

Masset Haida Discourse: A Case Study in Ildiinii
Kelli Finney, Simon Fraser University

Discourse is at once socially situated and grammatically driven (see, for example

Masset Haida story Ildiinii, as told by Sandlenee (Emma Matthews) to Marianne Ignace in 1979 (M. Ignace, personal communication, January 31, 2016; Swanton, 1908 for an earlier version)

The discussion opens with a brief review of significant contributions to the body of work on Haida, including grammatically focused work like that of Lawrence (1977), Enrico (2003, 2005) and Lachler (2010), early works like those of Boas (1889) and Swanton (1905) and writings on Haida stories such as those of Swanton (1908) and Enrico (1995).

Following the literature review is a situating of the discussion in linguistic anthropology (as per Duranti, 1997). Then, the paper provides an overview of salient grammatical features of Ildiinii (Masset Haida) comments on the language's sociolinguistic situation and some brief comments regarding ethnography. After establishing this background, the discussion moves to a transcription of the Ildiinii story, including interlinear morphemic glosses and English translation.

After presenting the story text, the discussion turns to consideration of notable features of the discourse, including the use of indirect past tense as an evidential marker, the differentiation between the suffix sequence of complementizers plus change of topic marker ii, and the areal suffix -sii. The paper closes with reflections on the research process as well as plans for further research.

References

- Boas, Franz 1889. Grammatical notes. Report on the Northwestern Tribes of Canada. British Association for the Advancement of Science, 878. Reprinted, Northwest Anthropological Research Notes (1974), 7277.
- Duranti, Alessandro. 1997. The scope of linguistic anthropology. Linguistic Anthropology Cambridge: Cambridge University Press 21.