

# Loakota Problem Solution

Jean Mark Gawron

Linguistics 581  
San Diego State University

2017 Feb

# Outline

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# Morpheme List

Verb roots		Pronouns	
gi/hi	'arrive'	wa-	'I'
ʔ(h)u <sup>n</sup>	'be'	u <sup>n</sup> - ... -pi	we2
k'u	'give'	u <sup>n</sup> -	we1
psic <sup>h</sup> a	'jump'	-li	'here'
s <sup>h</sup> kata	'play'	-pi	plural
c <sup>h</sup> i <sup>(n)</sup>	'want'	ya-	'you'
		∅	'he/she'

## Is we2 the plural of we1?

Formally:

$$\text{we2} = \text{we1} + \text{Plural}$$

$$u^n \quad \quad \quad \text{pi}$$

Form	Meaning
we1	you(sg.) and I (sometimes called inclusive dual)
we2 <sub>1</sub>	he/she and I (a group of two excluding you)
we2 <sub>2</sub>	any group of more than two including the speaker

“plural” = 3rd person group of greater number than the 3rd person referents of the unmarked form (we1 in this case)

## The meaning of “Plural”

*... it would seem that, on the whole, American languages are rather indifferent in regard to the clear expression of plurality ... they tend to express much more rigidly the ideas of collectivity or distribution. Thus the Kwakiutl (Wakashan, British Columbia), who are rather indifferent to the expression of plurality, are very particular in denoting whether the objects spoken of are distributed here or there. When this is the case, the distribution is carefully expressed.*

*Boas (1911) Handbook of American Indian Languages*

Distributivity “the existence or co-occurrence of conceptually identical objects or actions in different situations or occasions” (Andrade 1933, Part III of Boas’s Handbook).

## Translation to Lakota

Given that  $t^hi$  = 'live' or 'dwell':

- |    |                                |               |
|----|--------------------------------|---------------|
| 1. | I dwell                        | $wat^hi$      |
| 2. | You (sg.) dwell                | $yat^hi$      |
| 3. | He/she dwells                  | $t^hi$        |
| 4. | You (sg.) and I dwell          | $u^n t^hi$    |
| 5. | She/he & I/several of us dwell | $u^n t^hi pi$ |
| 6. | You (pl.) dwell                | $yat^hi pi$   |
| 7. | They dwell                     | $t^hi pi$     |