The Kiliwa Response to Hispanic Culture

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Kiliwa is an aboriginal language of Baja California, Mexico. Belonging to its own subgroup in the Yuman family, it is presently spoken by a community of less than twenty people.¹

The purpose of this paper is to examine the lexical change that has resulted from prolonged contact of Kiliwa speakers with Spanish since the latter decades of the eighteenth century.

The response of Kiliwa to the European presence has been either the adaptation of native expressions to analogous nominal and verbal concepts in the alien culture or the creation of a new vocabulary to handle the avalanche of foreign cultural patterns. The striking paucity of loanwords or even loan translations calls for an explanation. Such an explanation will be attempted in the concluding section of this discussion.

The earliest contact of any linguistic significance between Kiliwa and Spanish commenced with the establishment of the missions of the Dominican Frontier in northern Baja California. The missions of San Pedro Mártir, Santo Domingo and Santa Catalina each had its share of Kiliwas, although a good number eluded the friars in the remote deserts and mountains where they remained openly hostile to the Spanish incursion of the 1790's.

It is doubtless from this period that the handful of "intimate" loanwords to be discussed below can be traced. It is by now a truism that the earlier a loanword has entered a language, the more thoroughly it will have been integrated into the phonological and grammatical pattern of the host language, in some instances rendering the loan virtually indistinguishable from the native vocabulary.²

The Kiliwa word for 'friar' or 'priest', [paʔiylit] has all the appearances of a native nominal compound /ʔiqaʔ=ʔiyl=liʔ/ consisting of the morphemes: person=head=liʔ. Though the last element remains untranslatable in the modern colloquial, a possible meaning suggests itself as having something to do with the monastic tonsure. However, it behooves the linguist to note the close correspondence of the segments of the Kiliwa [paʔiylit] with the Spanish word for 'friar', fraile. Allowing for the necessary Yumanization of the Spanish initial cluster to [p] and assuming the raising of the final /e/ to [i], a common rule in many Spanish dialects, the resulting pronunciation, [paʔiylit] can easily be folk-etymologized to the current form /paʔiylit/.

The form /t=iʔ=ʔchat/ means both 'to work' and 'a job'. The word for 'shovel' /t=iʔ=ʔchat=uʔ/ is derived from the stem 'to work' by a relativization process to be described below. Both stems are based on a root /ʔchat/ 'to spoon out', thus 'spooning
out' becomes 'shovelling' which then extends to apply to all types of work.3

The above analysis for the synchronic role of the stem 'to work' is fine as far as it goes. However, we must recall that the European concept of 'work' is not exactly congruent with any aboriginal cultural pattern as is evidenced by the frequency with which Spanish words were borrowed in the Yuman languages viz. Diegueño tra·xa·r, Mohave traha·r, Cocopa ?ara·r (< Sp. arar 'to plow').

A missing link between the Kiliwa form /t=iʔ=čhat/ and the transparently Spanish forms above, is provided by the Paipai word /trcač/ 'work'. Here we find the Spanish initial cluster prefixed to a highly distorted root. This does not necessarily argue for the fact that Kiliwa borrowed from Paipai, though this is eminently plausible.

What we find is that two neighboring languages have suspiciously unusual words for a European activity. Paipai is most like Spanish, Kiliwa is more like Paipai than Spanish. The ultimate source for the form in both languages is undoubtedly Spanish; whether borrowed independently or one from the other of the aboriginal languages cannot be determined with certainty. In any event both languages have successfully camouflaged the Spanish origins of 'work'.4

The word for 'duck' is /t=walu xa? k̕aw=pà·t/ (bird water wh=pà·t). Aboriginal faunal vocabulary is typically unanalyzable in Kiliwa, thus it is surprising to find a bird referred to by the complex nominal above. Another curious fact is that the root *pa·t is untranslatable, though implausibly derivable from /pà·/ 'to leave'. The word 'duck' would mean something like 'the bird that leaves on water'. There are two data that make this hypotheses less than acceptable. The first is the fact that ducks are a European importation in this region. More significant however is the phonetic resemblance of the root *pa·t to pato 'duck' in Spanish. It seems quite likely that this hybrid form was created in Kiliwa to more readily accommodate the loanword pato > [pa·t].5

The last two forms to be given, though unanalyzable, are doubtless loanwords: /ʔwaʔ tmscal/ 'sweathouse' (< temescal 'sweathouse'); /xiʔwa·tuʔ/ 'jiguata (plant sp.). The latter is too similar to the Spanish gloss to be native.

