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SHIWILU

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Shiwilu, also known as Jebero (ISO jeb), is a critically endangered Kawapanan language spoken in the District of Jeberos, in northeastern Peru. Kawapanan languages exhibit a “mixed” areal profile, in that they combine structural properties typical of Western Amazonian languages with features specifically associated to the Central Andean families Quechuan and Aymaran (Valenzuela 2015). On June 23, 2016, Shiwilu became the first Peruvian language to be declared National Cultural Heritage (Resolución Viceministerial N° 073-2016-VMPCIC-MC). The present text was delivered orally in 2013 by one of the youngest native speakers, Mr. Fidel Lomas Chota, who was 59 years old at the time. He also helped transcribe and translate the story. The text belongs to a series of stories about ancient times when animals were people. These often deal with why things turned out the way they are today.

(1) Senñula’’, ipa’la wintetchen ma’malek ipa’, ma’i, pekkuala

[madulek] . . . u’chimu llinsetcha a’ñapalli.

madam now tell–fut.1sg>2sg what=reas dub

ma’i pekkuala [madu=lek] u’čimu

uh iguana tortoise=lek beautiful

λ.inser=sha a’–ñi–apa–λi.

design=dim caus–exist–cont–non.fut:3sg>3sg

‘Madam, I will now tell you why perhaps the iguana has such
beautiful fine designs.’

(2) Madu ma’malek ipa’ u’nei llinersa’ a’ñapalli.

madu ma’=malek ipa’ u’nei λ.inser=sa’

tortoise what=reas dub very.large design=dl

a’–ñi–apa–λı

caus–exist–cont–non.fut:3sg>3sg

‘And why the tortoise only has such large ugly designs.’

1 The speaker mistakenly added madulek ‘and the tortoise’.
Long time ago, Iguana and Tortoise were people, they were two very beautiful girls.

One day, they said, “Let’s go to the dance!”

“Alright,” they agreed.

“But in order to go to the dance one should get (the body) designed,” they said.

“Alright, let’s design each other’s body.”

Then, they began to paint each other’s body.

Iguana was painted first.
Iguana said, “I want this little design” and showed it to Tortoise.

Tortoise, then, designed her (Iguana’s) body beautifully.

Once she finished painting her, Tortoise said, “Design my body too!”

Designing her (own) arm, Tortoise showed her (Iguana, what kind of designs she wanted to have done).

“I want you to paint this design (on my body),” said Tortoise.
“Mutchun,” tulli ma’i Pekkualal.
mutčun tu–λi ma’i pekkuala
alright say—NON.FUT:3SG uh iguana
‘“Alright,” said Iguana.’

Pekkuala tenmiamsu’lli Ilinsera’su’ Madu.
pekkuala tenmiamsu’–λi Ilinser–a’su’ madu
iguana begin—NON.FUT:3SG>3SG design—NMLZ:3SG>3SG tortoise
‘Iguana began to design Tortoise’s body.’

Piteknenkekla ma’i tenmiamsu’lili.
pitek=nen=kekla ma’i tenmiamsu’–λi
back=POS:3SG=ABL uh begin—NON.FUT:3SG>3SG
‘She began (painting) on her back.’

Madu lli’i’ni ma’pu’si’pa’ Ilinserapallina’.
madu λi’–i’n–λi ma’–pu’=sa’=ipa’
tortoise see—NEG—NON.FUT:3SG>3SG what—SIML=DL=DUB
linser–apa–λina’
design—CONT—NON.FUT:3PL>3SG
‘Tortoise could not see what kind of designs she was getting.’

Ipa’linchi Ilinseran ma’i Pekkualaler itulli, “Ipa’ ma’i Ilinserellan.
Enchu pistak pa’a.”
ipa’la=inči Ilinser–an ma’i pekkualal=ler
now=indeed design—PTC:3SG>3SG uh iguana=A
itu–λi ipa’ ma’i Ilinser–λen
tell—NON.FUT:3SG>3SG already uh design—NON.FUT:1SG>2SG
enču pistak=k pa’–a
let’s.go dance=LOC go—IMP:1SG.INCL
‘After painting her (Tortoise), Iguana told her, “I have designed
your body already. Let’s go to the dance!”’

“Pa’a” itulli.
pa’–a itu–λi
go—IMP:1SG.INCL tell—NON.FUT:3SG>3SG
‘“Let’s go!” (Tortoise) answered her.’

Pistak pa’lлина’ ipa’linchi katu’daper.
pista=k pa’–λina’ ipa’la=inči katu’=daper
dance=LOC go—NON.FUT:3PL now=indeed two=COL
‘And thus the two of them went to the dance.’
(22) Pistak da’anna’ ipa’linchi lansa’llina’. Llansa’llina’.

pista=k da’–anna’ ipa’la=inči lansa’–λ.ina’
dance=LOC enter–PTC.3PL>3SG now=indeed dance–NON.FUT:3PL

lan sausage’–λ.ina’
dance–NON.FUT:3PL

‘They entered the dance and danced, indeed. They danced.’

