

dialects. It will be observed that whenever the action is continuous or repeated, the stem of the word is reduplicated. This reduplication serves several purposes. It not only expresses the plural and continuous repeated action as above, but enters also into the ideas of diminution in several ways.

#### DIMINUTIVES.

Kau'iqūi'sk·En, a little axe, from kaui'sk·En, axe; spEzu'zō, a little bird, from spu'zō, bird; pīpī'ēōkQ 'just a few trees', from plē'ōka, one tree; cikata'na, I strike it strongly; cikci'katā na, I strike it a little; kūēnta'ta, talk to me; kūēk-ūēnta'ta, talk to me a little; pī'latei'na, I speak; pīpī'pElatei'na, I speak very little. Sometimes a different word is employed for the same purpose; as, tzezoitsta, chop it in big pieces; tēimima'tstā, chop it in little pieces.

The diminutive is also expressed by compounds as stō'matl, ox; stō'matl-titī't, a little ox; sk'a'qa, dog; sk'aqa'-tza, a puppy; or by a different word; as, tū'ōt, boy; cina, a little boy; slā'nats, a girl; ma'qa, a little girl.

#### COMPOUND NOUNS.

Compound nouns are a common feature of the language. Examples of one class of these are formed by simple juxtaposition with or without modification: ō'iyip-tsk·au'tl, fire-canoe, *i.e.* steamer; q'k''ōpa, beaver, from qtluk·t=broad and cū'pa=tail; n'keltza-sk'a'qa, horse. Another and commoner class are the 'instrumental' and 'agent' nouns given above.

#### GENDER.

There is no evidence of grammatical gender in N'tlaka'pamuQ. When a speaker wishes to distinguish between male and female he does so either by the use of separate words: as,

skai'uq, man; s'mū'tlatc, woman;  
tū'ōt, boy; slā'nats, girl;  
cī'na, baby boy; ma'qa, baby girl;  
ck'ca, nephew; sklumkē'Et, niece;

or, by adding to the class-word in a more or less modified form the terms for man or woman; as,

dog, sk'a'-kai'uq; bitch, smū-me'tlatc.

When there is no possibility of ambiguity the class-word is not used, but just one or other of these two terms, as the case may be.

A few words are used of male and female alike, without distinction, when there is no possibility of ambiguity or need to mark the sex; but all these general terms can, and sometimes do, add the words for man and woman when there is need to be explicit.

Doctor, me'laqmē'it; skū'kEmit, child;  
widow, } slēūē'amEt;  
widower, }  
orphan, cua'ka, boy or girl.

Many class nouns are omitted in common speech when qualified by an adjective, as in English; as, ku'tlamīn, old man or woman. The full form of these would be: ku'tlamīn tik skai'uq; ku'tlamīn tik smū'tlatc. A great many of the adjectives may thus be used substantively.

#### CASE.

Ordinarily the noun undergoes no inflection for case, but in expressions denoting possession or ownership there is a modification of the stem which might at first sight be taken for a genuine inflexion; as, teltūQ, house; tci'tūQc ha'n ska'tza, the house of my father, or 'n-ska'tza teltūQc, my father's house.

But this is not a true inflection; it is merely one of the affixes of the possessive pronoun. These affixes are seen also in the intransitive verbs, and are likewise