In addition to the highly distorted loans just presented above, there is a small number of quite transparently Yumanized Spanish words all having to do with games which would seem to be of aboriginal origin such as: kaffwe·1 < cañuela (a type of dice game), pyo·n < peón 'handgame', ta·b < tabla 'board' (the winning call in the game of cañuela played with flat sticks), te·x < teja 'tile, potsherd' (a game played by pitching potsherds at a hole). The clarity of these loans can be attributed to either recent borrowing or to the context of borrowing. The latter explanation is a more promising direction as there is no evidence for the former.
The game words above were doubtlessly used during visits to non-Kiliwa groups at a time when Spanish had become a lingua franca for inter-tribal contact. Though Kiliwa speakers were frequently bilingual in Paipai, there is no evidence that they ever spoke Diegueño, Cocopa, Yuma or any of the other neighboring languages.

Over the course of time, the use of Spanish in gambling has remained common, even in the United States where few if any Yumans speak Spanish with any degree of fluency. The joyful atmosphere of aboriginal gambling would seem to have eased the naturalization of this segment of Spanish to such a degree that it has become part and parcel of this highly dramatic aboriginal tradition. These Spanish words seem to have lost their feeling of 'foreignness', quite early on, being accepted as a native technical gambling jargon. This would account for the contrast between the gambling terms and the other loanwords discussed earlier in Kiliwa.

It was doubtless during the earliest period of mission contact that it became necessary to extend the semantic range of Kiliwa words to include analogous European nominal and verbal concepts. In these cases the aboriginal referent coexisted with the hispanic referent. Thus the Kiliwa word /?pa?/ 'arrow' came to be applied to 'bullets' as well. Likewise the semantically more complex /?mpu·1/ 'hat, hat basket' came to be applied not only to European hats but also to grain sacks, recalling the aboriginal function of a 'hat basket' as a seed container. Similar pairs follow: t=wa? h=pi? 'winter storage, groceries'; htm 'bow, gun'; htm nay 'club, pistol', cf. htm ha?=ças xwaq 'shotgun' (bow mouth=point two), hâ¿çat 'ground mat', 'saddle blanket'; t?il 'maggots, rice'; k{l?su. 'water jar, bottle'; ?muw ñi?i? 'sheepean skin, blanket'; xna.n 'hunting enclosure, corral, fence'; ?wâ¿i? 'path, road', cf. ?wâ¿a?=x?ali 'paved highway' (road=smooth); ?ña.y 'sun, day, clock'; xa?la? 'moon, month, calendar month', ?mat 'earth, season', 'calendar year'; mwar 'meal, flour'; s?wiy 'acorn gruel, corn gruel'; smi.l 'plant, herbal, modern medicine'; xu?wa? msqha.n 'willow berry, grapes', (cf. xu?wa? msqha.n çha? 'wine' lit. 'grape juice'); q=t=k=pa?q=tay 'healing shaman, doctor'; tkh i·yp 'spirit, devil, goat' (from the horns).

In a few cases the ambiguity created by the adaptation of an aboriginal term to both a European and a native referent was resolved by the displacement of the original meaning by the European significance. This process was concomitant with the creation of a new hybrid term for the aboriginal, non-domesticated analogue. Thus /?xaq/. 'deer' having become 'cow' was replaced by /?xaq piy t=k=yaq/ (cow wilds thing=wh=lies) which then meant 'wild cattle'; similarly /?xaq s?a.w/ once meaning 'fawn' came to mean 'calf', with the original meaning expressed by /?xaq piy t=k=yaq s?a.w/. Other examples are: mx a· piy t=k=yaq 'bajger'; mmi? 'cat', mmi? piy t=k=yaq 'bob cat'; ?muw 'sheep', ?muw piy t=k=yaq 'mtn. sheep'; xpi p 'frijoles', xpi·p piy t=k=yaq 'mormon tea'; xma? 'chicken', xma? piy t=k=yaq 'quail'. 
Shifts similar to those described above for nominals have also taken place in verbs. Many activities having analogues in both aboriginal and hispanicized cultures have been so thoroughly europeanized technologically, that the European sense of the verb has become primary while the aboriginal meaning can only be recovered from textual discourse concerned specifically with aboriginal cultural patterns. A typical example is the verb m=x=-u?=na·y 'to lasso', 'rope' an activity which is clearly post-hispanic. The original meaning however was more closely related to 'hooking', as in the pitahaya harvest in which long poles with hooks at the end were used to dislodge the ripe fruit from the tall cactus. A related modern verb is /ma·t sal q=p=u?=na·y/ 'to marry' ('to link hands')

