

Survey of wh-questions in Miami-Illinois

This paper surveys wh-questions in Miami-Illinois, providing an analysis based on Johnson and Macaulay's (2015) work on Menominee. I draw on data collected as part of the Miami-Illinois ILDA project (Indigenous Languages Digital Archive) as well as secondary sources (Costa 2003) in order to provide an inventory of the most common wh-words and sketch their functions.

Miami-Illinois wh-words are complex. They can show agreement for various combinations of noun class, number, and obviation. In addition, some of the wh-words are attested with additional derivational material, like *taanonci* 'from where?', *taaniši* 'to where?' and *taaniswi* 'how many?'. I describe these forms and the contexts of their use in the historical record.

(1) t-set (generic wh-word, frequently glossed as 'how, where, when')

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| a. | taani | inanimate singular |
| b. | taana | animate singular |
| c. | taaniiki | animate plural |

(2) w-set ('who', obligatorily animate reference)

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| a. | aweena | singular |
| b. | aweeniki | plural |
| c. | aweenili | obviative |

I also analyze Miami-Illinois wh-questions using the typology provided by Johnson and Macaulay (2015). This entails a discussion of the relative root system of Miami-Illinois (cf. Costa 2017). Despite the absence of data collected from modern elicitation, complex structures similar to those attested for Menominee also appear to be present for Miami-Illinois, including embedded questions and structures with multiple wh-words.

References

- Costa, David J. 2003. *The Miami-Illinois Language*. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press.
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