Kinship Terms: Members of the Family

Wyandot kinship terms are verbs. There are no nouns for mother, father, sister, brother, son or daughter. And there are no separate possessives such as ‘my’, ‘your’, ‘his’ or ‘hers.’ The pronominal prefixes take care of that. Pronominal prefixes belong to one of five conjugations: consonant (by far the most common one), a-stem, e-stem, yen-/i- stem and ǫ-/u- stem. There are two grammatical players possible in each pronominal prefix, an agent (which is always a subject when it appears) and a patient (which is a subject when it appears by itself and is an object when it is combined with the agent). A list of some of these pronominal prefixes appears at the end of this text.

Part One – Same Generation

Brothers and Sisters

The verb root used to express the sibling relation of brothers and sisters is -ˀyę-, which takes the consonant conjugation. Note that there is no verb – be a brother or – be a sister. The diminutive aspect suffix is used, I believe as a term of endearment.

I have him as sibling; my brother, my younger brother.

heˀyęˀąh
[heh-eh-yen-en-anh]
he- 1st person singular agent + masculine singular patient - I - him
-ˀyę- verb root – have as sibling
ˀ- stative aspect
-ˀ- diminutive aspect suffix

I have her as sibling, my sister, my younger sister.

yeˀyęˀąh
[yeh-eh-yen-en-anh]
ye- 1st person singular agent + feminine-zoic (s) patient – I - her
-ˀyę- verb root – have as sibling
ˀ- stative aspect
-ˀ- diminutive aspect suffix

He is his or her sibling, his or her brother

huˀyęˀąh
[hoo-oo-yen-en-anh]
hu- masculine singular agent + masculine singular patient – he - his. or
feminine-singular agent + masculine singular patient – she - his
-ˀyę- verb root – be sibling to
ˀ- stative aspect
-ˀ- diminutive aspect suffix

1 Traditionally this included the children of your mother’s sisters and your father’s brothers, what anthropologists refer to as parallel cousins.
**u'yęʔəh**  
She is her sibling, her sister  

[oo-oo-yen-en-an]  
- oo- feminine-zoic singular agent  
- yen-en- feminine-zoic singular patient  
- an- stative aspect

Often this verb is used with the reflexive prefix -atat-, or the semi reflexive -at-, both of which take the a- conjugation. As the reflexive adds the meaning of ‘each other’, all of the words that employ it are dual or plural. There is no singular form when the reciprocal or semi-reflexive forms are added.

**kyatate'yęḥah**  
We two (n) are siblings, brothers, sisters.  

[kyah-tah-te-e-yeh-hanh]  
- ky- 1st person inclusive dual agent - we two (one addressing the other)  
- ate- reciprocal  
- yę- verb root – be sibling to  
- h- stative aspect  
- aḥ diminutive aspect suffix

**kwatate’yęḥah**  
We (more than two) (n) are siblings.  

[kwah-tah-te-e-yeh-hanh]  
- kw- 1st person inclusive plural agent - we plural (one talking to others)  
- ate- reciprocal  
- yę- verb root - be sibling to  
- h- stative aspect  
- aḥ diminutive aspect suffix

**žate’yę’əhą**  
They two (m) are siblings, his/her brother or his sister.  

[zah-tah-eh-yen-en-an-han]  
- ž- masculine dual agent - they two (masculine/mixed)  
- ate- semi-reflexive  
- yę- verb root – be sibling to  
- aḥ diminutive aspect suffix

**họte’yę’əhą**  
They plural (m) are siblings, brothers, brother(s ) and sister(s)  

[ho-on-teh-eh-yen-en-an-han]  
- ho- masculine plural agent – they (masculine/mixed)  
- te semi-reflexive  
- yę- verb root - be sibling to  
- aḥ diminutive aspect suffix
yiate’yę’ąhą They two are sisters.
[yee-ah-teh-eh-yen-en-an-han]
  yi- feminine-zoic dual agent - they two (f)
  ’te semi-reflexive
  ’yę- verb root - be sibling to
  ’- stative aspect
  -ąhą diminutive aspect suffix

yǫ’te’yę’ąhą They plural are sisters
[yon-on-teh-eh-yen-en-an-han]
  yǫ- feminine-zoic plural agent - they (f)
  ’te semi-reflexive
  ’yę- verb root - be sibling to
  ’- stative aspect
  -ąhą diminutive aspect suffix

Older Sibling

To refer to an older sibling, brother or sister, the verb root -yuwanę- ‘be large’ is used.