Adjectives which are indistinguishable from verbs as predicates have been affected by the same general process, witness the shift in meaning of /t=i=pa·y/ from 'alive' to 'smart, clever' under the influence of Spanish vivo 'alive, clever', other examples follow: ?lpa· 'cost, costly', ?lpa· mat 'inexpensive', ?lpa· h-u·y 'to pay',6 phit mat 'no problem, don't worry' (lit. flatus not < Mex. Slang no hay pedo), čxpa· 'to straddle', 'reach summit' > 'to mount a horse', x?pan 'flabby' > 'lazy' (< Mex. Slang flojo 'loose, lazy'), t=h=pa· 'place rnd. obj.' > 'to plant', ?mphú 'be cavity' > 'container' as in k?al ?mphú 'saddle bag' (lit. leather container), t=ćaw 'kill plurally' > 'to butcher'; čà·w 'to stray, move away' > 'to stray from herd', x=ćà·w 'to cause to move away', 'to set apart' > 'to cut out of herd', p=čhin 'to cover body' > 'to get dressed', x=k'aq 'to drive pegs' > 'to hammer nails', h=qha· 'shoot a bow' > 'fire a gun', p=ćma·yu 'migrate' > 'to move away', h=ńi· 'to guide' > 'to lead an animal', h=ńa·y 'to drive game' > 'to herd cattle', ?mat h=nuq 'to dig' > 'to drill wells', x=a·y 'to scratch designs', 'to tattoo' > 'to write, paint', cf. ñ=x=a·y 'to photograph', ?msha·y 'to reach, fill an area' > 'to fit, of clothes, also ?mat ?msha·y 'to have a birthday' (?mat 'year'), s=wil s=wil h-u·y 'to swivel hand' > 'to sign', h?wir 'be in a series, follow' > 'be frequent' (< Mex. seguido 'frequently, followed'), x=1ax 'cause to adhere, to patch' > 'to repair'.

In a related, though separate, category are the syntactic constructions involving /=wñi·y=q=h=wa·t=m/ (want=allat=3=sit nom.=m) which are glossed with indefinite expressions such as cuandquiera 'whenever', comoquieras 'however', dondequieras 'wherever', quienquieras 'whoever' etc. The source of the verb 'want' in the Kiliwa expressions is clearly influenced by the -quiera 'want' element of Spanish. An unrelated native indefinite construction is still used involving predicates like /?i·'say', /yu·'be', /ńi·'do with the suffixes /=m=t=m/ which have a complex semantic function not yet fully understood. The native pattern is frequently heard as an interjection much like English 'anyway, anyhow'.
The following vocabulary, listed under semantic vocabularies, was collected both by direct elicitation and through observation of colloquial usage, verifying the naturalness with which the innovated lexicon is brought into play:

Household: h=pa-·u? 'bed' (3=recline=Rel), ?ma?i

'heaven thing=3=nom.=recline=attr.=pass.),

'barrel' (thing=3=pack=Rel), xa?k=x=a· h=pi?u?

'liquor barrel', 'keg', ?hip p=či·w=ui? pipe (tobacco m.p.=smoke=Rel),

'h=čha?=y=i?u? 'soap' (thing=3=nom=juice=attr.=Rel), t=?=či·r=u?

