



Yaqui Language, History and Culture

The Hiaki Language: The Letter "Ch"

By MARIA F. AMARILLAS AND STAFF
PYT Language Development Department

Hello again, community members. We would like to share just a few commonly used Hiaki terms with you. If the term is a Spanish derivative (derived from a Spanish word) we will mark the term with an asterisk (*).

We will continue to do this every month until we have gone through the entire Arizona Hiaki alphabet. Our alphabet is as follows: A, Bw, Ch, E, H, I, K, L, M, N, O, P, R, S, T, U, V, W and Y.

This alphabet has been adopted by our Tribe. Remember that our vowels are "A, E, I, O, and U." The vowels "A, E and I" are short vowels and "O and U" are long vowels.

As promised, here are a few commonly used Hiaki terms which begin with the "Ch" letter. Here goes:

Cha'abwa	patch, mend	Huana uusita bwahim cha'abwa . <i>Huana is patching the child's drawers or pants.</i>	Cha'atu	gathering	Haivu nau cha'atu ume naamum. <i>The clouds are already gathering.</i>
Cha'aka	hanging, hovering, tied, follow in sequence, etc.	Uu huvahe toosa aman hikata cha'aka . <i>The spider's web is hanging up there.</i>	Chae	call loudly, howl	Uu chuu'u imin hakun chae . <i>The dog is howling out there somewhere.</i>
Chae	call, yell, howl, etc.	Mariana aa asoawameu chae . <i>Mariana is calling her children.</i>	Chao	chin	Uu huya chaopo ne veevak. <i>The branch hit me on the chin.</i>
Chaka'aku	in the corner	Pale ume vocham chaka'aku tuttak. <i>The young lad stuck the shoes in the corner.</i>	Chapta	cut	Uka hiosiate chapta . <i>Cut the paper.</i>
Chakala	leaning, on its side	Manwe chakala vo'oka yumhue. <i>Manuel is laying sideways resting.</i>	Chi'ila	Aunt (mom's younger sister)	Im chi'ila Luisa tea. <i>My Aunt's name is Luisa.</i>
Chakte	dripping	Va'am chakte . <i>The water is dripping.</i>	Chiinim	cotton	Huan chiinim pua. <i>Juan is picking cotton.</i>
Chamta	split cane or crack corn	Valentina vakata chamta . <i>Valentina is splitting the bamboo.</i>	Chiivu	bitter	Si chiivu uu hittoa. <i>The medicine is very bitter.</i>
			Chikul	mouse	Uu chikul vachita bwa'e. <i>The mouse is eating corn.</i>
			Chu'ala	stuck	Uu wakas korapo chu'ala . <i>The cow is stuck in the fence.</i>
			Chukui	black (color)	Nee chukuij voochak. <i>I have black shoes.</i>
			Chunula	squatting	Uu uusi vatwe mayoat chunula katek. <i>The child is squatting down by the edge of the river.</i>
			Chuu'u	dog	In chuu'u otata waata. <i>The dog wants a bone.</i>
			Chuvakte	cold (physically)	Uu yoeme si chuvakte . <i>The man is very cold.</i>

These, then, are a few of our "Ch" words. Stay tuned for next month's YAQUI TIMES and some "E" terms.

†
F R
O E
R C
T O
H R
E D