Semantic and pragmatic functions in Plains Cree syntax
Wolvengrey, A.E.

Citation for published version (APA):

General rights
It is not permitted to download or to forward/distribute the text or part of it without the consent of the author(s) and/or copyright holder(s), other than for strictly personal, individual use, unless the work is under an open content license (like Creative Commons).

Disclaimer/Complaints regulations
If you believe that digital publication of certain material infringes any of your rights or (privacy) interests, please let the Library know, stating your reasons. In case of a legitimate complaint, the Library will make the material inaccessible and/or remove it from the website. Please Ask the Library: http://uba.uva.nl/en/contact, or a letter to: Library of the University of Amsterdam, Secretariat, Singel 425, 1012 WP Amsterdam, The Netherlands. You will be contacted as soon as possible.
Acknowledgements

Professor J.R.R. Tolkien is my father in Linguistics. He is the reason I love language and do what I do. He is the reason I am a linguist. As in all things, though, we are shaped by more than one person and, if we are fortunate, more than one parent.

Where father Tolkien left off, my Cree mother, Freda Ahenakew took over. *mistahi kikihcēyimitin, nēkā! kisākihitin*. Freda gave me a real love of the Cree language and she is why I am a “Cree linguist”. In part, this is written for *nikāwīs* to say thank you for guiding me here.

To my “real” parents, my late mother, Dorothy, and my late father, Keith Thue, who adopted and raised me and gave me a better home than I could ever have hoped for, I can never express my full love and gratitude, nor my deep regret at my inability to complete this before their passing. My father was the kindest, most wonderful man who ever lived. I love you, Dad. My mother, who had to live in the shadow of her children's adoration of their father, shone in her own right. I love you, Mom.

Before turning to my professional influences and my most important personal thanks, I will risk what some will feel to be utterly frivolous acknowledgements but which I find to be absolutely vital distractions. Thank you to KISS, Bob Dylan, Led Zeppelin, Joe Satriani and Steve Vai; the Arsenal and Celtic Football Clubs and the Dutch National Soccer team; and the imaginations of Douglas Adams, Guy Gavriel Kay, Tad Williams, Wendy Pini, Peter Jackson, and George Lucas.

From the beginning of my formal (or better yet, functional) training in Linguistics, I have had the privilege of teachers who have placed the languages they study ahead of the theories which serve to account for them. I would particularly like to acknowledge Dr. Mary Marino of the University of Saskatchewan and Dr. H.C. Wolfart of the University of Manitoba who were my undergraduate and graduate advisors at these institutions. The team of H.C. Wolfart and Freda Ahenakew have been an inspiration in all I do. As Freda gave me a love of the Cree language, Chris Wolfart deepened and broadened that appreciation from Cree to the Algonquian family. In this vein I must personally thank Dr. David H. Pentland and Dr. John D. Nichols as well, and I have gained immensely from the work of many other Algonquianists, among whom I am most grateful to Amy Dahlstrom, Matthew Dryer and, most recently, Clare Cook and Jeff Mühlbauer. I am
also grateful to Dr. Lorna MacDonald and Dr. Richard Carter for adding to Dr. Marino’s early training in syntax and recognizing Chomsky as one among many, and not necessarily The One.