kwayuwanę She is the larger, older one.
[kwah-yoo-wah-nenh]
  kw- dualic
  -a- feminine-zoic singular agent - she
  -yuwanę- verb root – be large
  -h stative aspect

tayuwanę He is the larger, older one.
[t-ha-yoo-wan-nenh]
  t- dualic
  -a- masculine singular agent - he
  -yuwanę- verb root – be large
  -h stative aspect

Exercise: Brothers and Sisters

Translate the following

1) aywatate’yę’hą

2) tsatate’yę’hą

3) ayiatate’yę’hą
4) skwatate’yęhąh

Exercise: Older and Younger Brothers and Sisters

1) She is your younger sister

2) He is your younger brother

3) He is my older brother

4) She is my older sister

5) He is your older brother

Cousins

For cousins, the verb root is -ara’se- ‘to be cousins’ (a- conjugation). Traditionally it was used for your father’s sisters’ and your mother’s brothers’ children, and sometimes to people of your own generation who were not of your clan. It came to have the same meaning as it does in mainstream North American society. The verb always takes the dual or the plural.

ažara’seh  [ah-zhah-rah-ah-seh]  We two (exclusive) are cousins; my cousin.

1st person exclusive dual agent - we two (excluding the listener)
verb root - be cousins
stative aspect

kyara’seh  [kah-rah-ah-seh]  We two (inclusive) are cousins; my cousin.

1st person inclusive dual agent - we two (including the listener)
verb root - be cousins
stative aspect

ežara’seh  [eeh-zhah-rah-ah-seh]  They two (m) are cousins; his cousin.

partitive
masculine dual agent – they (m) two
verb root - be cousins
stative aspect

hǫra’seh  [hon-rah-ah-seh]  They (masculine or mixed) are cousins.

masculine plural agent, they (masculine or mixed)
verb root - be cousins
stative aspect
Exercise: Cousins.

1) We (inclusive plural) are cousins._______________________________________________
2) We (exclusive plural) are cousins._______________________________________________
3) You (plural) are cousins.______________________________________________________
4) They two (feminine) are cousins._________________________________________________
5) They (feminine plural) are cousins.______________________________________________

siblings in Law

There are three different verb roots used for siblings-in-law. None of them take the singular form, only the dual and plural forms.

Opposite Sex Siblings-in-law: -ndawet- (consonant conjugation)

qinndawet We two are sister and brother-in-law.
[qon-dah-weh-eht]
qi- 1st person dual patient – we two
-ndawet verb root - be opposite sex siblings-in-law + stative aspect

tsindawet You two are sister and brother-in-law.
[tsen-dah-weh-eht]
ksi- 2nd person dual patient - you two
-ndawet verb root - be opposite sex siblings-in-law + stative aspect

Brothers-in-law -akuy- (no singular); a- conjugation

hokyuh They (p) are brothers-in-law, his brothers-in-law.
[ho-kyoo]
ho- masculine plural agent – they (m),
-(a)kyu- verb root - be brothers-in-law
-h stative aspect

kyakyuh We two (n) are brothers-in-law (spoken to a brother-in-law)
[kyah-kyoo]
ky- 1st person inclusive dual agent – we two
-akuy- verb root – be brothers-in-law
-h stative
awakyuh  We (x) are brothers-in-law, my brothers-in-law.
[ah-wah-kyooh]
aw- 1st person exclusive patient plural – we (x) plural
akyu- verb root - be brothers-in-law
h stative aspect

skwakyuh  You (p) are brothers-in-law, your brothers in law.
skw- 2nd person plural agent – you (p)
akyu- verb root - be brothers-in-law
h stative aspect

Be sisters-in-law (female perspective): aže- be sisters-in-law (no singular); a-conjugation

žažeˀ  They two (f) are sisters-in-law.
[zhah-zheh-eh]
ž- feminine-zoic dual agent – they (f) two
aže- verb root - be sisters-in-law
ˀ stative aspect

ažažeˀ  we (x) two are sisters-in-law.
[ah-zha-zheh]
až- 1st person dual exclusive agent – we two (excluding the listener)
aže- verb root - be sisters-in-law
ˀ stative aspect

awažeˀ  We (x) plural are sisters-in-law.
[ah-wah-zheh]
aw- 1st person exclusive plural agent, we (x) plural (excluding the listener)
aže- verb root - be sisters-in-law
ˀ stative aspect

skwažeˀ  You (p) are sisters-in-law.
[skwah-zheh]
skw- 2nd person plural agent, you (plural)
aže- verb root - be sisters-in-law
ˀ stative aspect

Exercise: Siblings-in-Law

Translate the following:

1) You (plural) are sister(s) and brother(s)-in-law __________________________

2) We (plural) are sister(s) and brother(s)-in-law. __________________________
3) They (m) (plural) are sister(s) and brother(s)-in-law.

