

THE VERB.

The Verb is "par excellence," the Word (Verbum) in this remarkable Tongue; presenting almost inconceivable niceties and kinds of combination, interpenetration, excision, extension, and completion, (for they have even perfective Verbs as from "Clawqtana" I nail, we have "Axclawqenawhéna" I have driven it home and finished it; so again, "Yehumstana" is simply I know, but "Yehumweegstana" means I perfectly comprehend or apprehend any matter; like the distinction between Gi-nôskô and Epistomai), and is most minute and precise in Conjugations, Moods and Tenses. This is the more observable seeing the Revd. J. Knipe, in his Tabkaht Grammar (the Indians on the West Coast of Vancouver) says "So far as I am aware their verbs have no tenses but the present and no distinction between singular and plural." The Nitlakapamucks, however, have an infinite variety of use, especially in their compound forms. These involve Noun, Adjective, Pronoun and Adverb,—all concentrated in this grand vehicle of Speech,—which thus enlists a host of auxiliaries in its train; amalgamating and incorporating them under every possible aspect.

The most usual Conjugation has "ana" as sign of ending of Ist P. Thus from root, "Huz," we derive Huzstana, I love, and it is thus conjugated:—

INDICATIVE MOOD.

PRESENT TENSE.

Huzstana, huzstoqh huzstas, Huzstam huzstap huzsteeigs.

Past Tense. Kloos-huzstana. I have loved.

Future. Hoe-huzstana. I shall love.

IMPERATIVE.

Love thou. Huzstatta. Love ye. Huzstattoza.

Love me (one) Huzchamah.

Love me (many) Huzchamózah.