

## Looking for Work Abroad

An extract from Peter Paul Wzôkhlain (1830), *Wobanaki kimzowi awighigan* [Abenaki study book], pp. 68–69. Boston: Crocker and Brewster.

*Note:* Wzôkhlain’s published text is given in each numbered section in (a); (b) is my retranscription followed by a proposed translation. Slashes indicate line breaks in the original text. The parts labeled here as A and B are given as separate paragraphs in the published text.

A.

1. a. ⟨Wakasigadenki wjitôguat almakiwik, Kolôbia / aliwitôzik, tôni adoji ngemôwzimük ta tôni adoji / nabi kizi mamhlawi pguatôzik môni.⟩

b. Wahkhsikatən=ki wəcihtək<sup>w</sup>at aləmahkiwik, Koləpia aliwihtəsik, tən̄i atoci-nəkəməwəsımək tta tən̄i atoci- napi -kisi-mamhlawi-pək<sup>w</sup>ahtəsik məni.

‘A few years ago, news came from off in a land called Columbia about how one could have an easy life and how a lot of money could soon be earned.’

2. a. ⟨Ta kahala / chowiba alwa awani nabi kizi mamhlawi pguato / agmatta kizi nihlôji sôgnawi nadialwawzida; wa / kanwa tônwa ôgazawit ala niadialwawwat chowi / tôni alakwamhômük waji ôda nôdami kizi mam- / hlawaguahalowakw.⟩

b. Tta kahala ccowi=-pa aləwa awani napi -kisi-mamhlawi-pək<sup>w</sup>ahto akəma=tta kisi- nihlaci -səkənawi-natialəwawəsita, wa=kanəwa tənəwa akasawit ala niatialəwawat ccowi- tən̄i -alahk<sup>w</sup>amhəmək.

‘And truly almost anyone should be able earn a lot soon if he could just hunt by himself quietly, but he who worked for hire or who hunted for someone else would be cheated in some way so that he could not get a great deal.’

3. a. ⟨Unawa ôjmwôgan pattô- / kwkwÿp pita wskinnosak owigsedamennôp,⟩  
b. Yo=nawa açəmwəkan pattək<sup>wk</sup>wəp, pihta wskinnohsak owiksətamənap.

‘So when this account came along, the young men were very glad to hear it.’

4. a. ⟨agua- / chi alwa manniwi mziwi kizôjobanik waji losaha- / dit;⟩  
b. Ak<sup>w</sup>ahci aləwa manniwi məsiwi kişəcəpanik waci-lohsahədit.

‘They were actually ready almost immediately to go there.’

5. a. ⟨pita owigtôgwzowôdamennôp, ta maasa ki- / zôdokazobanik tōni kadawi adoji wilawigihdit pa- / iôhdida tahaji adoji wiginôghodit kdagihi wskin- / nosa odanak ôttali kissasiliji.

b. Pihta owiktək<sup>w</sup>əsowətamənap, tta maahsa kişətohkəşəpanik tənı katawi atoci-wilawikihətit payəhətita ttah=əci atoci-wiginəkohətit kətakihi wskinohsa otanak əttali-kissahsilici.

‘They very much liked the way it sounded, and they talked amongst themselves beforehand about how rich they would be when they arrived and how much the other young men at Odanak would envy the ones who had always declined.’

B.

6. a. ⟨Nitta almi siguak kamôdalobanik môjitbanik, /⟩

Nit=ta alêmi-sik<sup>w</sup>ak kamâtalopanik mâçitêpanik,

‘Then when spring came they were late in leaving.’

7. a. ⟨nemô paiôhdit ôda ngemi nôdami wlôwziwiak nô-/ ngueji **agua** aguachi wibiwi asesia  
ala almossia / lipoak.⟩

b. Nêma payâhêtit âta nêkêmi-nâtamî-wêlâwêsiwiak. Nânak<sup>w</sup>âci=ak<sup>w</sup>a ak<sup>w</sup>âci wîpiwi  
ahsêsiya ala alêmossiya lihpoak.

‘When they got there, they did not find it particularly easy to live. Sometimes, they say,  
they actually had only horse meat or dog meat to eat.’

8. a. ⟨Nasigadek ni wbaiônô ngemi ôda nô-/ damilawigiwiak, ôdatômô mskawiktigan waji pô-/  
lalzimûk, aguachi agua nahwji kôthlezožhanik / wzômi awakôji awani wbaji ôzwitakawô owôhê-  
/ baksemma.⟩

b. Nahsikadêk ni wêpayâna nêkêmi âta nâdamilawikiwiak, âdatâma mskawiktikan waci-  
pâlâlêsimêk. Ak<sup>w</sup>âci=ak<sup>w</sup>a nahwêci kâthlêsošhanik wêšami awahkâci awani wêpaci-  
âšêwihtahkawâ owâhâpaksêma.

‘When it had been four years since they arrived there, they were certainly not particularly  
rich, and there was no discovery anywhere to be proud of. Some even hid themselves, it seems,  
because they arrived with their shirts on a little crooked.’

9. a. ⟨Pidigamga agua tôni kiodawinno / adali paiôt, ôda aguachi kizi namihôwi, ôlawi-/gaki  
agua awani li namihôn abonek, ôda ôzoka / laldôziwi enna ato, / laldam awani nagaki chamo-  
/cha pamakwessik.

b. Pitikaməka=ak<sup>w</sup>a tani kiotawinno atali-payat, ata ak<sup>w</sup>aci kisi-namihawi.

Aławi=ka=ki=ak<sup>w</sup>a awani li-namihən abonək. Ața=așohka laləțașiwi. Ənna=ahto lalətam awani  
na=ka=hki camohca pamahk<sup>w</sup>əssik.

‘If someone entered, they say, where a hunter had come in, he couldn’t even see him.  
Never, they say, did someone spot him in bed. One would not think about it, however. One  
would very likely think instead that it was a masked man stretched out there.’