

Procedure for Proposing Marriage at St. Francis

Maude Benedict

1919

[Source: Speck, Frank G. 1919. The functions of wampum among the Eastern Algonkin, 54–55
Memoirs of the American Anthropological Association, vol. VI, no. 1.]

Note: Specks transcription and translation are given for each line in (a). The retranscription and retranslations in (b) are by Philip S. LeSourd, January 17, 2019.

1. a. Wa'dji· gada'wi· kəlu'ldi·mu`k

When one wants to propose marriage

b. Waci-katawi-kəlōlōtimək.

[When one wants to propose marriage.]

2. a. do'ni· a'gwa wa'dji· gada'wi· kulu'lowa`t wski·' a'lnomba`

When ever in order to he wants to propose marriage young man

ni·wi· gawos·a`` obi·tha'kali·`η ma'ksa· wi'gwomək.

at that time his mother throws in blanket into the wigwam

b. Təni=ak^wa waci-katawi-kəlōlōwat wski-alənəpa, ni wikawəssa wəpithahkəlin maksa
wikəwəmək.

[At such time as a young man wants to propose marriage, they say, his mother throws a
blanket into the house (of the prospective bride's family).]

3. a. ni'dəni a'dju:lir'da`mamək ni'dji' na'nawalda`məna ma'ksa'
thereupon if they like him then they accept blanket

ni'ganowa' nda wali'damamə'k patagosadawan' ma'ksa'.

but if then not they like him they give back the blanket

b. Ni tani atoci-wəlitaḥaməmək, ni=ci wənanawalətamənaḥ maksā; ni=ka=nawa ḡta
wəlitaḥaməmək, wəpətəkohsatawənaḥ maksā.

[When he is found acceptable, they keep the blanket; but if he is not found acceptable,
they take the blanket back to her.]