

Chapter II-7

New words and an introduction to half-transitive

- Once again the purpose of the present chapter is to improve the knowledge you already have only expand it with new lexical material. You will, though, have to learn the brand new concept of half-transitive which is a phenomenon you will run into more and more with increased complexity in your language skills.

New words

<i>akisussaassuseq</i> (akisussaassu(t)siq)	a responsibility
<i>allagaq</i> (alla(k)gaq)	a letter
<i>allakkeri-</i>	to handle mail
<i>assorsuaq</i>	very much (assut+SUAQ)
<i>eqqarsaatigi-</i> (iqqarsaatigə)	to think of it
<i>eqqumiip-</i>	to be strange
<i>ilagi-</i> (ilagə)	to be with him
<i>ilinniartitaaneq/ ilinniartitaanerup</i>	an education
<i>inequnar-</i>	to be cute
<i>ingerlap-</i> (iqirlatə)	to handle it/ to work with it
<i>inuuiik/ inuuiup</i>	a birthday
<i>isumaqatigiissutigi-</i> (isumaqatigiissutigə)	to agree on smt
<i>januaari</i>	January
<i>maaji</i>	May
<i>malip-</i>	to follow him
<i>meeqqerivik/ meeqqeriviup</i>	a kindergarden
<i>naleqartitaq</i>	a value, a norm
<i>nassuiar-</i>	to explain it
<i>nujaq</i> (nutsaq)	a hair
<i>nutaaq</i>	a new
<i>paari-</i> (paarə)	to take care of it
<i>pilersaarut</i> (pilirsaarutə)	a plan
<i>pingaar-</i>	to be important
<i>pisimasoq</i>	a happening
<i>poortugaq</i> (puurtug(k)aq)	a parcel
<i>*qulə</i>	POSSESSOR's above-room
<i>sakkutooq</i>	a soldier
<i>sakkutooqarfik/ sakkutooqarfiup</i>	a base
<i>takisooq</i>	a long one
<i>tamanna/ tamakku</i>	this/ these (already mentioned)
<i>ulapaar-</i>	to be very busy

Derivational morphemes

N-LIR	to supply him with N
Vb+NIRPAAQ	the N Vb-ing the most
N-SSAQ-U+GALUAQ	N that should have been somebody's
Vb+TIP	to make him Vb
Vb+TUQ=SSAQ=U	an alternative to Vb-SSA , to future Vb
Vb-VIK	time or place for Vb-ing

Endings

N{±ata}	noun in relative Sg "owned" by 3.Sg: "his one's"
N{±ata}	noun in relative Sg "owned" by 3.Pl: "their one's"
N{±it}	noun in absolutive Pl. "owned" by 3.Pl: "their more than one"
N{-nni}	noun owned by 1.Sg in locative case: "in my N"
Vb{+va}	verb in interrogative mood 3.Sg: "he?"

Lytte/ forstå/ gentage stykke II-7

Tutsiuteqqippunga.

Immikkoortumi 6-imi oqaluttuarivara Pituffimmi qaammatini marlunni sulissallunga. Aasaq 1970 Pituffimmi immikkut ittuuvoq KGH-p speditørianut ulapaarfiulluni. Taanna allanik suliassarpassuaqarluni ulapippallaarmat uanga taassuma suliassaagalui paarisussaavakka. Suliassama tamakku ilagivaat Pituffimmi sakkutuujunngitsunut allakkerisarneq Qaanaamullu allakkat poortukkallu ingerlateqqinnissaat.

Isumaqatigiissutigineqaralarpoq uanga maajimi Pituffimmut aallassasunga nutaanili pilersaaruteqalermat januaarimili Nuummuk allakkerisarnermik ilinniartortinneqaaqpunga maajimilu pilersaarutit malillugit Pituffimmukarlunga.

21-liillunga inuinni Pituffimmut tikippunga.

Uanga taamani "blomsterbørn"-it inuunerannik inuuneqarlunga inuuvunga: Takisuumik nujaqarpunga, ilinniartitaaneq akisussaassuserlu eqqarsaatigivallaanngilakka asorsuarli fiistertarlunga nipilersortarlungalu.