'cup' (thing=nom=drink=Rel), ?wa? h=kap=u? 'key' (house=3=open=Rel), ??a·w kh=w an 'matches' (fire strike), q=t=x=kh=ap=tay

'drawer' (allat=thing=cause=enter=freq), s=k w·i·l=tay=u? 'sifter, strainer' (hand=twist=freq=Rel), s=k w·i·r=u? 'hand spindle' (hand=twist=Rel),

t=x=qhaw=u? 'scissors' (thing=cause=sever=Rel), nay=čru·w ya·w ča·u? 'whetstone' (knife teeth stand=Rel), čsíl

'candle' ('<worm?'), t=s=a? h=?i11u? 'candle' (thing lard 3=worm=Rel), t=h=ma·u? 'table' (thing=3=eat soft=Rel), t=h=ma·u? 'spoon' (thing=3=eat soft=Rel), x=?=max=u? 'cover, top' (cause=

nom=shut=Rel), n=a?ya·w p=s=t=ni·l1=u? 'toothpick' (poss-teeth

m.p.=hand=p=touch=Rel), xa? t=uná·y=tay=u? 'bucket' (water thing=

haul=freq), xa? n=a?yw=w11 t=p=saw=u? 'mirror' (water poss=eye=

illat thing=m p=see=Rel), t=s=a?+tay=u? thing=stab=freq=Rel),

?wa? sma·u? 'bedroom, hotel room' (house sleep=Rel), sal p=s=

x?i11u? 'washbasin' (hand m.p.=hand=wash=Rel), t=h=ma· h=?=hu·u? 'kitchen' (food 3=nom=make=Rel), ??a·w yaw h=?=hu·u? 'lamp'

(fire=flame 3=nom=make=Rel), wa=u? 'box (sit=Rel), ?uha?=xptaw

p=1w1l 'windowpane' (stone=mica m.p.=fabricate(d)).

Apparel: n=a?sal h=pa-·u? 'ring' poss=hand 3=place rnd. obj=

Rel), t=x=p=pa·=u? 'needle' (thing=cause=place rnd obj=p=pl=

Rel), t=x=p=pa·=u? si? 'thread' (needle flesh n=a?=ma· t=l=i?

kh a·p=u? 'shirt' 'poss=body illat thing=cause=enter=Rel), n=a? misuse

1=t=111=kh a·p=u? 'pants' (poss=foot cause to enter), p=č=ka·u?

'towel, handkerchief' (m.p.=wipe=ui?), p=naq 'neckwear' (m.p.=place

around neck), h=ni·y=p 'belt' (3=gird=pass), x=ui?xlay=u? 'strap,

suspenders' (cause=cause=strap=Rel), ?iy p=ui?=n=xlay 'hair ribbon'

(head m.p.=cause=dim=strap=Rel), ?iy=q t=ha? 'barrette' (head=allat

thing=place long obj), s=?=lam·u? 'button, buckle' (hand=nom=

clasp=Rel), ?mpu·l, k'=pha·y 'Stetson hat' (hat wh=grey).

Ranch Life: k'w?al x=ča·p=ui? 'lariat (leather cause=split=

Rel), ?xaq ?=ku· 'cow', (cattle female), ?xaq k'w=mi·y 'bull',

(cattle male), ?xaq ?=mi·y t?çawp 'yearling' (cattle male

adolescent), ?ipa? k'w=qhal=p 'saddle' (sticks wh=long=fork=

pass), t=č=ma· 'stomach contents of cattle', yat 1=k'=mi·y=p

'stallion, stud' (testes illat=wh=male, generate= pass), t=k'w

ňay=tay 'herder' (thing=wh=herd=freq), ?xaq=m k=sk'a·y

'cowboy' (cattle=object wh=watch), ?xa? ha?=u? 'cattle trough'

(water place long obj=Rel), naitha? nat k'w=wa 'horseman, cowboy'

(horse on wh=sit).
Agriculture: t=h=pa?=u?, 'cultivated field, crop' (thing=3=place rnd. obj=Rel), ?mat kʷ=x=cə=p=tay 'plowman' (earth wh=caus=split=freq), t=kʷ=1=čhat=tay 'farm worker' (thing=wh=work=freq), ?mat məːyu h=hu=ul='bulldozer' (earth good 3=caus.=Rel), xa? w̱nə? 'furrow' (water road), ?xa? 1=kʷ=t=yi. 'irrigation hand' (water illat=wh=pl=come).

