/IT	m	n	uŋ-pi	-	pi
THEM	wičam	wičan	wičuŋ-pi	wiča	wiča-pi

wímayanunǵe

You questioned
me.

wímawanǵe

He questioned me.

wíchiwanǵe

I questioned you.

wíunniwanǵapi

We questioned you.

wíniwanǵe

He questioned you.

wíunyanunǵapi

You questioned us.

wíunwanǵapi

He questioned us.

wímunǵe

I questioned her.

wínunǵe

You questioned her.

wíunwanǵapi

We questioned her.

wíwanǵe

He questioned her.

wíwíchanunǵe

I questioned them.

wíwíchanunǵe

You questioned them.

wíwíchuwanǵapi

We questioned them.

wíwíchawanǵe

He questioned them.