

Revisiting the é- Preverb

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Introduction

The morpheme in question for this talk is the *é-* preverb:

- ▶ I je é-gi-zhya-wat ibe
that CNTR é-PST-go-3PL.CONJ over.there
'So they went over there.'

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The *é-* preverb in Potawatomi has been analyzed in a number of ways, most recently and most widely as **factive**

Outline

- 1 Previous Analyses
- 2 Discussion of the conjunct
- 3 Issue at hand
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Hockett

Hockett proposed that the *é-* preverb marks narrative style.

- ▶ *ʔe-ki-nišok.məwat ʔosen*
é-gi-nizhokmëw-at os-en
é-PST-help.TA-3>3' 3.father-OBV
'He helped his father.' (Hockett 1939:140)

Welcher

Welcher proposed that the *é*-preverb and therefore *é*-conjunct has a different role in conversational and narrative discourse.

► Conversation Domain

n=denenda-n Mani **é-wi-gishnen-at** niw wdabyan-en
1=think.TI-0 Mary *é*-FUT-buy.TA-3>3' that.OBV car-OBV
'I think that Mary will buy the car.' (Welcher 2003:54(4))

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► Narrative Domain

Ode yadsokan *é*spen **é-bmebtot**
this story raccoon *é*-run.around-3.CONJ

'This story is about the Raccoon running along.' (Welcher 2003:93)

The preverb contributes its semantics as a marker of factivity in both domains.

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Conjuncts

- ▶ Plain Conjunct
- ▶ Changed Conjunct
- ▶ é- Conjunct

Each have particular distributions and functions

Plain Conjunct

The plain conjunct is the prototypical realization of conjunct morphology in the language family

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► **Conditionals**

Gishpen **boni-mgek**, n=da-zhoshk'o

if **snow.ii-conj** 1=MOD-go.sledding

If it were snowing, I would be sledding (Welcher, 2003: 59)

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► Before-clauses

Kë-gzinthi-men bwamshë **wisnë-ygo**

2.FUT-wash.hands-1PL before eat-1PL.CONJ

'Let's wash our hands before we eat.'

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► After clauses

g=da-gziyabdé **gi-gish-wisne-yen**

2=MOD-clean.teeth PST-finish.PERF-eat-2.CONJ

'You can brush your teeth after you eat.' (Lockwood 2017: 173)

Plain Conjunct

The plain conjunct occurs in situations of hypotheticality

This contrasts with the distribution and semantics of the changed conjunct, which occur only in situations of non-hypotheticality
Welcher [2003].

Changed Conjunct

The changed conjunct is the verb form realized via Initial Change

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Plain	Changed
ë →	é
o →	wé
a →	no change
é →	no change
i →	a
o →	a

Table: Initial Change in Potawatomi

(cf. Costa 1996:43; Welcher, 2003:22-24; Lockwood, 2017:33-34)

Changed Conjunct

The changed conjunct is the verb form realized via Initial Change

► Complement to interrogative pronoun

Nithëpi ga-wabm-aygo

when IC.PST-seeTA-1PL

'When did we see him?'

Changed Conjunct

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► Complement to interrogative pronoun

Nithëpi ga-wabm-aygo
when IC.PST-seeTA-1PL
'When did we see him?'

► Complements to dubitative pronoun

Wagwëndêk na ga-ming-o-gwén naké na
who.DUB NA IC.PST-give-PASS-DUB or NA
w-dédèy-men o Alex
3-father-POSS.OBV that Alex
'I don't know who might have given them to her, maybe Alex's
father.' Lockwood [2017]

Changed Conjunct

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► **Completive Aspect** Fairbanks [2016]

i zhi yé i ga-gish-skono-yan i,
DEM there yé DEM IC.PST-finish-school-1.CONJ DEM,
é-gi-gbak'ëm-wat i skonwgëmêk
é-PST-close-3PL.CONJ DEM school.building
'After I went to school there [one year], they closed that school.'
2014-10-29-01 JT/LR

Changed Conjunct

The changed conjunct is the verb form realized via Initial Change

► **Participles**

naganzé-thêk

IC.lead-3PL.PTCP

'The leaders'

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▶ **Relative Clauses**

wi yé ode wa-ne-zhechké-yen

FOC PC DEM IC.FUT-away-do-2.CONJ

'This is what you will do.' Lockwood [2017]

BD 2015-10-05-01 132

Conjunct

Changed Conjunct = non-hypothetical

Plain Conjunct = Hypothetical

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é-conjunct distribution

Complement Clauses as Clausal Elaborations

- ▶ n=gi-monéndan **é-wabm-enan**
1=PST-suspect.it é-see-1>2.CONJ
'I suspected to see you.'
- ▶ mbédo **é-wi-mathi-yan**
hope é-FUT-leave-2.CONJ
'I hope to leave.'