Animals: t=kʷ=IPA=ə=y smaq1 kʷku's 'donkey' (animal ear wh=long), ?ipa? ?iy=1 kʷ=ha? 'goat' (sticks head illat. wh=place long obj), ?muw ha?=n̂mi? kʷ=yuw 'goat' (sheep head wh=stand), naiθa? 'horse' (<nat t=ha? on thing=place long obj.())

Health: n̂?=yuw=1 t=pa?=p= =u? 'eyeglasses' (poss=eye=illat thing=place rnd. obj=pl=pl=Rel), kʷ=rap=m kʷ=ska'y 'nurse' (wh= sick obj wh=watch), n̂?=ya' w̱ kʷ=i=t=t=uy 'dentist' (poss= teeth wh=stand=pl.=pl=freq.), kʷ=rap ?wa? 'hospital, clinic' (wh=sick house).


Law: kʷ=çpi'y=p 'legal right' (wh=straight < derecho), s=x=n=k'al s=ul=ma'y 'flag' (cloth long=hook up), pa'=m kʷ=sh'a:y 'police' (people obj wh=watch), miy k=x=ali h=hu=y 'soldier' (Mexican 3=do=attr.), t=sk=wi=p 'law, government' (thing=command=pass), ?ipa? kʷ=t=h=hiw 'chief' (person wh=powerful), yi. kʷ=mat 'government' (come wh=not).

Education: t=x=pha? 'paper, book' (<parchment ?, cf. pha? 'stomach, paunch, intestines'), t=x=pha? ?ipa? t=h=ul=saw=ul 'school' (paper people thing=3=caus=see=Rel), t=x?a'y=u? 'pencil, pen' (thing=write=Rel),

Time: 1=taw ?i=m 'tomorrow' (illat=flash Be=subord), ti'y 'night, dark, late' ti'y wa xay 'morning' (dark sits still), t=âʔchat msi=ul 'Monday', tiʔchat xwaq=ul 'Tuesday' etc. (work=one, work=two etc.), ?wə?=1 p=wa=ul 'Sunday, week' (house=illat m p=sit=Rel), ?mat kʷ=p=kh' ap=m 'next year' (year wh=enter=sub <
año entrante), ¿mat kʷ=p=yi=m 'next year' (year wh=come=sub < año que viene), ¿ña·y 'sun, day, time, clock', ¿ña·y kʷ=ti=y 'afternoon' (sun wh=late < tarde), xa?la? t=t=si·p=u? 'calendar' (month thing=pl=count=Rel).

Religion: ¿ma?i ¿ña=m t¿cha·y=p 'God, Creator' (sky distant=dir carve=pass), ¿iapa? s=x=qha·y=u? 'crucifix' (sticks long=caus=cross=Rel), s=x?il kʷ=mat 'gentile, pagan' (hand=wash wh=not), t=kʷ=p=ima·y=tay 'devil, evildoer, (thing=wh=m:p=hart=freq), ¿wa? h=u?=sa·y 'church, mission' (house sacred)10, ¿mat s=x?il 'cemetry' (earth hand=wash), t=hiy 'spirit, soul, power', s=kʷ=hí·y=p devil (thing=wh=power=pass), ¿ma?i kʷ=yaq 'God' (heaven wh=lie), ¿ma?i kʷ=yaq kʷ=x=1ax=p 'Virgin Mary' (God wh= companion, second), s=x?il p=ya·w 'godparent' (baptize m.p= be taken).


