Archived Kaw Words

ánmanche 'next' Ex: Hánba wakándagi ánmanche shídohinga wíta agítonbeci ble ta minkhé. 'I will go to see my son next week.'

onyónha 'almost, nearly, close' Ex: Míonba onyónha dázhabe égobe ao. 'The moon is nearly round (full).'

sagí 'hard, firm, tight, tough, strong, muscular Ex: Ta khe sagí akhá. 'That meat is tough.'

inyi 'end, conclusion' Ex: Ínyi angáhibe ao. 'We have reached the end.'

xáya 'back to the beginning, starting point' *Ex:* Tánman yinkhé ble moshcé wáli dan, xáya alín e. 'I walked to town but it was too hot and I turned around and came home.' (female speaking)

lezáza 'striped here and there, many stripes' *Ex:* Hiⁿ zíhi, máⁿge lezáza, sháshabe. 'Its hair is yellow, breast is striped, black here and there.' (Description of a wildcat, perhaps a lynx.)

washkán (gághe) 'try, do one's best, make an effort' Ex: Washkán angághabe. 'We tried our best.'

nanstáje 'step lightly, quietly' Ex: Ta abá nanstástadabe. 'That deer stepped along lightly, quietly.'

íeshtan 'great talker, one who likes to talk' Ex: Íeshtan wáli hninkhé. 'You talk too much.'

wabín 'blood, to bleed' Ex: Nanbé wítakha wabín akhá. 'My finger (hand) is bleeding.'

céga 'new, first time, again' *Ex:* Céga Níkazhuje é-hnan íyabe ao. 'They were the first Indians that they had seen in that region.'

zhélan 'bake' Ex: Wak'ó abá wabóski zhélan abá. 'That woman is baking bread.'

xpéga 'weak, weakened' Ex: Anxpéga minkhé. 'I'm feeling poorly (while or after being sick).'

nánkale 'saddle' Ex: Shónge tánga nánkale záni gághabe ao. '...and put the saddles on the horses.'

blaⁿ 'smell, emit an odor' Ex: Mánga blan pízhi akhá. 'Skunks smell bad.

ne 'have an ache or pain, hurt' Ex: Wéxli anné minkhé. 'I have a headache.'

gakóge 'hit, beat (as a drum)' Ex: Ákoge. 'I beat on that (drum, etc.)'

nanóⁿ**ba** 'pipe (for smoking)' *Ex:* Gayó gá nanóⁿba yékhe yashódaba daⁿ, wadá abá eyaó. 'And then, when he smoked this pipe, he used to make petitions.'

yushúbe 'open (as a door or sacred bundle)' *Ex:* Cizhébe hnúshuwe óha, tajésage achí ta akhá. 'If you open the door the wind will come in.'

tabé 'ball' Ex: Tabé khe anánsta ta minkhé. 'I will kick the ball.'

wekoje[**we-ko-ce**] *n* mile *Ex*: Wekoce sataⁿ hi oyaha Shayani gahige wataⁿga khe ts'eyabe ao. *After they had gone five miles, the principal Cheyenne chief was killed.*

wagághe 'credit' Ex: Wagághe hnúze? 'Did you get credit?'

wáxpele 'prayer, vow to the sun' *Ex*: Wáxpele gáshoⁿ gághabe che, háⁿiⁿ chéji. 'They performed the ceremony of wáxpele at night.'

ibalu 'strip, cut off (with an instrument)' *Ex:* Hába khe máⁿhiⁿ íbalu ao. 'Cut the corn off (the cob) with a knife.'

huyoⁿ [hu-yoⁿ] to bind up, to wrap up *Ex*: Gayo waxobe huyoⁿbe ta akha ao. And they were about to wrap up the sacred objects which they were to take.

owé 'lunch, snack, food carried in bags for travel' *Ex:* Owé oyáshtabe. 'I saved you some of my lunch.' Originally referred to corn and squashes carried in bags by warriors.

páze 'evening, late afternoon' *Ex:* Táⁿmaⁿ yiⁿkhéji páze daⁿ, ble hnaⁿ. 'I always go to town in the evening.'

nángheska 'wise, to be wise' (lit. 'ice-clear') Ex: Nángheska wálibe ao. 'She is very wise.'

honbéxci 'moccasins' (lit. 'real shoes') Ex: Honbéxci pághe ta minkhé. 'l'm going to make moccasins.'

ojé 'look for' Ex: Manyín abá ojé abá. 'He's walking (around) looking for it.'

shón**sho**nwe 'always'_*Ex*: Ejíkhan zhánminje khe níka zhúje ayín shonshónwabe ao. 'From that time, the Indians have always had bows.'

óshkaⁿ 'act' 'deed' 'custom' *Ex:* Máⁿhiⁿ Táⁿga óshkaⁿ itá aⁿgághabe ao. 'We have adopted the ways of the Americans.' Máⁿhiⁿ Táⁿga = 'Big Knife' American. ao = male declarative; indicates that a man is speaking.

shkáje 'play (game)' *Ex:* Tanaⁿk'á aⁿyáⁿshkaje ta che. 'Let's play cards. **xlúzhi** 'slow' *Ex:* Sínjesta abá xlúzhi manyín abá. 'The possum walks slowly.' (sínje-sta lit. 'tail bare/bald' = possum)

wayúta 'work' Ex:: Wayúta huwáali ablín minkhé. 'I have a lot of work to do.'

mínonba 'sun' (or 'moon') Ex: Andákaje ao, mínonba yinkhé. 'The sun is hot (or warm) on me.'

jégheyin 'drum' *Ex*: Gashóⁿ dodáⁿ alíbe daⁿ, jégheyiⁿ gághe-hnaⁿbe skaⁿ. 'When they returned from war, they used to make drums.'

skan 'melt' (ice, snow, etc.) Ex: Ni akhá skánbe ao. 'The water has melted (after being frozen).

abata 'fence' - Ex: Céska abá batáyabe khe ao, ábata khe. Oxen have pushed the fence apart.

tajé 'wind' - Ex: Hánbaye tajé huwáli akhá. 'Today it's very windy.'

hníce 'be cold' (person or animal) - Ex: Nonbe akhá, wíta akhá hníce akhá. 'My hands are cold.'

mokán sábe 'coffee' (lit. 'black medicine') - Ex: Mokán sábe (akhá) dákaje akhá. 'The coffee's hot.'

wayáje 'word' - *Ex*: Pánka wayáje mínxci bláje minkhé dan, Kaanze égo Kaánze wayáje che hnáje kónbla minkhé. 'When I pronounce a Ponca word, I would like you to pronounce (or say) the corresponding Kanza word.

bahéshta 'hill' - Ex: Bahéshta akhá scéje akhá. 'That (round) hill is high.'

yuzhá 'wash something' - *Ex:* Dodáⁿ níkashiⁿga zaní ni k'úbe go, gagó zaní yuzhábe ao. 'They gave water to all the warriors, who (then) washed'

binánge 'car' - Ex: Binánge wíta akhá zhúje akhá. 'My car is red.'

ba: (noun) snow. - Ex. Háⁿbaye bahúye. Today it's snowing.