

signal entry into a relatively long-term or (semi-) permanent state. With an active verb, this long-term state is understood to be the result of the event in question.

Examples of the use of this long-term state use of *-Vw-ay* include *hipāh-āw-ay* (know-) 'knows it completely' (e.g., a language in which one has attained fluency); *b'óy-ow-ay* (study-) 'studying' (e.g., has begun for the day and will continue all day); *náén-āw-ay* (come-) 'coming to stay for good or long-term'; *macá-āw-ay* (get.strong-) 'fully recovered' (after an illness; compare *macá-ay* (get.strong-INCH), used to mean 'getting better'); and *kéy-ew-ay* (see-), used in reference to a boy who has been initiated into the Yurupari tradition (i.e., he has entered the stage of seeing the instruments, from which there is no going back).

Other examples include (51), which was uttered in response to my question of why a dog had died; it was starving, and had entered the stage of being on the edge of death, with no recovery expected. The same thing is sometimes said of people who are very old or terminally ill, once they reach the stage of being bed-ridden. Likewise, example (52) was in reference to a small child who had reached the stage of having learned to walk. Further examples are given in (53–55).

(51) *tih ná?-āw-ay*  
3sg lose.consciousness-FLR-INCH  
'He was dying.' (cv)

(52) *tih g'et-g'ó?-ow-ay*  
3sg stand-go.about-FLR-INCH  
'She's walking.' (cv)

(53) *pěd tēh?íp ni-túk-uw-áy = ni? = cud = mah*  
Ped child.father be-want-FLR-INCH=EMPH.CO=INFR=REP  
'It looks like Ped (has come to the stage of) wanting (i.e., being ready for) a husband, they said.' (cv)

(54) *tih ?əg-nih tæ = yi?, wi?wá?-áy = mah...* *tih*  
3sg drink-NEG YET=TEL tremble-DYNM=REP 3sg  
'When he hasn't drunk yet, they say he trembles... once he starts drinking, he's fine, they say, that one!' (cv)

*?əg-əw-ay, nāw cu?-yá?-i-w-ay = mah-áh tih-íp !*  
drink-FLR-INCH good grab-TEL-FLR-INCH=REP-FOC 3sg-DEP  
'When he hasn't drunk yet, they say he trembles... once he starts drinking, he's fine, they say, that one!' (cv)

volved. Similarly, *pā-ay* (NEG:EX-INCH) means 'all gone, none left', whereas *pā* means 'none, does not exist'. A further example is given in (47).

(47) *g'í-ay ?ín-āh*  
hot-INCH 1pl-DECL  
'We're about to get hot.' / 'It's getting hot on us.' (cv)

Inchoative *-ay* has the same function with other kinds of predicates as well, such as the adverbial expression *máh = yi?* (near=TEL) 'close by':

(48) *?ín máh = yi?-ay*  
1pl near=TEL-INCH  
'We're getting close; nearly there.' (cv)

In what is probably a related function, Inchoative *-ay* follows the Directional marker *-an* (resulting in the form *-an-ay* [an-day]), to form a temporal adverbial in a dependent clause (see §18.2.6.2):

(49) *tih hɔp-hí-an-ay = mah j'am, núp pót'ah...*  
3sg dry.up-descend-DIR-INCH=REP DST.CNTR this upriver  
*tu-d'ó?-kad-pá-áy = mah*  
go.down-take-pass-go.upstream-DYNM=REP  
'As it (the water) went down, there upriver... he pushed (a fish-trap) upstream.' (txt)

A distinct – but undoubtedly related – function of Inchoative *-ay* is its use as a marker of Inchoative focus, especially with nominal arguments (see §7.1.1), as in (50). This can perhaps be compared with the use of 'now' with nominals in English as a marker of contrastive topic or focus.

(50) *híd-ăn tih mēh-āw-ay... híd = ?ín-ay*  
3pl-OBJ 3sg kill-FLR-INCH 3pl=mother-INCH  
'She beat them, their mother (did).' (txt)

A very common use of Inchoative *-ay* involves its combination with the 'Filler' syllable *-Vw-*. While the Filler syllable has a range of functions in Hup, and in general appears to be itself semantically empty (see §15.2.4), its combination with the Inchoative suffix results in an inchoative form (*-Vw-ay*) with marginally distinct semantics from *-ay*. The primary function of this form is to