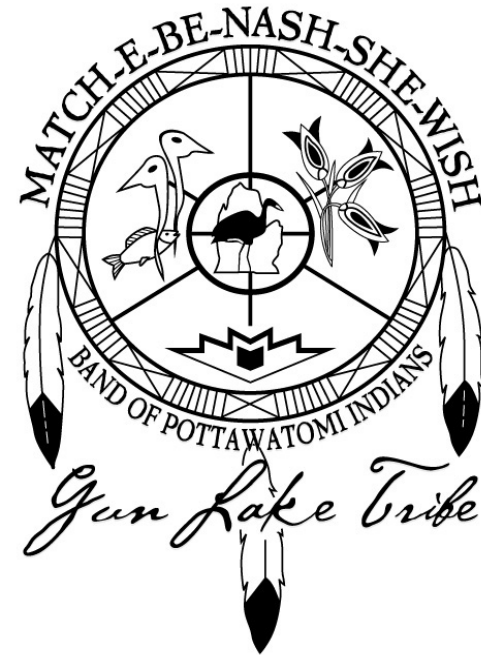


**2005
LANGUAGE HANDBOOK**



Mission Statement

We, the members of Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Pottawatomi Indians of Michigan, will maintain our elders' vision, integrity, spirituality, culture, and economic self-sufficiency by protecting our sovereignty, treaty rights, traditions, land, and natural resources for our future generations.

**CONTACT
INFORMATION**

Ed Pigeon, Cultural Coordinator
P.O. Box 218
Dorr, MI 49323

Phone: 616-681-9510
Fax: 616-681-9520
Email: espigeon@mbpi.org

The cultural department is located at the Tribal Development Office, administered by Ed Pigeon, Cultural Coordinator. Language classes are every Monday 6–8pm at the development office.

Physical Address:

1743 142nd Avenue, Suite #3
Dorr, MI 49323

Mailing Address:

PO BOX 218
Dorr, MI 49323

(616) 681-9510—Office

(616) 681-9520—Fax

You can contact Ed Pigeon through e-mail:

espigeon@mbpi.org

Visit the Tribe's website at www.mbpi.org. Language materials are available on the website. Additional resources are available on the following websites:

- www.neaseno.org
- www.emeld.com
- www.ukansite.com
- www.potawotmilang.org

The Language Instructor is Mr. Don Perrot

The Language Warriors consist of:

- Kevin Finney
- Frankie Sprauge
- Lorraine "Punkin" Shananaquet

A short lesson in basic introductions.

Hāu, bo sho, _____ ndesh ne kas.
Oh, I greet you, I am _____.

Bođe'wadmi ndaw.
I am Potawatomi.

_____ ndoch bya.
I am from _____.

_____ ndebe'ndagwes.
I am enrolled at _____.

_____ e'da yan.
I live at _____.

_____ ndo te'm.
My clan is _____.

Bje'ji ode Bođe'wadmi zheshmowen e'ke'ndemyan.
I know a little of this Potawatomi language.

Ni je e'she ne káz yen?
What is your name?

Ni pi je we'ch bya yen?
Where do you come from?

Jeshék ne gi bya?
Did you just arrive?

Bođe'wadmi ne gdaw?
Are you Potawatomi?

Ni pi je e'day yen?
Where do you live?

We'gwni je gdo te'm?
What is your clan?

200 WORDS TO A COMMUNITY

Air	ane'mowen
All	jak
And	mine/e'pe
Apple	mshimen
Arrow	shadi
Autumn	dgwage'k
Baby	penoje'
Bacon	kokosh wiyas
Bad	mji
Ball	bkwakwet
Bathroom	bkes atsekwnegade'k
Be quiet	dokem
Bean	koje's
Bear	mko/mkwa
Beaver	mek
Bed	mbagen
Berry	minen
Birch bark scroll	wigwas msenegén
Bird	bene'shi
Black	mekte'wa/mkede'
Blanket	waboyan
Blue	wejebkwa
Boat	jiman
Body	jibe/yawe
Bow	tegwab
Bowl	wnagen
Boy	gigabe'/gigabe's
Bravery	wedasewen/ahkede'wen
Bread	bkwe'shgen
Breath	ne'mwen
Broke	bokshke'/bokshka
Brother	dewe'ma/shime'
Brown	wizawa
Buffalo	bkoj bsheke