Purpose Clause

- ▶ W=gi-gkéndan-awa tso wa-zheto-wat
3=PST-know.it.TI-3PL.IND so.much IC.FUT-do.TI-3PL.CONJ
na i sey **é-bwa-bikbenaye-t** o agem.
na that hide é-NEG-break-3.CONJ that snowshoe
'They knew how much tension to put on the hide so the
snowshoe wouldn't get broken.'
- JT 2016-01-11-01

é-conjunct distribution

Adjunct Adverbials

- ▶ O. **É-gi-gwthëbd-êk** o n-dédéyëm
oh. é-PST-taste-3.CONJ that 1-father
è-gi-bon-shëm-gwiyak.
é-PST-stop-feed-1PL.CONJ
'Oh. When my father tasted it we stopped being fed that stuff
[cod liver oil].' 2014-10-29-01 JT/LR
- ▶ n=gi-bon-dbathm-a-men **é-wabm-ayak**
1= PST-stop-talk.aboutTA-3OBJ-1PL é-see-1PL>3.CONJ
é-bmë-bgëmsé-t.
é-around-arrive.walk-3.CONJ
'We stopped talking about him when we saw him as he is
walking up.'

é-Conjunct Distribution

- ▶ Gishpen é-gi-bwa-to-wat w=gi-jagzana-wa na i
if é-PST-NEG-have-3PL.CONJ 3=PST-burn.it-PL na DEM
wa-je-bgwenéyak
IC.FUT-je-have.hole-0
'If they didn't have one, they burned where the hole should be.'
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- ▶ wénithë é-gdas-yen
what é-read-2CONJ
What are you reading?

é-conjunct in narrative

é- functions much like the plain conjunct of Ojibwe Fairbanks [2009]

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- ▶ Mech na=tso ga-yawagwén gi
not.know EMPH=so.many IC.PST-be.3PL.CONJ.DUB those
Neshnabék.

Neshnabé.PL

'I don't know how many Neshnabé people there were.'

- ▶ **É-gi-wébi'wé-wat.**

é-PST-run.way-3PL.CONJ

'Then they ran away.' 2014-02-12-06 MJT/JT/LR

This sort of analysis expands what Welcher put forth in her dissertation, as well as cross-family observations about the conjunct Cyr [1991], Starks [1994].

Remaining Question

What then is a reasonable description and semantics of the é-preverb and é-conjunct?

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What is the é-preverb?

I have proposals for dealing with the semantics of the é-preverb:

- ▶ Not just factive and not just narrative = **Default**
- ▶ Complementizer and Clause-Typing

Not factive, not narrative

As we saw earlier, it is clear that the *é*-preverb does not presuppose the truth of the dependent verb in a way we would expect from combinatorial semantics of fact Kiparsky and Kiparsky [1968], Karttunen [1971].

What emerges from the distribution of the *é*-conjunct is that the *é*-preverb overlaps with the canonical uses of both the plain conjunct and the changed conjunct.

Not factive, not narrative

Additionally, the é-conjunct in narratives serves to provide the eventline structure, similar to the plain conjunct in Mille Lacs Ojibwe (Fairbanks, 2009)

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- ▶ Bama zhe wéwéne **gi-bégwze-t** o
later EMPH proper PST-be.dry-3CONJ that
é-gi-zagjepn-awat ni mine ngot zhi
é-PST-take.it.out-3PL>3'.CONJ that and one there
é-sa-wat (towat).
é-put.in.a.certain.place/have-3CONJ (have.3PL)
'Once it was properly dry they took it out (of the form) and they
put the other one there.' JT 2016-01-11-01

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'Once it was properly dry they took it out (of the form) and they
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Following Fairbanks's analysis, this leads us away from any notion that *é*- may be an realization of IC.

Default

From here, it seems that the é-conjunct has moved toward a default conjunct form:

- ▶ Verbal complementation take the é-conjunct form in everyday discourse as a default

w=gi-bodwéwêk è-wi-thibakwé-wat
3=PST-make.fire-3PL.IND é-FUT-cook.over.fire-3PL.CONJ
'They built a fire so they could cook over fire.'

- ▶ *w=gi-bodwéwêk wi-thibakwé-wat
3=PST-make.fire-3PL.IND FUT-cook.over.fire-3PL.CONJ
Intended: 'They built a fire to cook over it.'

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This analysis also goes along with clause-typing and complementizer analyses of the é-preverb cognate in other Algonquian languages.

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That also contradicts my previous assertion that the é- is not a realization of IC

Complementizer and Clause-typing

Following both Brittain's [a]-comp hypothesis 2013 and Cook's clause-typing analysis 2014, accommodating the *é*-preverb in Potawatomi allows us a complementizer definition

From this, *é*- is an invariant realization of IC

Conclusions

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2. It may also be a complementizer that is an invariant realization of IC, also bleaching the semantics associated with IC

Acknowledgments

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