Sakkutooqarfinni inuuneq naleqartitallu taamaanngillat. Uanga isumaga malillugu sakkutooqarfiit eqqumiittartut Pituffillu sakkutooqarfinnit allanit immaqa eqqumiinnerulluni. Inui sakkutuujupput Amerikamiut sakkutuunulluunniit sulisut qallunaat. Taamani kalaaleqanngilaq. Pingaarnarpaarluk: Angutaannaavugut. Arnartaqanngivippugut. Pituffimmi inuunera tassa immaqa inuunerma ilaa eqqumiinnerpaaq.

Qulaani allappunga aasaq taanna Pituffimmi immikkut ittunik pisimasoqartoq. Immikkoortoq 8-mi pisimasut tamakku nassuiarniassavakka.

Half-transitive - a new concept

You most likely wonder about the phrase *21-liillunga inuinni* 'on my 21st birthday'. Element by element the phrase translates as: 'me-supplying-with-21 on-my-birthday' which admittedly is a pretty corny translation. It is obviously better for you to learn the idiom that number-LII means 'turn <number> years'.

The morpheme N-LIR means 'to supply it with N'. N-LIR is transitive and therefore needs an object to be used. And remember that this automatically includes the concept of definiteness as do all transitive constructions in Greenlandic. *allagartaq* means 'a label' so *poortugaq allagartalerpaa* means 'He put a label on THE parcel' and *atorfik inuttalerpaat* 'they manned THE position' to give a few examples on the use of N-LIR.

But we very often have no intention of focusing on the object rather the action itself. Or - to put it technically - we need an indefinite object. Therefore, we often need some kind of machinery that will erase transitivity giving us the possibility to use the transitive verbs semantics without forcing us to include a definite object.

When I say 'I teach the students' 'the students' is the definite object. Such a sentence translates easily into *ilinniarnertuut ilinniartittarpakka*.

The object is on the contrary absolutely indefinite in words like 'I teach at the university' not to mention 'I am a teacher'. *ilinniartip-* is a transitive verb thus implying definite objects. The transitive stem is simply useless in such contexts.

This is just what half-transitive does for us. It so to say erases transitivity and creates

intransitive verbs out of transitive stems allowing us to use transitive semantics without definiteness and allowing us to make verbal nouns also from stems that basically are transitive.

ilinniartip- + HTR becomes *ilinniartitsi-*. On the basis of this newly formed stem we can go on making words like 'a teacher' /*ilinniartip*+HTR+TUQ/ *ilinniartitsisoq* or 'I teach only adults' *inersimasuinnarnik ilinniartitsivunga*.

Here is another example: *aningaasat* (plural of *aningaasaq*) means 'money'. Hence *aningaasalerparput* means we-money-provided-him 'we gave him money' with the object being definite. Now, how can we form words meaning 'to grant support' or nouns like 'a grant' where we do not even want to mention the receiver. The answer is once again half-transitive: *aningaasaq*-LIR-HTR \Rightarrow *aningaasalii-* 'to grant money' and *aningaasaq*-LIR-HTR-UT \emptyset \Rightarrow *aningaasaliissut* 'a grant'.

Half-transitive form

HTR has pretty many different shapes according to the conjugational class of the verb in question. Here you get the most frequent ones:

HTR \Rightarrow -tsi after Vb \pm TIP: *ilinniartippara* - *ilinniartitsivunga*

HTR \Rightarrow -i after -r: *aningaasalerparput* - *aningaasaliivugut*

HTR \Rightarrow +nnip after most vowel-stems: *soqutigivara* - *soqutiginnippunga* and *asavara* - *asannippunga*

A speciality

The ending N{ \pm it} that is put on nouns in absolutive plural "owned" by 3.Pl is a little deviating. The final -t is not included after stems in -u and -i. 'Their houses' are accordingly *illu-it* \Rightarrow *illui* and 'their days' *ulloq-it* \Rightarrow *ullui*. This is true also in other cases as in *illuinut* 'to their houses' and *ulluini* 'in their days'.

But after -a and \emptyset the ending is not syncopated giving us 'some of them' and 'from some of them' as *ila-it* \Rightarrow *ilaat* and *ila-it*+nit \Rightarrow *ilaannit* and 'their assistants' as *ikiurt \emptyset -it* \Rightarrow *ikiortaat*.