

Document title: YB-2741A=2
Manuscript title: <ma na na ka . i ge wa . a da a ka ka nwi ka de wa ni|> (“And here is (a story about) a woman—a Sioux—and a grizzly bear”)
Manuscript date: 1911-1938
Manuscript location: National Anthropological Archives, Truman Michelson ms. #2741A.2
Written by: Young Bear
Written for: Truman Michelson
Transcribed by: Lucy Thomason
Edited by: Lucy Thomason
Translated by: Lucy Thomason
Help with translation provided to Ives Goddard by: Adeline Wanatee (1994)

Abbreviations: YB = Young Bear. LT = Lucy Thomason.

The original manuscript of this text is in the Smithsonian Institution’s National Anthropological Archives. It consists of 7 pages of Meskwaki syllabary (“papepipo”). It was written by Young Bear sometime between the years of 1910 and 1938. There is no contemporary translation.

As of late 2011, the time of this writing, the Smithsonian Institution’s National Anthropological Archives is housed in Suitland, Maryland, a suburb of Washington, D.C. Consult the website <http://www.nmnh.si.edu/naa/> for information about how to arrange a visit to the National Anthropological Archives.

There are phonemically eight vowels in Meskwaki: i, i·, e, e·, a, a·, o, o·.

There are phonemically eleven consonants in Meskwaki: p, t, č, k, s, š, h, m, n, w, y.

There are phonemically 29 consonant clusters in Meskwaki: hp, ht, hč, hk, šk, hm, hn, hw, hy, pw, tw, kw, sw, šw, mw, nw, py, ty, čy, ky, šy, my, ny, hpw, htw, hkw, šk, hpy, hky.

Meskwaki papepipo is adapted to be wonderfully easy to write. It is much harder to read. Papepipo omits vowel length, the consonant “h”, and nearly all punctuation. This means that spoken Meskwaki has eight distinct vowels, but papepipo writes only four vowels; spoken Meskwaki has eleven distinct consonants, but papepipo writes only ten consonants; spoken Meskwaki has 29 distinct consonant clusters, but papepipo writes only 16 consonant clusters. As a result, there is a great deal of educated guesswork involved in transcribing papepipo into fully phonemicized words, phrases, and sentences. The edited and translated text of “A woman—a Sioux—and a grizzly bear” should be taken provisionally and read critically: there may be mistakes or infelicities in YB’s original papepipo, in LT’s reading of the papepipo, in LT’s choices regarding phonemicization, word breaks, and sentence breaks, and in LT’s choices regarding Meskwaki-to-English translation. Translation in particular is at the best of times an imperfect art, and in interpreting Meskwaki stories into English there is a constant struggle between the wish to give a painfully literal translation of each word and the wish to translate the (imagined) intended poetic and rhetorical effect of the Meskwaki language on Meskwaki ears into a similar poetic and rhetorical effect of English on English ears.

The Meskwaki of YB’s manuscript is now archaic, which makes it even more challenging to read than modern papepipo.

Some notes about fundamental features of the Meskwaki language which translate poorly into English: Meskwaki, like other members of the Algonquian language family, has animate versus inanimate gender where English has masculine versus feminine versus inanimate gender. Meskwaki distinguishes between a “proximate” (nearest/most interesting/most important/most sympathetic) third person and various “obviative” (more peripheral/less interesting/less important/less sympathetic) third persons. In Meskwaki it is obligatory to indicate the source of one’s information (direct evidence? indirect evidence? supposition? common knowledge? hearsay?) whereas in English this is optional. Complex, multi-faceted, multipartite verb stems predominate in Meskwaki to an extent

unknown in English. (Cf. Edward Sapir's famous observation that "single Algonkin words are like tiny imagist poems.")

In the following text, the numbers in the left margin reflect the manuscript pages. Capital letters followed by a parenthesis mark the lines proposed by LT. A space between Meskwaki words reflects a word divider in the manuscript. Underscore (_) marks a word boundary where there was no word divider in the manuscript. Pipe (|) marks a place where the end of a word is not marked by a word divider in the manuscript but does coincide with the edge of the page in the manuscript. Double pipe (||) marks the end of a page. Plain hyphen (-) marks a preverb boundary marked by a word divider in the manuscript. Underscored hyphen (_) marks a preverb boundary not marked by a word divider in the manuscript. Square brackets ([]) enclose comments on the text and translation, including indications of where YB's manuscript differs from LT's redaction.

These editions and translations are works in progress and minor changes can be expected in the future.