Upon leaving the University of Manitoba, I had the great fortune to not only begin my professional career but continue my training as well with the tremendous colleagues I gained when I joined the Saskatchewan Indian Federated College (SIFC; now the First Nations University of Canada (FNUniv)). In the Department of Indian Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics, I have been able to work with both theoretical and applied linguistics, linguists and language teachers both, not to mention some amazing students. I am extremely grateful for the guidance, friendship, and encouragement of Dr. Jan van Eijk and Dr. Brent Galloway who I joined in what remains the entirely too small Linguistics program. Since Brent’s retirement, I’ve also had the privilege of working with Dr. Olga Lovick and would like to return her encouragement of my work with an equal measure for her Athapaskan studies. To my Cree and Saulteaux colleagues and students, I will never be able to properly express my gratitude, even in the right languages. To my Saulteaux colleagues, Margaret Cote, Eliza Smith, Stella Ketchemonia, and Lynn Cote: mīkwēc. To my Cree colleagues and students, all of whom have helped me with my all-too-slowly growing understanding of the language: kinanāskomitināwāw. In addition to one for whom I reserve my most special thanks, I would in particular like to express my gratitude to the late Dr. Ahab Spence, to my colleagues, past and present, including Solomon Ratt, Doreen Oakes, Darren Okemaysim, Donna Paskemin, and Sheila Kennedy, and to the numerous students, all of whom cannot be named here, but especially Pauline Busch, Rena Scribe, Eileen Thomas, Delvin Stanley, Johnny Swiftewolfe, Guy Albert, Neil Sapp, Bill Cook, and Jeff Sanderson. The last four gentlemen named, along with Solomon Ratt, Doreen Oakes and Sheila Kennedy, were particularly helpful in assessing the grammaticality and interpretation of Cree examples cited in the current work or others underlying them.

In addition to my colleagues and students at SIFC/FNUniv, I have also benefitted greatly through my participation in the Saskatchewan Cree Language Retention Committee with a tremendously dedicated group of Cree language professionals from throughout the province, including nimisak Dolores Sand and Brenda Ahenakew, and Minnie McKenzie, Edie Hyggen, Barbara Mcleod, Judy Bear, Elizabeth Lachance, Rita Lowenburg, Josie Searson, Grace Cook, Kevin Lewis, Leda Corrigal and Laura Burnouf.

The journey on the road towards a functional analysis of Cree word order would not have been complete without a rather unexpected but welcome
detour out of Cree country, across the water, to the Netherlands. I am exceptionally grateful to Professor Doctor Kees Hengeveld for his belief in the project and all of his encouragement and aid in ensuring that I would finally finish (or even really begin) the writing. In the end, this was only made possible through an extremely productive and enjoyable four-month research leave at the University of Amsterdam, facilitated by Kees, and my dear friend, Gerry Wanders (“I love you to death”). Even more unexpected and just as welcome was the number of wonderful new colleagues and friends who contributed to that memorable stay in Amsterdam. It was a pleasure and a privilege to interact with all the members of the ALC, and to participate in the Functional Discourse Grammar Research Group with Kees, Gerry, Evelien Keizer, Hella Olbertz, Wim Honselaar, Marize Dell’Aglio Hattner, Daniel (“Keeper of the Map”) García Velasco, Sterre Leufkens, Marlou van Rijn, Lucia Contreras García, Magaly Grandez Avila, and our esteemed Sith Guardian of the Phonological Level, Gareth O’Neill.

Finally, I return to the closest members of my family to express my deepest thanks and love, and to thank the Creator for blessing me with them. To the Thues (my brother Marlow, sister-in-law Tracey, and nieces Sara and Katie), the Remendas (my sister Audra, brother-in-law Peter, and niece Natasha), the Carteris (nōsisimak Sophie and Paz, nicāpānisak Meika and Giuseppe), the Murrays (Debra and Lawrence), my brother-in-law Mike Littlechief, and my dear uncle Ken Thue, thank you for all your love and encouragement.

To my daughter, Crystal, I am so proud of you. I love you and wish all the best in life for you and Mike (Lysohirka), and my grandson Dawson, and the one on the way.

To my son, Elessar – for all the distractions which so delayed the completion of this work: soccer and music and life – it has all been worth it. I love you very much and will support you in all that you do. sōhkēyimo! āhkamēyimo!

Most important of all, I give the greatest part of my love and gratitude to my colleague, partner, best friend, soulmate and wife, Dr. Jean Okimāsis. Without your knowledge, patience, encouragement and love, none of this would be remotely possible. You represent so much that is good in my life, and most of what may be good in this work, having helped me to learn in spite of my natural tendency to err. I can never begin to tell you all that you mean to me. ā, wāsēyāwiskwēw, mētoni mistahi kisawēyimitin, anohc ēkwa tahkinē.

Arok Wolvengrey

ihkopīwi-pīsim, 2010