4) They two are brothers-in-law.

5) We two are brothers-in-law.

6) You two are sisters-in-law.

7) You plural are sisters-in-law

Part Two – One Generation Apart

Parents and Children

Mother

There are two different verbs used for ‘be mother to’ in Wyandot. Both are consonant conjugation. Notice that agent or subject is the one who is the mother. This happens with all verbs that express a relationship between family members of two different generations. The oldest one is the agent or subject.

Be Mother to -nę́hé-

This verb has only one form used.

nę́hé

ah-nenh-henh

a- feminine-zoic singular agent + 1st person singular patient – she - me
-nę́hé verb root – be mother to
-h stative aspect

Be Mother to -ńdu’mę-

ńdu’mę

an-du-o-oo-menh

a- feminine-zoic (s) agent + 1st person (s) patient - she - me
-ńdu’mę verb root - be mother to
-h stative aspect

undu’mę

oon-du-oo-menh

u- feminine zoic singular agent + feminine-zoic singular patient – she - her
-ńdu’mę verb root - be mother to
-h stative aspect
hunduˀmęh She is mother to him; his mother.
[hoon-doo-oo-menh]
   hu- feminine-zoic singular agent + masculine singular patient – she - him
   -nduˀmę- verb root – be mother to
   -h stative aspect

sanduˀmęh She is mother to you; your mother.
[san-doo-oo-menh]
   sa- feminine-zoic (s) agent + 2nd person (s) patient – she - you
   -nduˀmę- verb root - be mother to
   -h stative aspect

yanduˀmęʃraˀ maternity, mother (noun)
[yan-doo-oo-men-shrah-ah]
   ya- feminine-zoic singular agent – she or it
   -nduˀmę- verb root - be mother to
   -šr- nominalizer
   -aˀ noun suffix

unduˀmęʃrawastih She is a good mother.
[oon-doo-oo-men-shrah-wah-steeh]
   u- feminine-zoic singular patient – she
   -nduˀmę- verb root – be mother to
   -šr- nominalizer
   -a- joiner vowel
   -wast- verb root – be good
   -ih stative aspect

With the addition of the causative-instrumental (ci) root suffix -hest- here meaning ‘make, cause’, we can talk about when mothers adopt children.

hunduˀmęˀahstih She adopted him as his mother
[hoon-doo-oo-men-en-ah-steeh]
   hu- feminine-zoic singular agent + masculine singular patient – she - him
   -nduˀmę- verb root - be mother to
   -ʔahst- causative-instrumental root suffix
   -ih stative aspect

unduˀmęˀahstih She adopted her as her mother.
[oon-doo-oo-men-en-ah-steeh]
   u- feminine-zoic singular agent + feminine-zoic singular patient – she - her
   -nduˀmę- verb root - be mother to
   -ʔahst- causative-instrumental root suffix
   -ih stative aspect
Step-Mother

For the step-parent to step-child relationship the verb root -\textit{ndu}- (consonant conjugation) is used.

\textbf{hundu}’ah \hspace{1cm} She is his step-parent; his step-mother.
[\textit{hoon-doo-oo-ah}]
- \textit{hu-} feminine-zoic singular agent + masculine singular patient – she - him
- \textit{-\textit{ndu}-} verb root - be step-parent to
- \textit{-ˀ} stative aspect
- \textit{-ah} diminutive aspect suffix

\textbf{undu}’ah \hspace{1cm} She is her step-parent; her step-mother.
[\textit{oon-doo-oo-ah}]
- \textit{u-} feminine-zoic singular agent + feminine-zoic singular patient – she - her
- \textit{-\textit{ndu}-} verb root - be step-parent to
- \textit{-ˀ} stative aspect
- \textit{-ah} diminutive aspect suffix

\textbf{aundu}’asta? \hspace{1cm} She made her a her step-child, her step-daughter.
[\textit{ah-hoon-doo-oo-ah-stah-ah}]
- \textit{a-} factual
- \textit{-u-} masculine or feminine-zoic singular agent – masculine singular patient
- \textit{-\textit{ndu}’a-} verb root – have as step-child
- \textit{-st-} causative-instrumental root suffix
- \textit{-aˀ} punctual aspect

Father

The verb root for ‘be a father to’ is -\textit{istę}- (consonant conjugation).