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- 1 A) mana=na·hka ihkwe·wa aša·ha_ka·ka·nwikaše·wani. [written as title; aša·ha: <.a|ašaa()>]
A) And here is (a story about) a woman—a Sioux—and a grizzly bear.
- B) aša·h_o·te·weni_e·h=ahte·ki.|
B) There was a Sioux town.
- C) kaho·ni_e·h=a·mi·wa·či|e·h=takwa·kiniki ki·wi|-ši·ša·čiki,
C) And then the ones who went around hunting in the fall moved camp,
- D) e·ye·h_takoči|mi·či·pe·ha ma·ma·kekineka.
D) at the time when there were still large game animals.
- E) kohpiči_nenosok_i_e·h=takowa·či,
E) There were buffalos,
- F) na·hka_meše·we·waki,|na·hka pešekisiwaki,|na·hka_wa·piti·haki,|mahkwaki, mo·so·ki.|
F) and elk, and deer, and antelope, bears, moose.
- G) e·ye·h_pa·wi·wi·katamowa·či pahkwe·šikani, ka·hpi·h,|
G) (It was) while they didn't like the taste of flour and coffee,
- H) še·ški=meko owi·ya·si|e·ye·h_mi·čiwa·či,
H) while they ate only meat,
- I) ata·minani,_maškoči·sani, wa·pikonani,|
I) and corn, and beans, and squash,
- J) na·hka_pi·neši_ki·šikeno·hiniki,
J) and anything that grew on its own,
- K) mahkwa·hke·hahi.||
K) and tortoises.
- 2 A) e·h=a·mi·wa·či.
A) They moved camp.
- B) kaho·ni|ihkwe·wa_e·h=na·kaneči,|

- B) And a woman was followed,
 C) e·h=na·kanekoči ona·pe·mani.
 C) her husband following her.
 D) e·h=pahkimekoči| e·h=wi·če·we·niči te·kwa·keši·hahi.
 D) He had invited her along when he accompanied the fall hunters.
 E) pe·hki=meko ihkwe·wa e·h=mya·šite·he·či.|
 E) The woman felt really bad.
 F) e·h=pa·wi_=-meko -po·nite·he·či.
 F) She couldn't stop thinking about it.
 G) ke·keya·h=meko e·h=we·pi·ki·mo·či-nana·hawiči.
 G) Eventually she began to get ready in secret.
 H) še·ški=meko| otahpahikanimote·he·hi e·h=awato·či. [še·ški: <.šeki>]
 H) She took with her only her little sewing bag.
 I) “ma·mahka·či=meko ni·h=matana·wa,” e·h=išite·he·či,
 I) “I will surely overtake him,” she thought,
 J) e·h=we·pose·či,|
 J) and she set out on foot,
 K) mye·wi_e·h=na·kataki.|
 K) following the path.
 L) apina=meko a·yahpi·hčina·h e·h=mayo·či,|
 L) Every little while she even shed tears,
 M) e·h=kwe·hta·nite·he·či.||
 M) feeling desolate.

- 3 A) meše·=’nah=kapo·twe_i·ya·h| e·h=anemehka·či,
 A) Sometime or other as she was proceeding on her way over there,
 B) we·wiye·hinikwe·hini e·h=ka·škehtawa·či,
 B) she heard some kind of creature,
 C) e·h=nakisa·či,| e·h=pesetawa·či.
 C) and she stopped in her tracks, listening to it.
 D) kaši’,| ka·ka·nwikaše·wani=či·h e·h=kwa·koho·mekoči,
 D) Why! It was a grizzly bear roaring at her,
 E) e·h=se·kesiči,
 E) and she was frightened,
 F) e·h=pemipeno·hiči.
 F) and took off at a trot.
 G) “me·me·čiki| e·h=pana·čihiči,” e·h=išite·he·či.

- G) "I'm sure he'll be my death!" she thought.
- H) ča·ki=meko e·h=anemi_mami·na·wite·he·pahoči.
H) She kept on thinking all kinds of things as she ran.
- I) si·po·ki| e·h=pakamipahoči.
I) She arrived pell-mell at a river.
- J) kwi·yena=meko e·h=kehči|-ki·ška·hkiwiniki,
J) It was exactly where there was a very steep bank,
- K) e·h=makinehpa·hkiwiniki.| [e·h=maki: <.ama|ki>]
K) a very high bank.
- L) pasihki·ki e·h=ahkwa·pehkiseniki asenye·ni.|
L) All the way to the bottom it was stones.
- M) e·h=mehkwite·he·či,||
M) And she remembered:
- 4 A) e·ye·hi_’škwe·se·hiči, e·h=ma·mahkate·wi·či,
A) when she was a little girl she fasted over and over again,
- B) e·h=mehkwe·nema·či ke·temina·kočihi či·payahi.|
B) and she remembered the ghosts who had blessed her.
- C) e·h=we·pi·peninawi·či,|
C) She began to undress,
- D) či·ki_ki·ška·hkiwe e·h=išika·hiči.
D) and lay down with her feet at the cliff's edge.
- E) e·sa·wa·waki·niki ahki e·h=we·ši·hoči,
E) She painted her face with yellow earth
- F) e·h=a·htawa·šiki.
F) and lay down on her back.
- G) e·h=pakama·ška·niči| e·h=šekišiki,
G) (The grizzly bear) arrived in a rush where she was lying,
- H) e·h=nakisa·niči,
H) and screeched to a stop,
- I) e·h=wa·pawa·pamekoči.
I) gazing at her.
- J) ke·keya·h=meko e·h=kotenekoči,|
J) Eventually it felt her with a paw,
- K) wi·h=ne·moči=ta·taki.|
K) to see if she would draw in a breath.
- L) e·h=pa·wi_=meko_ -ame·či.|

