

Similarly, from *sukwí'álma* "now he takes it" (*su-* verb stem "to take;" *-kwíL* inceptive suffix, changed to *-kwi-* before *-'al*) is formed *sútcH^akwíL'its!álma*. The diminutive suffix may also be omitted. Examples are: *hítch^anín* from *hinín* "to come"; and *t!ítch^atcíLah* from *t!ítciLah* "I throw it down" (*t!i-* "to throw;" *-tcíL* inceptive suffix; *-ah* first person singular indicative). Such a form as the last might be appropriately used in speaking to a left-handed person that one is well acquainted with and who will not take offence at being thus twitted. It is customary, particularly for jokers, to use these left-hand forms also in talking about bears, who are supposed to be left-handed.¹

In speaking of or to circumcised males, forms known as *'i'ict'k'in* "to make *ct'* sounds" are used. In these the meaningless element *ct'* is inserted after the first syllable of the word. One of the *Ts!icá'ath^a* Indians, named *T!óxmis* "Slaying-while-moving-from-beach-to-beach," is often humorously referred to as *T!óctxmis* because of his having been born circumcised. Other examples of this class of forms are: *hict'nínma* from *hinínma* "he comes;" and *háct'ók'u* from *há'ók'u* "to eat."

Similar phonetic changes are made in forms used to refer to one or two classes of individuals characterized by some mental quality. Thus, greedy people are addressed or referred to in forms having a meaningless *tcx* inserted after the first syllable of the word. Thus, from *'oh^asāmah* "I hunger for it" (*'o-* "empty" stem which may be rendered by "something" or "so and so;" *-h^asā-* verbifying suffix "to desire to eat;" *-mah* first person singular present indicative, used after vowels) is formed *'utcxhsāmah*. Similarly, *hiníní'alma* "now he comes" becomes *hítcxníní'alma* "now he comes, greedy fellow that he is." These *tcx-* forms are also used to refer to ravens, regularly to the mythological Raven, a character noted for his gluttony.

Cowards may be satirized by "making one's voice small" in referring to or addressing them, in other words by speaking in a thin piping voice that suggests timidity.

It is interesting to notice that in several of the above usages, the notions of mere smallness, of contempt, and of affection are found side by side, and doubtless the precise nuance of feeling expressed depends much on the relations subsisting between

¹ According to Dr. Paul Radin, the Winnebago also consider the bear to be left-handed. In the bear clan feast of these Indians the guests eat with a spoon in their left hand.