(23) Ma’i Madu lli’anna’ llinsenñenmalek lumellina’.

ma’i madu λi’–anna’

uh tortoise see–PTC:3PL>3SG

λ.inser=nen=malek lumex=–λina’
design=POSS.3SG=REAS laugh.at–NON.FUT:3PL>3SG

‘Upon seeing Tortoise, (the people) laughed at her because of her designs.’

(24) Nana ŋinchichi’ñi ma’malek ipa’ lumerapallina’.

nana ŋinči–tu–i’n–λi ma’=malek

3SG know–VM–NEG–NON.FUT:3SG>3SG what=REAS

ipa’ lumer–apa–λ.ina’

DUB laugh.at–CONT–NON.FUT:3PL>3SG

‘She (Tortoise) did not understand why they were laughing at her.’

(25) “¿Ma’malek a’ta’ lumerllinerku ten?” tulli Madu.

ma’=malek a’ta’ lumer–λinerku

what=REAS concerned.INT laugh.at–NON.FUT:3PL>1SG

ten tu–λi madu

SORROW.FEM say–NON.FUT:3SG tortoise

‘“Why on earth are they laughing at me?” asked Tortoise.’

(26) Ali’laler itulli “Llinserpenmalek lumerapallinerken.”

ali’la=ler itu–λi λ.inser=pen=malek

other=A tell–NON.FUT:3SG>3SG design=POSS:2SG=REAS

lumer–apa–λinerken

laugh.at–CONT–NON.FUT:3PL>2SG

‘Then someone told her “They are laughing at you because of your designs.”’

(27) Nanek tekkinchi ŋinchitulli ma’I . . . u’chimu inpu’ ma’I . . .

llinsenñen.

nanek tekkinči ŋinči–tu–λi ma’i there truly know–VM–NON.FUT:3SG>3SG uh

u’čimu=inpu’ ma’i λ.inser=nen

beautiful=NEG uh design=POSS:3SG

‘At that moment she learned, in fact, that her designs were ugly.’
(28) Nanamalek ipa’lalek ekpa’palli Madu u’nei llinsetcheka’,
    Pekkualaleral ma’i llinsera’su’.
    nana=malek  ipa’la=walek  ek–pa’–apa–λi
    that=REAS  now=LIM  ASSOC–go–CONT–NON.FUT:3SG>3SG
    madu  u’nei  λinser–tek=sa’
tortoise  very.large  design=DEPREC=DL
    pekkuala=ler  ma’i  λinser–a’su’
    iguana=A  uh  design–NMLZ:3SG>3SG

‘In this way, even today, Tortoise bears the large, ugly designs that
Iguana painted on her.’

(29) [Pekkualaleral] (Maduler) u’chimusha llinselli.
    pekkuala=ler  madu=ler  u’čimu=sha
    iguana=A  tortoise=A  pretty=DIS
    λinser–λi
    design–NON.FUT:3SG>3SG

‘Tortoise designed it (Iguana’s body) beautifully.’ 2

(30) Nanamalek nana ipa’lalek llinsetchanen a’ñapalli u’chimusha.
    nana=malek  nana  ipa’la=walek  λinser=sha=en
    that=REAS  that  now=LIM  design=DIS=POSS:3SG
    a’–ñi–apa–λi  u’čimu=sha
    CAUS–EXIST–CONT–NON.FUT:3SG>3SG  beautiful=DIS

‘Therefore, even today she has fine, beautiful designs.’

(31) Nu’su’ llia’lli ipa’lalek Madu.
    nu’–su’  λia’–lli  ipa’la=walek  madu
    be.SO–ADVR  remain–NON.FUT:3SG  now=LIM  tortoise

‘Tortoise remains like that even today.’

(32) Nu’su’ llia’lli Pekkuala ipa’lalek.
    nu’–su’  λia’–λi  pekkuala  ipa’la=walek
    be.SO–ADVR  remain–NON.FUT:3SG  iguana  now=LIM

‘Iguana remains like that even today.’

(33) Enpi’walek ipa’ nana llinser ekpetchuna’.
    enpi’=walek  ipa’  nana  λinser  ek–pa’–etčuna’
    when=LIM  DUB  that  design  ASSOC–go–FUT:3PL>3SG

‘Their bodies might bear these designs forever.’

(34) Yuspeinek’etčun, senñula’.
    yuspeinek’etčun  senñula’
thank.you  madam

‘Thank you, madam.’

2 The speaker mistakenly said Pekkualaler ‘Iguana’ where he should have said Maduler
‘Tortoise’.