Foods: ¿xaq t=kh at h-pi? 'sausage' (beef blood 3=pack), npay kʷ=?n=ta·t=y 'grain' (wheat wh=nom.=dim=thorn=attr), npay kʷ=?n=ta·t=y ¿ha? 'beer' (wheat juice), t=kʷ=smaq 'candy, sugar' (thing=wh=smooth), ¿xaq kʷ=smaqn 'soda pop' (water wh= smooth), xaq sa? 'lard' (cattle lard), ?xaq=sa? x=t= ¿sal=¿u? 'cracklings, chicharrones' (lard caus=nom=fry=Rel), ?xaq sa? p= ivil 'ham' (cattle lard m.p=made), ?xaq=?nymayu 'milk' (beef breast), ?xaq=¿nymayu sa? 'butter' (milk lard), ?xaq ¿nymayu myal 'cheese' (milk tortilla), myal h=hu=¿u? 'yeast' (bread 3=make= Rel), ¿xaq? kʷ=x¡a 'liquor' (water wh=bitter), t=kʷ=x¡a 'chile pepper, poison' (thing=wh=bitter), t=h=ma=¿l i=¿wap=k 'black pepper' (food=illat dump=dir), ¿mi? yaw=y 'honey' (larva flame= attr.).

Building: t=x=kʷ=¿aq=¿u? 'nail' (thing=caus=stake=Rel), t=h=¿ña=¿u? 'hammer' (thing=3=hammer=Rel), ¿wa? kʷ=¿ay=tay 'carpenter, housebuilder' (house wh=thatch=freq), ¿wa? kʷ=p=ivil=tay 'carpenter' (house wh=make=freq). Compare /iwil/ 'to fabricate, manufacture' with the root /wil/ 'to exert force'.

As might be expected the process of relativization underlies the major portion of the innovated nominal vocabulary in Kiliwa. The prefix /kʷ=/, glossed above as wh= is the 'agentive' relativizer proper only when the head noun, animate or inanimate, is the subject of the relative clause. The suffix /=u?/ is used when the head noun is in an oblique case in the dependent clause.

The /=u?/ oblique relativizer, unlike the /kʷ=/ which can be reconstructed for Proto-Yuman, has no cognate in any other Yuman language with the suspicious exception of Paipai.11 It would seem that the marking of oblique relativization is a syntactic innovation in Kiliwa. The uses of this suffix extend beyond the simply nominal to include more complex clausal structures: e.g. nsku=¿m tpxha=¿m ¿=wi=¿u?=t... 'The girl I gave the paper to...' (girl=obj paper=obj I=give=Rel=nom... etc.
It is beyond the scope of this paper to assess the syntactic impact of the acculturative lexical innovation derived by the /=u/? suffix. However there is some indication that the suffix has undergone semantic and perhaps syntactic change in post-hispanic times. In the derived nominals with strictly aboriginal reference, the /=u/? suffix has exclusively locative function, as in placenames e.g. mlti? p=¡nk i·1u=p=¿, 'where coyote rolled over' (coyote m.p=roll over=Rel=pass). In some cases there is a potential ambiguity between a locative and an instrumental meaning as in /=?pa? p=¿=sil=u/? 'quiver' (arrow m.p=nom=insert=¿u?); here the /=u/? could be glossed 'where the arrows are inserted' or 'what is used to insert arrows'. Turning to the post-hispanic vocabulary we find /=u/? with a clearly instrumental meaning as in /t=i=¿hat=u/? 'shovel', ?mat x=¿a·p=u? 'plow', etc. It is possible that the innovated vocabulary having to do with tools and utensils, as it frequently does, weighted the potential ambiguity into real ambiguity and finally moved away from the original constrictions of a purely locative meaning to a more general 'oblique' case.

Another morpheme frequently involved in innovated nominals is /=?tay/ normally meaning 'large'. At first glance one might suspect interference from the augmentative suffix /=¼n/ of Spanish which has a usitative or frequentative meaning similar to Kiliwa /=?tay/. This coincidence should be regarded as inconclusive of hispanic interference however, given the frequent association of largeness and habitual action in other languages e.g. English 'a big moocher', 'a great gambler', etc.

In this regard it is well to recall that Kiliwa has an archaic nominalizer /=t/ found in only a few stems viz. ?muw t=k=i·=µu·=t 'mtn. sheep', ?xa? k=p=1k i·=t 'water carrier', t=k? =muw=t 'stalker, hunter'. There is good reason to believe that this /=t/ and /=?tay/ are both related etymologically to a *t that has developed a myriad of functions in modern Yuman including the 'frequentative' as well as the adjectival meanings.

