

Imperatives in Kanien'kéha

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Speech acts and clause types

- **Speech act:** an utterance that is defined by the intention of the speaker and its effect on the listener
- **Clause type:** the syntactic category of a clause, which typically pairs with a specific speech act

Clause Type	Speech Act	Function
Declarative	To assert	Statement
Interrogative	To ask	Question
Imperative	To command	Directive

Major clause types in English

- Declarative: John drinks water.
- Interrogative: Does John drink water?
- Imperative: Drink water!

Major clause types in Kanien'kéha

- Declarative:
Ohné:kanos rahnekíhrha ne John.
ohnekanos ra-hnekihr-ha ne John
water MsgA-drink-HAB ne John
'John drinks water.'
- Interrogative:
Ohné:kanos ken rahnekíhrha ne John?
ohnekanos ken ra-hnekihr-ha ne John
water Q MsgA-drink-HAB ne John
'Does John drink water?'
- Imperative:
Ohnekanos shnekì:ra!

ohnekanos s-hnekihra
water 2sg-drink
'Drink water!'

OR IS IT?

Ne'k ohné:kanos ra-hnekì:ra!
ne'k ohnekanos ra-hnekihra
just water MsgA-drink
'He needs to drink water! / Let him drink water!'

→ Does Kanien'kéha have imperatives? Or what are these directives???

The imperative in Kanien'kéha

- Bare verb form, remove the aspect prefix & mood suffix
- Remove word-final epenthetic vowels

Sátstha.	í:satst!
s-atst-ha	i-s-atst
1sgA-use-HAB	EPEN-1sgA-use
'You use it.'	'Use it!'

- Require a pronominal prefix & maintain the same agent/patient form that the verb typically uses in punctual form
 - Can be used with any of the pronouns

Hao' tewátswa't	Tó:	katkáhtho
hao' tew-atswa't	to	k-atkahtho
Alright 1pl.Incl-play-CAUS	Give.me	1sgA-look
'Alright let's all play!'		'Let me look.'

- Can't use with future, optative, or factual (no mood).
- Can be used in yes/no questions

Kiahtén:ti ken?
ki-ahtenti ken
2plA-leave Q
'Should we leave?'

- Negative form uses *tóhsa* (might be an embedded negation marker - used with optative in some contexts)

Tóhsa tsiachtén:ti
 tohsa tsi-ahtenti
 don't 2sgA-leave
 'Don't leave.'

Common properties of imperatives

- Used for directive speech acts i.e. orders and requests but also invitations, the giving of advice, warnings, wishes, instructions, etc (W.D. Davies 1986)
- Most narrow definition: directed to second-person addressees
 - Kanien'kéha imperatives can occur with any "addressee"
- Special inflectional form of the verb
 - No mood, no aspect
- Suppression of the subject
- Special negative form
 - Kanien'kéha imperatives use standard imperative with non-standard negation
- Can't be true or false
 - 'That's not true' test
 - Kanien'kéha imperatives can be questioned but this doesn't seem to deal with truth or falsity
- Preference for dynamic verb phrases
- Related constructions
 - hortative - first and third person directives; 'let's'
 - optative - third person directions (wish)
 - debitives (obligation)
 - rogative (petition)
 - monitorie (warning)

Potential areas of discussion

- Meaning - what does it mean to "direct" a third person?
 - need, want, wish, warning
 - how to translate into English?
 - Controller theories - the person you're talking to is supposed to be in charge of mankind the third person do the thing: "Maitre d', someone seat

the guests!

Core meaning of an imperative

In an imperative, it is proposed that the addressee bring about an event.

(Potsdam 1998: 215)

- When there's a third person subject, do you use "your" or "his/her"?
- Let-imperatives
 - Is *tó*: ever obligatory?
- Coordinating imperatives
 - do your homework or you're going to fail!
 - do your homework and you'll pass!
- *tohsa* with optative and future
 - Why does this only happen in a limited context?
 - purpose clauses?
- Imperative with questions
 - Is this *ken* used differently?
 - What is the range of meanings that questioning an imperative allows?