

1966-16

A Rabbit Story

Martha Ellis

(Edited and translated by Ives Goddard.)

Martha Snake Ellis; Anadarko, Oklahoma; told and recorded on tape July 26, 1966.
Notebook 1966-T327-345; recording Del2_Cut5_ME 7:05-10:12.
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1)

/u a·thilo·há·k·an=húnt čəmáməſ ló·məwe xe·lé·li eha·thiló·he·t.

/e A story about Rabbit, who used to make a lot of stories long ago.

/n ⟨xe·lé·li|eha·thiló·he·t⟩ (extra ⟨l⟩)

2)

/u nta=húnt -ma·ehələhti·t ló·məwe a·es·əs·ak, ma·ehələ·yak=húnt=ánkŵ, ahkəno·t·əmo·k kéku.

/e When animals had a council long ago, they would have a council and talk about something.

/n =húnt=ánkŵ: repeated as =húnt.

3)

/u wé·m é·li·ná·kŵsi·t a·es·əs, ó·k ahtúho·k ó·k si·si·liyé·yak

/e Every kind of animal, including deer and buffalo.

/n si·si·liyé·yak: last syllable devoiced and unclear.

4)

/u ná=húnt=ánkŵ lá·n čəmáməſ, “kéku=háč ki· ktəlsi?

/e Then Rabbit would be asked, “What’s the matter with you?”

5)

/u kəhəla=hánkŵ ké·na· né·k khəpí·k·ənak áhi·sa·k·i·x·í·no·k ənta·ləmatahpíyan?

/e Your shoulderblades really stick way out when you sit down?”

6)

/u luwé·=húnt, “ahékta kəhəla; ni·š·a=máh xkwé·yak no·lhála ló·məwe.

/e He said, “That’s right, I had two wives long ago.

7)

/u le·lá·i=hánkŵ nkáwi.

/e I used to sleep between them.

- 8)
 /u náni šé· ke·ná· ənta-kawíya ntáhi-tahči·ká·k·o·k náni wwúnči-li·na·kwsí·né·yɔ ké·na·
 nhɔpí·k·ɔnak,
 /e That's why when I used to sleep they really crowded me up, that's why my shoulders are
 like that.
 /n First ké·na·: preceded by ənta (f.s.); second ké·na· followed by nhɔp.. (f.s.). wwúnči:
 ⟨wənči⟩? (rapid)
- 9)
 /u ná=húnt lápi lá·n, “kéku=háč wúnči né·l šé· khitaó·k·a áhi-ahkɔ·né·ya?”
 /e And they asked him again, “How come those ears of yours are so long?”
- 10)
 /u lúwe·=húnt, “ke·na=tá ní· púčəl ló·məwe.
 /e He said, “Well, I was a chief's messenger, long ago.
- 11)
 /u mpučəlahá·lke nkəmé·e=hánk·w.
 /e I would be made a chief's messenger all the time.
- 12)
 /u ntəlúxɔhto·n kéku a·pto·ná·k·an ó·k šé· we·mháki e·li·na·kwsí·č·i·k a·és·əs·ak,” lúwé·=húnt.
 /e “I delivered some messages to all these different kinds of animals,” he said.
 /n ntəl-: preceded by stumbles. we·mháki: ⟨we·mihak⟩ with slight hesitation.
- 13)
 /u ná=yúkwe=ní šé· tələwe·n=húnt ná čəmáməs e·ləwé·nsi·t.
 /e That is what the one called Rabbit said.
- 14)
 /u lúwe·=húnt, “khičí·i=tá náni lé·.
 /e He said, “That's really true.
- 15)
 /u náni wúnči ke·na· nhitaó·k·a ahkɔ·né·ya, é·li=hánk·w -áhi-kələstáma kéku.
 /e That's how come my ears are long, so that I will hear anything well.
- 16)
 /u kó· nkát·a-paləstamó·u kéku.
 /e I don't want to miss hearing anything.
- 17)
 /u é·li nkát·a- ika -luxɔhtaó·ɔk, wé·m e·li·ná·kwsí·t a·és·əs,
 wá šé· sa·k·í·ma ənta-alo·ká·li·t, ənta-pučəlahá·li·t.
 /e Because I want to deliver (the message) to them, to animals of every kind,

when the chief hires me, when he makes me his messenger.

18)

/u ná=yúkwe=ní šé· nəwúnči--hánkŵ -kahtá-áhi-kələstámən kéku.

/e That's the reason why I would want to hear things well."

/n kéku: followed by "That's all."

19)

/u náni wúnči=húnt ahkɔ·né·yɔ né·l šé· hwitaók·a, é·li--hánkŵ -áhi-kahtá-kələstank kéku.

/e That's why his ears are long, because he always wanted to hear things well.

/n kéku: followed by "That's all." Recorder turned off.

20)

/u ná=húnt ónta·ma·ehəláhti·t=húnt=ankw ó·k a·es·əs·ak, ahkəno·t·əmənə·yɔ=húnt=ankw
ónta- ké·na· -kɔ·nši·phahti·t awé·ni.

/e When the animals would assemble in council, they would talk about when they hide from people.

/n Preverb and prefix absent.

21)

/u lúwe·=húnt ná si·sí·liye, "áhɔt ni·ló·na, é·li nəməmmankki·lhúməna.

/e The buffalo said, it's hard for us, because we're big.

/n /kk/: [k].

22)

/u kənč ké·na· ónta-áhi-áhwe·k ləš·i·mwiyé·nke kənč ni·ló·na nkáski·kanči·x·i·nhúməna.

/e We have to flee to where there's thick brush, and we are able to hide.

23)

/u luwé·=húnt ó·k ná ahtú.

/e And that deer said the same.

24)

/u ná=húnt ná čəmáməs pɔskwi·pháto·n

/e And then the rabbit jumped up.

25)

/u lúwe·=húnt, "é·, ní xánne· á·p·əwat, ntáli--á· ké·na· -kɔ·nši·pha·n awé·n.

/e He said, "Well, for me, though, it's easy to hide from anybody.

/n Below "for me": "(proudly)".

26)

/u náni šé· é·li·pəna·ónke·k ónta·ski·kwí·ke·k, sé·ki·ɔ·lhé·ya, náni šé· ntáli·ahša·kčé·i·n

/e On the hillside, in the grass, all I have to do is make a hole, and that's where I back in.

27)

/u náni šé· ntáli·kɔ·nši·pha·n awé·n

/e That's how I hide from anybody.

28)

/u tá·msi nəkhukwíti pəməske· awé·n, takó· nne·ykó·u,” lúwe·=húnt ná čəmáməs.

/e Sometimes someone comes close by, and he doesn't see me,” said that rabbit.

/n nək-: ⟨nuk-⟩; nne·ykó·u: [nnei·ykó·o]; čəmáməs: followed by “That's all.”