Though Kiliwa has had little or no perceptible influence on the regional Spanish of Baja California, there is one startling exception to this rule that is worth mentioning. The word pachucó in the Spanish of Mexico and the United States normally refers to a 'hoodlum'. This is not the meaning current among older residents of the interior of Baja; Mexican and Indian alike give pachucó the meaning of 'hatless person'. The only reasonable explanation for such a semantic development is to be sought in the Kiliwa /=?ipa· ʃru·w/ 'wealthy person', pronounced [pa·ʃuəo·w], virtually identical to the Spanish pachucó.

As given earlier, the original meaning of /=?ipa· ʃru·w/ was 'clothed person' hence 'wealthy person'. These meanings later extended to contrast ladino town dwellers or settlers, who were inevitably seen as wealthier than Indians, hence the extended meaning 'town dweller'. In the decades after the demise of the missions the main occupation in the Baja hinterland was the
cattle industry; thus the average male was a cowboy. As is well known cowboys observe a strict etiquette in their wardrobe; whatever else they may lack, they must have a good pair of boots and a fine Stetson hat. This is not true of town dwellers who often neglect to wear hats. As Kiliwas say pejoratively 'andan pachucos' i.e. 'they go about hatless'. This then, is the final stage of the word /ʔipa· čru·w/ a Kiliwa word borrowed into Spanish coincidentally homonymous with the slang word heard elsewhere.

As is to be expected in Latin America, some of the local Spanish placenames in Kiliwa country are translations of the original Kiliwa toponymics: ʔpal ʔipa· h=ʔnu·ʔ=ʔu 'where fever killed people' > Cañón de las Calenturas, ʔhâ· yit ñmar=ʔu 'where the mesquite seed shows' > El Mesquital, ʔqh·ap ʔ=wi·ʔ 'oak mtn' > Cerro de los Encinos, ʔxaʔ k=ʔpal 'hot spring' > Agua Caliente, ʔmuw ʔwi·ʔ 'sheep mtn.' > Cerro Borrego, ʔcwilu h=ʔnuʔuʔ=ʔu 'arroyo where they fought' > Arroyo del Pleito, ʔwi·ʔ t=ʔk=ʔn=sa·ʔ 'little rib mtn' > Cerro Costilla, ʔwi·ʔ ʔhiʔ 'Onion mtn.' > Cerro Cebolla, x=xpiʔ 'dam' > Los Pozos, k=ʔnya·ʔ 'hidden' > Escondido, ʔwi·ʔ ʔiy k=ʔkuʔya·ʔ 'greyhead mtn' > Cerro Canoso.

The final example xučaw ʔwi·ʔ for which there is no modern Kiliwa gloss has been falsely translated as Cerro Cabrilla 'Pleides Mtn'. The Pleides are known as Las Cabrillas in popular Spanish, but as /xča·/ in Kiliwa.

In view of the resistance of Kiliwa to borrowing from Spanish, one might expect the same to be true of the other members of the Yuman family.14 It is surprising to find that, to a greater or lesser degree, almost all Yuman languages have borrowed freely from Spanish (and later English). From Diegueño and Paipai with approximately a hundred loanwords, to Cocopa and Mohave with some fifty, to the handful of words in the Pai languages (far from the missions of California) no Yuman language has shown the reluctance of Kiliwa to Europeanization. This is particularly significant in view of the rather intimate contact one might expect over the course of two centuries between natives and settlers.

Since Kiliwa is in no relevant way structurally unique vis à vis its sister languages, the reason for the small number of loanwords cannot be sought in structural resistance. The answer must be sought outside of language in the nature of the Kiliwa psychological response to an alien presence in their country.15

Ethnographic sources relate that the Kiliwa remained openly hostile to early missionization.16 In subsequent years they were partially responsible for the abandonment of San Pedro Mártir mission and are blamed for the burning of Santa Catalina in the early nineteenth century. This tradition of belligerence earned the Kiliwa a "war-like reputation" which they carried into the twentieth century.17

During the upheavals of the Mexican revolution, Baja California was invaded by an army of American filibusters intent
on conquering the territory for themselves thereby hoping to sever all ties with Mexico. The Kiliwa joined the invaders in significant numbers revealing a festering hostility to Mexican authority.18