\textbf{a}’\textit{istę} \hspace{1cm} My father (term of address).
[\textit{ah-ah-ee-stenh}]

\textbf{ha}’\textit{istę} \hspace{1cm} He is father to me; my father
[\textit{ha-ah-yee-stenh}]
- \textit{ha-} masculine singular agent + 1st person singular patient – he - me
- \textit{-\textit{istę-}} verb root - be father to
- \textit{-h} stative aspect

\textsuperscript{2} Despite the fact that this term seems to have -\textit{a-} as part of the verb root, I believe that the fact that Wendat has -ndo- as the verb root, and the general use of the diminutive aspect suffix for parent to child relationships means that there is a diminutive aspect suffix in the other words.
hu’istèh He is father to him; his father
[hoo-oo-ee-stenh]
  hu- masculine singular agent + masculine singular patient – he - him
  -ìstè- verb root - be father to
  -h stative aspect
sōma’istèh He is father to us; our father
[son-mah-ah-ee-stenh]
  sōma- masculine singular agent + 1st person plural patient- he - us
  -ìstè- verb root - be father to
  -h stative aspect
skwa’istèh You are father to us (‘Our Father’ in the Lord’s Prayer)
[skwah-ah-ee-stenh]
  skwa- 2nd person singular agent + 1st person plural patient – you - us
  -ìstè- verb root - be father to
  -h stative aspect
ya’istèhšra’ father, fatherhood (noun)
[yah-ah-ee-sten-shrah]
  ya- feminine-zoic singular agent - it
  -ìstè- verb root - be father to
  -hšr- nominalizer
  -a’ noun suffix
hu’istèhšrawastih He is a good father.
[hoo-oo-ee-sten-shrah-wah-steeh]
  hu- masculine singular patient - he
  -ìstè- verb root - be father to
  -hšr- nominalizer
  -a joiner vowel
  -wast- verb root - be good, beautiful
  -ih stative aspect

Step-Father -ndu-
žandu’ah He is your (s) step-father; he is step-parent to you.
[zhan-ndoo-oo-ah]
  ža- masculine singular agent + 2nd person singular patient – he -you
  -ndu- verb root - be step-parent to
  -' verb root - be step-parent to
  -ah diminutive aspect suffix
handu’ah  He is her step-father; he is step-parent to her.  
[h-an-doo-oo-ah]
  ha-  masculine (s) agent + feminine-zoic (s) patient – he - her
  -ndu-  verb root - be step-parent to
  -ʔ-  stative aspect
  -ah  diminutive aspect suffix

hundu’ah  He or she has him as his or her step-child, his or her step-son  
[hoon-doo-oo-ah]
  hu-  masculine/feminine-zoic singular agent – masculine singular patient – (s)he - him
  -ndu-  verb root – have as step-child
  -ʔ-  stative aspect
  -ah  diminutive aspect suffix

Exercise: Mother and Father (answers at the end of the lesson)

1) She is his mother__________________________________________________________
2) She is your (singular) mother.____________________________________________
3) She is their (mixed) mother._______________________________________________
4) She is my adopted mother._______________________________________________
5) I am her adopted mother._________________________________________________
6) She is your stepmother.__________________________________________________
7) Your (singular) father.____________________________________________________
8) Her father.________________________________________________________________
9) His step-father.___________________________________________________________
10) Our step-father.___________________________________________________________

Child

The verb root -(ny)e- (consonant conjugation) means ‘have as child’. As with the previous kinship verbs, the parent is represented in the agent/subject role. The child is represented by the patient/object role. One feature of this verb root is that the diminutive aspect suffix -ah- is added at the end. It is used as a term of endearment.

anye’ah  my child (daughter or son), addressing my child  
[an-yen-en-ah]
  a-  
  -nye-  verb root - have as child
  -ʔ-  stative aspect
I have her as child; my daughter.

You have her as child; she is your daughter.

She has her as child; she is her daughter.

He has her as child; she is his daughter.

He has him as child; his son. OR

She has him as child; her son
hayqmeʔah  She has them (masculine) as children; her sons.  OR  
[hah-yon-men-en-a] He has them (masculine) as children; his sons.  OR He has them (feminine) as children; his daughters.  OR  

hayq- feminine-zoic singular agent + masculine plural patient – she - them OR  
masculine singular agent + masculine plural patient – he - them OR  
masculine singular agent + feminine-zoic plural patient – he - them  
-ʔə verb root - have as child  
-ʔ- stative aspect  
ah diminutive aspect suffix  

họtakyęʔa  They (masculine or mixed) are parents and children.  
[hon-tah-kyen- en-an]  
họ- masculine plural agent - they (masculine or mixed)  
tahky- reciprocal  
-ʔə verb root - have as child  
-ʔ- stative aspect  
-ʔ diminutive aspect suffix  

Exercise: Children  

1) I have them (feminine) as children, as daughters.  