- L) But she didn't react.
- M) ke·keya·h=meko e·h=tašika·šiki očinawe| e·h=nana·hapiniči,| [niči]: <nipi|>
M) Eventually it sat down at her feet,
- N) e·h=mečimečima·pamekoči. [<me||koči.>]
N) staring and staring at her.
- 5 A) kapo·twe e·h=mi·na·wa·pamekoči ota·hi·nemeki.
A) At some point it looked closely at her thing.
- B) ke·keya·h=meko| e·h=kotenekoči.
B) Finally it felt her with a paw.
- C) ki·ši|-kotenekoči, e·h=kočiya·ma·niči oškaše·ni.
C) After feeling her, it sniffed its claw.
- D) ki·ši-kočiya·ma·niči, ahpemeki e·h=iši|-ni·škikome·ška·niči.|
D) After sniffing it, it wrinkled its nose horribly, raising it in the air.
- E) kete·=’nahi e·h=ki·wi-či·kinehke·piniči.
E) Having grave second thoughts, it sat here and there with its paw sticking out.
- F) a·yahpi·hčina·h=meko_e·h=kočiya·ma·niči.
F) Every little while it would sniff at it.
- G) apina=’pi=mek=a·pehe paya·hkiči| e·h=ina·piniči.
G) It would even look (at it) from different angles, they say.
- H) meše·=’nah=kapo·twe_paya·hkiči e·h=ina·piniči,| [crossed-out <še> before <|meše>]
H) At some point or other, when it looked (at it) from a different direction,
- I) e·h=nana·hi-pepye·tekoče·ška·či,
I) she got into position all doubled up
- J) e·h=ni·šo·ka·tawa·či,
J) and used both feet on it,
- K) e·h=takeškawa·či e·hpi·hči·či, [<ška||wa>]
K) kicking it as hard as she could,
- 6 A) e·h=ni·sehkawa·či.
A) kicking it (over and) down.
- B) e·h=anemi|-papisisa·či e·h=ni·sehkawoči ka·ka·nwikaše·wa. [e·h=anemi]: <.enanemi|>; wo: <o>]
B) The grizzly bear bounced on the stones several times on its way when it was kicked down.
- C) pasihki·ki| e·h=pakišiki,
C) When it landed at the bottom,
- D) e·h=ča·ki|-papo·hkwišiki.
D) it was dashed all to pieces.
- E) e·h=tašiha·či a·šakači wi·h=nesekotehe.

- E) Completely unexpectedly, she had put an end to the one that had wanted to kill her.
- F) e·h=pa·nači·či,
F) She went down the hill
- G) e·h=kekye·čikaše·šwa·či.
G) and cut off its claws.
- H) ki·še·wi·či,| e·h=penoči aya·pami| we·či·či. [e·h=penoči: <|enenoči.>]
H) When she was done, she went back to the place she had come from.
- I) pe·hki=meko·=’ni| e·h=kehči·we·ta·se·hkwe·wiči,
I) Then she was really a great woman warrior,
- J) e·h=kehči·na·ni·miheti·wa·či.
J) and they had a great many dances (in her honor).
- K) i·ni=ke·h=meko e·ye·ši·na·ni·miheti·wa·či,
K) Then while they were having dances together,
- L) e·h=ona·pe·miči okima·neniwani.||
L) she married a chief’s son.

- 7 A) i·na=ke·h=neniwa aya·pami_pye·ya·či,
A) When that man got back,
- B) e·h=me·nešite·he·či.
B) he felt ashamed.
- C) kete=’nahi owi·wani e·h=ona·pe·miniči okima·neniwani.
C) The tables were turned, as his wife was married to a chief’s son.
- D) ke·htena| a·šitami e·h=ki·ša·kočite·he·či.
D) Sure enough, in his turn he felt terrible.
- E) i·ni=mana_ihkwe·wa| e·hkwa·čime·weniwīči,
E) That is as much as is told about this woman,
- F) aša·hihkwe·wa| e·h=nesa·či.
F) when the Sioux woman killed it.