

Adjectives.

Adjectives are used to describe nouns and pronouns; and agree with them in number, gender, case, tense, and negation. There is a diminutive termination *tcêtc*, (*sês* or *jâje* for euphony) which is entirely adjectival in its use, as are many of the prefixes, but it is often difficult to distinguish between adjectives and adverbs except by reference to the other words of the sentence; or again between adjectives and verbs; for the expression *kaloosit tcênum* may either mean 'a good man' or 'he is a good man.' There is a class of adjectives, however, meaning 'belonging to,' 'like,' or 'characteristic of,' which do not trespass amongst the verbs; these are derived directly from nouns, by the addition of '*â*,' '*wâ*,' or '*âwâ*' according to the terminations of the words from which they are derived; for example, (a) *seboo*, a river, gives *seboowâ*, like a river, or belonging to a river; (b) *kumootc*, wood, gives *kumootcwâ*, wooden; and (c) *Nikskâm*, God, gives *Nikskamâwâ*, Divine. These adjectives may become nouns, and take an additional termination to form new adjectives, as when *lêam*, a moose, gives first *lêamâwâ*, of a moose, hence moose-meat, and secondly *lêamâwâcâ*, which means like moose-meat; so also from *oopukik*, (pl) 'the eyes,' we have *oopukikwâl*, 'spectacles,' eye-things, and *oopukikwâlâwâ*, 'like spectacles,' either referring to their appearance or use.

Comparison.

There are adjectives, which compare without the use of auxiliaries; as for instance, *megak*, or *mêskile*, large, *atkêk*, larger and *wesoo-goolêmâ*, largest; and their derived adverbs follow the same rule. It may be broadly stated that the comparison of adjectives is marked by a free use of the auxiliaries *meg*, large, *pegwâle* much, *ajê*, more, and *mowê* or *bejêlê*, most, *aplcêtc*, little, *aplcêje*, lesser, *mowc-aplcêtc*, least, (most extremely small); of which *meg* and *ajê* never occur except in composition with other words. If I wish to state that I have a small hand, I say *apsiptenî*; a combination of *apsês* (*aplcêtc*) and *m'petun*, the hand, with the pronoun termination, while 'my large hand' is *megiptenî*. Notice here that the parts of the human body