___________________________________________________________________________  

2) I have them (masculine or mixed) as children, as sons or sons and daughter(s).  

___________________________________________________________________________  

3) You have them (feminine) as children, as daughters.  

___________________________________________________________________________  

4) You have them (masculine or mixed) as children, as sons or sons and daughter(s)  

___________________________________________________________________________  

5) I have him as child, my son.  

___________________________________________________________________________  

Aunts and Uncles--Nieces and Nephews  

Be Aunt to -ahrahak  

This is an a- conjugation verb. ‘Traditionally it referred only to father’s sisters and father’s brothers’ wives, then it was extended to all those that mainstream North American society would call ‘aunts.’  

3 The masculine plural group can be composed entirely of males, or males and females.
ahrahak  my aunt (term of address)  
[ah-rah-hahk]

ayarahak  She is aunt to me, my aunt (a term of reference)  
[ah-yah-rah-hak]  
  ay- feminine-zoic singular agent + 1st person singular patient – she – me  
  -arahak verb root – be aunt to + stative aspect

sarahahak  She is aunt to you, your aunt.  
[sah-rah-hahk]  
  s- feminine-zoic singular agent + 2nd person singular patient -she - you  
  -arahak verb root - be aunt to + stative aspect

uhrahak  She is her aunt  
[oo-rah-hak]  
  u- feminine-zoic singular agent + feminine-zoic singular patient – she - her  
  -hrahak- verb root - be aunt to + stative aspect

qomarahak  She is our aunt.  
[qon-mah-rah-hak]  
  qom- feminine-zoic singular agent + 1st person plural patient – she – our/us  
  -arahak verb root – be aunt to + stative aspect

Be Uncle To -awatênoonʔ-

This verb root is a- conjugation. Traditionally it referred to just mother’s brothers, but it came to have the same reference as the English term.

awatênoonʔ  my uncle (term of address)  
[ah-wah-ten-non-ron-on]

In reference we have these terms:

hawatênoonʔ  He is uncle to me; my uncle.  
[hah-wah-ten-non-ron-on]  
  haw- masculine singular agent + 1st person singular patient- he - me  
  -atênoonʔ- verb root - be uncle to  
  -ʔ stative aspect
žatęnǫrǫ? He is uncle to you (singular); your uncle.
[zhah-ten-non-ron-on]
 ž- masculine singular agent + 2nd person singular patient – he - you
 -atęnǫrǫ- verb root - be uncle to
 -ʔ stative aspect

hutęnǫrǫ? He is uncle to him; his uncle.
[hoo-ten-non-ron-on]
 hu- masculine singular agent + masculine singular patient – he - him
 -tęnǫrǫ- verb root - be uncle to
 -ʔ stative aspect

hatęnǫrǫ? He is uncle to her; her uncle.
[hah-ten-non-ron-on]
 h- masculine singular agent + feminine-zoic singular patient – he - her
 -atęnǫrǫ- verb root - be uncle to
 -ʔ stative aspect

Nephews and Nieces

Male-Speaking

No verb root specifies ‘niece’ or ‘nephew.’ The verb root -yęwatę- or -iwatę- means ‘have as niece or nephew’ male-speaking (yę-/i- conjugation)

The form of address for both nephew and niece is:

tetiwatęʔąh We two (n) are uncle and nephew/niece; my nephew, or niece.
[teh-tee-wah-ten-en-anh]
 te- dualic
 -t- 1st person inclusive dual agent – we two (n)
 -iwatę verb root – have as nephew or niece (male-speaking)
 -ʔ stative aspect
 -ʔ diminutive aspect suffix

hiwatęʔąh I have him as nephew (male speaking).
[hee-wah-ten-en-anh]
 h- 1st person singular agent + masculine singular patient – I – him
 -iwatę verb root – have as nephew or niece (male speaking)
 -ʔ stative aspect
 -ʔ diminutive aspect suffix
yiwatę’ah  I have her as sister’s child, niece (male-speaking)  
[ee-wah-ten-en-anh]  
  y-  1st person singular agent + feminine-zoic singular patient – I - her  
  -iwatę  verb root – have as nephew or niece (male speaking)  
  -ʔ  stative aspect  
  -ʔh  diminutive aspect suffix  

hamęmątę’ah  He has him as nephew.  
[hah-men-man-ten-en-an]  
  ham-  masculine singular agent + masculine singular patient  
  -qmatę-  verb root – have as nephew  
  -ʔ  stative aspect  
  -ʔh  diminutive aspect suffix  

hemęmątę’ah  He has her as niece.  
[hen-men-man-ten-en-anh]  
  h-  masculine singular agent + feminine-singular patient – he – her  
  -qmatę-  verb root – have as niece  
  -ʔ  stative aspect  
  -ʔh  diminutive aspect suffix  