Most recently it was reported in a Mexicali newspaper19 that the Kiliwa, frustrated by generations of broken promises, resorted to threats of violence if agents of the Mexican government continued to evade an equitable decision with regard to tribal land rights placed in continuing jeopardy by private ranchers and government sponsored ejidos alike.20

The brief overview of Kiliwa history given above reveals less than harmonious relations between the Kiliwa and their Spanish-speaking neighbors. It can also be seen that in spite of their beleaguered position and dwindling numbers the remaining half dozen or so adult Kiliwa are still capable of an almost suicidal resolve to resist those they perceive as their oppressors.

Undoubtedly the fact of their inevitable demise as a people with a distinct language and culture is a factor in the psychology of resistance found in the Kiliwa. This sad fact, implicit in conversations as well as ethnographic texts, could of itself explain the Kiliwas' indomitable assertion of uniqueness. Lacking any other obvious linguistic or cultural explanation, it is not inappropriate to link the documented evidence of a strong political personality to an equally impressive linguistic hermeticism on the part of Kiliwa speakers.21

Notes

1. The data upon which the paper is based were collected during summer field trips in the years 1966-1970 under the auspices of the Survey of California and other Indian languages of the University of California. I hereby render my grateful acknowledgement to this source and to its guiding spirit Prof. Mary R. Haas whose teaching and scholarly example has inspired not only this writer but generations of linguistic graduate students at Berkeley and elsewhere.


3. Abbreviations used in this paper: allat=allative case, attr.=attributive predicate, caus.=causative, dim.=diminutive, dir.=directional, freq.=frequentative, illat.=illative, m,p=medio-passive, nom.=nominalizer, obj.=objective case, pass.=passive, pl.=plural, poss.=possessive, Rel.=oblique relativizer, Sub.=subordinator, wh=agentive relativizer. The pronominal concordance prefixes are marked by numbers.
4. The Kiliwa and Paipai have had close kinship and cultural ties since before contact times. A few older people are still bilingual in these languages.

5. Yuman languages typically drop unstressed vowels from European loans: María > Mari: troca > tro:k, Evaristo > vari:st, etc.

6. The first three forms are included though an aboriginal meaning cannot be stated.

7. The word for 'horse' is unanalyzable. It is given as nadetha in W. Gabb's 1857 list published in Albert S. Gatschet. Der Yuma-Sprachstamm nach den neuesten handschriftlichen Quellen" Zeitschrift für Ethnologie. 18 pp. 97-122, 1886 and v. 24 pp. 1-18, 1892. The phonetic form [naðItha?] has also been recorded by this writer. The etymology of this word is unknown.

8. mti?pa.'< *?mat ?ipa.' 'earth-person', is the divine hero of a myth in which he is disembowelled. His remains were strewn over the Kiliwa landscape and are still memorialized in a few place-names as well as in the word for 'chain'.

9. The form /k^W=maqn/ 'the sweet one' is the word for 'bear'. Perhaps under the influence of Spanish máquina 'engine', and the image of power and noise shared by machines and bears the euphemism for 'bear' came to mean 'engine'.

10. The meaning 'sacred house' for /?wa? h=ua?=say/ may be a sarcastic euphemism. The verb is more readily analyzed as 3=caus.=thatch i.e. 'forced to thatch'.

11. Given the association of Paipai and Kiliwa mentioned in note 4. The /=u=/ causative, benefactive in Diegueno, Mohave etc. may be a cognate.


13. The pachuco subculture is supposed to have originated in the border region. Some claim pachuco derives from pacho the slang name for El Paso, Texas.


19. in La Voz de la Frontera, Mexicali, Baja California, Mexico September 1, 1973.

20. An Associated Press release datelined Mexicali reads "Mexican Government returning Indian land... as soon as documents can be processed communal ownership will be conveyed to the... Kiliwa... all lands are to be granted by the end of 1976".

21. A similar explanation is given for the resistance of Tewa to borrowing in Edward P. Dozier "Two Examples of Linguistic Acculturation: The Yaqui of Sonora and Arizona and the Tewa of New Mexico". Language 32. 146-157. 1956.