Have as Nephew or Niece (Sibling’s Child) – Female Speaking -hšo’drakha–[^4]  

This is a consonant conjugation verb.  

yehšo’drakha[^5]  I have her as niece (woman speaking).  
[yeh-sho-on-drah-kah]  
  ye-  1st person singular agent + feminine-zoic singular patient – I – her  
  -hšo’drakha-  verb root – have as niece (female speaking) + stative aspect  

hehšo’drakha  I have him as nephew (female speaking).  
[heh-shon-on-drah-kah]  
  he-  1st person singular agent + masculine singular patient – I – him  
  -hšo’drakha-  verb root – have as nephew (female speaking) + stative aspect  

yohšo’drakha  I have you as niece or nephew (female speaking)  
[yonh-shon-on-drah-kah]  
  yo-  1st person singular agent + 2nd person singular patient – I - you  
  -hšo’drakha-  verb root – have as nephew (female speaking) + stative aspect  

[^4]: Up until the nineteenth century this just referred to her brother’s children.  
[^5]: It is possible that the final -a- is a diminutive aspect suffix.
ǫmahšǒ’drakha She has us as nieces/nephews; our aunt.

[on-mah-son-on-drah-kah]

ǫmah- feminine-zoic singular agent + 1st person plural patient – she – us
-
-
-
hšǒ’drak- verb root – have as nephew/niece (female speaking) + stative aspect

Exercise

1) She is his aunt.

2) He is her uncle.

3) He is our uncle.

4) She has her as niece.

5) You have her as niece.

In-Laws

Son-in-law: -nɛma- (consonant conjugation)

henɛmaʔ? I have him as son-in-law.

[heh-nen-man⁶]

he- 1st person singular agent + masculine singular patient - I - him
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ahunenumʰsta He caused him to become his son-in-law.
[ah-hoo-nen-manh-stah]
  a- factual
  -hu- masculine singular agent + masculine singular patient – he – him
  -nəma- verb root – have as son-in-law
  -hst- causative-instrumental root suffix
  -a punctual aspect

Daughter-in-Law: -skwa- (consonant conjugation)

ayeskwa She has me as daughter-in-law; my mother-in-law.
[ah-yeh-skwa]
  aye- feminine-zoic (s) agent + 1st person (s) patient, she has me
  -skwa- verb root - have as daughter-in-law
  -h stative aspect

hayeskwa He has me as daughter-in-law; my father-in-law.
[hah-yeh-skwa]
  haye- masculine (s) agent + 1st person (s) patient – he - me
  -skwa- verb root - have as daughter-in-law
  -h stative aspect

kyateskwa We two are parent and daughter-in-law.
[kyah-teh-skwa-ah]
  ky- 1st person inclusive dual agent – we two
  -ate- semi-reflexive
  -skwa- verb root – have as daughter-in-law
  -ˀ stative aspect

Exercise: Sons and Daughters-in-Law

Translate the Following

1) hešenǝnumˀ  
2) sımǝnǝnumˀ  
3) šeskwah  
4) saskwah

Part Three – Two Generations Apart

Grandparents and Grandchildren

-hšutaˀ- be grandparent to – consonant conjugation

Generally with this verb root the one being named is the grandparent. The exception occurs when the grandparent is addressing the grandchild.

ahšutaˀ grandparent (term of address) [ah-shoo-tah-ah]

ahšut my grandchild (term of reference) [ah-shoot]

ǫmahšutaˀa She is our grandmother7 [on-mah-shoo-tah-ah]

ǫma- feminine-zoic singular agent + 1st person plural patient she - our
-hšuta- verb root - be grandparent to
ˀ stative aspect
-a diminutive aspect suffix

sǫmahšutaˀa He is grandparent to us, our grandfather8. [son-mah-shoo-tah-ah]

sǫma- masculine singular agent + 1st person plural patient he - us
-hšuta- verb root - be grandparent to
ˀ stative aspect
-a diminutive aspect suffix

-atreˀ- - have as grandchild – a- conjugation

The grandchild is the focus with this verb root.

utreˀa She has her as grandchild, her granddaughter. [oo-treh-eh-ah]

u- feminine-zoic singular agent + feminine-zoic singular patient - she - her
-treˀ verb root – have as grandchild + stative aspect
-a diminutive aspect suffix

---

7 This is also used sometimes to refer to the female toad as, in the Origin Story, she was the one who dove and returned with soil to put on the back of the Great Turtle.
8 War leader Sayęhtsuwat or Great Forehead is referred to as Our Grandfather in the story of The War Between the Wyandots and the Cherokees for his decisive role in winning the war.
hatreˈa He has her as grandchild; his granddaughter.

[hah-treh-eh-ah] masculine singular agent + feminine-zoic singular patient, he - her

-atre  verb root – have as grandchild + stative aspect

-a diminutive aspect suffix

hutreˈa He or she has him as grandchild; his/her grandson

[hoo-treh-eh-ah] masculine or feminine-zoic singular agent + masculine singular patient – (s)he - him

-tre  verb root – have as grandchild + stative aspect

-a diminutive aspect suffix

Exercise: Grandparents and Grandchildren

1) She is grandparent to them (feminine).

2) She is grandparent to them (masculine).

3) You have him as grandchild.

4) You have her as grandchild.

5) She has him as grandchild.

Family

The Wyandotte word for ‘family’ also can mean ‘group’ or ‘crowd’, but the primary meaning relates to family. It is a noun stem, that is a noun derived from a verb root. It belongs to the ye-/i- conjugation, which with the patient as subject has the following forms:

ayikyuhkwaʔ my family

[ah-yee-kyooh-kwa] 1st person singular patient - my

-ikyu verb root - be a matrilineage, family

-hkw instrumental root suffix (acting as a nominalizer)

-a noun suffix

sękyuhkwaʔ your (singular) family

[sen-kyooh-kwah] 2nd person singular patient- your

-ękyu verb root - be a matrilineage, family

-hkw instrumental root suffix

-a noun suffix
Exercise: Translate the following into Wyandot

1) His family

2) Your (plural) family

3) Their (feminine) family

4) Their (masculine) family

5) Our family.

Answers to Kinship Exercises

Exercise: Brothers and Sisters

1) ayiatakę  We two, exclusive are siblings.
2) aywatąkę  We (more than two), exclusive are siblings.
3) y质押ę  They (feminine) are siblings.
4) žatakę  They (masculine or mixed dual) are siblings.
5) họtakę  They (masculine plural) are siblings.

Exercise: Older and Younger

1) She is your younger sister.  hšeyę’aha
2) He is your younger brother.  hehšeyę’aha
3) He is my older brother.  hayę’aha
4) She is my older sister.  ayę’aha
5) He is your older brother.  žayę’aha

Exercise: Cousins.

1) We (inclusive plural) are cousins.  kwara’seh
2) We (exclusive plural) are cousins  aywara’seh
3) You (plural) are cousins.  skwara’seh
4) They two (feminine) are cousins.  yira’seh
5) They (feminine plural) are cousins.  yọra’seh
Exercise: Siblings-in-Law

1) You (plural) are sister(s) and brother(s)-in-law skwandawet
2) We (plural) are sister(s) and brother(s)-in-law. qmandawet
3) They (m) (plural) are sister(s) and brother(s)-in-law. hutindawet
4) They two are brothers-in-law. žakyu
5) We two are brothers-in-law. ažakyu
6) You two are sisters-in-law. tsažeˀ
7) You plural are sisters-in-law skwažeˀ

Exercises: Mother and Father

1) She is his mother hunduˀmęh
2) She is your (singular) mother. sanduˀmęh
3) She is their (mixed) mother. hutinduˀmęh
4) She is my adopted mother. anduˀmęˀahstih
5) I am her adopted mother. yenduˀmęˀahstik
6) She is your stepmother. sanduˀah
7) Your (singular) father žaˀıstęh
8) Her father haˀıstęh
9) His step-father hunduˀah
10) Our step-father. sǫmanduˀah

Exercise: Children

1) I have them (feminine) as children as daughters. yayenyęˀah
2) I have them (masculine or mixed) as children as sons or sons and daughter(s). hayenyęˀah
3) You (singular) have them (feminine) as children, as daughters. yahšenyęˀah
4) You (sing.) have them (masc. or mixed) as children, as sons (and daughter(s)) hahšenyęˀah
5) I have him as child, my son. hinyęˀah

Exercise: Aunts and Uncles, Nieces and Nephews

1) She is his aunt. huhrahahak
2) He is her uncle. hatęŋoroʼa
3) He is our uncle. sọmatęŋoroʼa
4) She has her as niece. amęwatęʼa
5) You have her as niece. šiwatęʼa
Exercise: Grandparents and Grandchildren

1) She is grandparent to them (feminine).  utiḥšutaʔa
2) She is grandparent to them (masculine/mixed)  hutiḥšutaʔa
3) You have him as grandchild.  hešatreʔa
4) You have her as grandchild.  šatreʔa
5) She has him as grandchild.  hutreʔa

Exercise: Translate the following

1) His family  hukyuhkwaʔ
2) Your (plural) family  skwękyuhkwaʔ
3) Their (feminine) family  ǫdikyuhkwaʔ
4) Their (masculine or mixed) family  hǫdikyuhkwaʔ
5) Our family.  omękyuhkwaʔ

Conjugations and their Pronominal Prefixes

At the end of this lesson there is a listing of some of the combinations of the agents (usually the subject) and patients (usually the object but when by itself the subject) of the conjugations used for kinship terms

Pronominal Prefixes

Consonant Conjugation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Form</th>
<th>Agent</th>
<th>Patient</th>
<th>Translation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ye-</td>
<td>[yeh]</td>
<td>1A</td>
<td>FZP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>he-</td>
<td>[heh]</td>
<td>1A</td>
<td>MP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>yaye-</td>
<td>[yah-yeh]</td>
<td>1A</td>
<td>FZpP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>[hah-yeh-]</td>
<td>1A</td>
<td>MpP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>yœ-</td>
<td>[yon]</td>
<td>1A</td>
<td>2P</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hše-</td>
<td>[sheh]</td>
<td>2A</td>
<td>FZP</td>
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<td>hehše-</td>
<td>[heh-sheh]</td>
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<td>yahše-</td>
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<td>[hah-sheh]</td>
<td>2A</td>
<td>MpP</td>
</tr>
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<td>a(ye)-</td>
<td>[ah(yeh)]</td>
<td>FZA</td>
<td>1P</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sa</td>
<td>[sah]</td>
<td>FZA</td>
<td>2P</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>u-</td>
<td>[ooh]</td>
<td>FZA</td>
<td>FZP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hu-</td>
<td>[hooh]</td>
<td>FZA</td>
<td>MP</td>
</tr>
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<td>Form</td>
<td>Agent</td>
<td>Patient</td>
<td>Translation</td>
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<td>y-</td>
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<td>FZP</td>
<td>I - her</td>
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<td>h-</td>
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<td>you - him</td>
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<td>you - him</td>
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<td>u-*</td>
<td>FZA</td>
<td>FZP</td>
<td>she - her</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>h-</td>
<td>MA</td>
<td>FZP</td>
<td>he - her</td>
</tr>
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<td>hu-*</td>
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<td>MP</td>
<td>she - him</td>
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<tr>
<td>ky-</td>
<td>1ndA</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>we two (inclusive, including the listener)</td>
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<tr>
<td>kw-</td>
<td>1ndA</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>we plural (inclusive, including the listeners)</td>
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<td>až-</td>
<td>1xpA</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>we two (exclusive, excluding the listener)</td>
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<tr>
<td>aw-</td>
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<td>we plural (exclusive, excluding listener(s))</td>
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<td>--</td>
<td>you two</td>
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<td>--</td>
<td>you plural</td>
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<tr>
<td>yi-</td>
<td>FZdA</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>they (feminine dual)</td>
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<tr>
<td>yų-</td>
<td>FZpA</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>they (feminine plural)</td>
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<tr>
<td>ž-</td>
<td>MdA</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>they (masculine or mixed dual)</td>
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<tr>
<td>hų-</td>
<td>MpA</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>they (masculine or mixed plural)</td>
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</table>

*The -u- replaces the -a-
### ye- / i- conjugation

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<th>Form</th>
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<th>Patient</th>
<th>Translation</th>
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<td>FZP</td>
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<td>1P</td>
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<td>[hee]</td>
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<td>FZP</td>
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<td>heși-</td>
<td>[heh-shee]</td>
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<td>MP</td>
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<td>2P</td>
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<td>[skwen]</td>
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<td>2pP</td>
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<td>u-</td>
<td>[oo]</td>
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<td>[hoo]</td>
<td>---</td>
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<td>[hoo]</td>
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<td>MP</td>
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<tr>
<td>hǫdi-</td>
<td>[hon-dee]</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>MpP</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*This is not the usual pronominal prefix for this conjugation.*

There are no kinship verb roots with the u-/ǫ- conjugation.

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⁹ The -en- here is a nasal vowel, and does not sound like the -en- in 'men' more like the -en in 'entrance'.