Butterfly	memege'
Call	ndoda/naqwe'we'
Camp	pabmadzet/begoyange'
Candy	washpek
Car	dabyan
Carrot	zawjisen
Cat	gazho/mayos
Ceremonies	mendokazwenen
Chair	jibtebwen/pedye'bwen
Cherries	ziwnwen
Chicken	bidi/keakwa
Child	benoje'
Chipmunk	kwekwse'
Clan	dote'm
Clean	binagwet/binagchege'
Cloth	babgoyan
Coat	biskewagen
Cold	ksenya
Cook	janda/gige'no
Copper	mskwabek
Corn	dammen
Cousin	nitawes
Cow	bsheke
Cranberry	bokmene'
Crane	jijak
Creator	Mamogosan
Crow	andekshkwe'/kagakshi
Cup	kwabgen
Dance	nimeji
Danger	nye'zanzewen
Daughter	danes
Day	gishek
Dead	mbo/mbowa
Deer	seksi/wawashkeshi
Dog	nemosh
Door	shkwade'm
Down	nisa
Drink	mnekwe'n
Drum	de'we'gen
Drum stick	de'we'genatek

Emphatic pronouns

Nin	I
Gin	you
Win	he/she
Ninan	we-you
Ginan	we+you
Ginwa	ya all
Winwa	they
Genin	me too
Geninan	us
Gewinwa	them



Disjunctive pronouns

Ma	its
Je	but
Nake	either/or
Mine	and
E'pe	and/but
Se	but
She	really

Weji- igwanen

Wejbkeshmok
Wejksenyak
Wejmokek
Wejgshatek

Directions

West
North
East
South

Yes/no		Ni je	what
Kawin/ka	no	Ni pi je	where
Jo/cho	no	Ni je pi	when
E'he'	yes		
Konege'	yes		
Gnebech	maybe		

Nwi	future tense	Bwam	before
Ngi	past tense	she	
Wabek	tomorrow	Gizh	after
Waben	morning	Geshe'p	early
Ngom	today	Boj	stresses earliness
Wnago	yesterday	Dbekok	last night
Wes	day before	Dbeket	night
		Gishek	day/or sky
Kche	day after		
Nawkwe'k	high noon		
Nebgeshmok	evening		
Abtadbeket	midnight		

Demonstrative: a demonstrative word or morpheme.

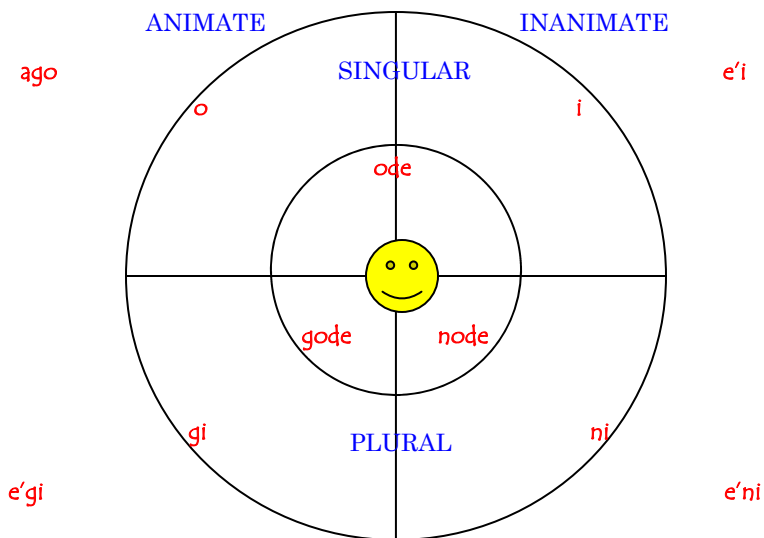
Inanimate: not endowed with life or spirit/lacking consciousness or power of motion.

Animate: possessing or characterized by life.

Below is a chart for comparing demonstratives.

	Inanimate Singular	<u>plural</u>
Close	ode-this	node-these
Not close	l-that	ni-those
Far	e'l-that over there	e'ni-those over there
	Animate <u>Singular</u>	<u>plural</u>
Close	ode-this	gode-these
Not close	o-that	gi-those
Far	ago-that over there	e'gi-those over there

Duck	shishibe'/shishib
Eagle	kno/mge'shwash/bgeshkno
Eagle staff	kno kowe'wen
Ear/s	tog/tognen
Earth	aki
East	we'j'moke'k/wabnong
Eat	wisnen
Eggs	wawen/waw
Eight	shwatso
Elder	kekyat
Family	mezodanen
Father	os
Feast	mnedo wisnewen/wikonge'wen
Feather/s	migwen/migwenen
Finger	nenjisen
Fire	shkwede'
Fish	gigo
Five	nyannen
Flower	waskone'do
Food	wisnewen/mijem
Foot	zet
Fork	bede'k'jegen
Four	nye'w
Friend	nikan/niji
Frog	mekchako
Frybread	zaskokwe'tek bkweshgen
Fur	biwe'
Girl	gigyago
Go	maji
Good	wenet
Goodbye	bama pi
Goose	be'skesi
Grandfather	meshomes
Grandmother	okmes
Great Spirit	keshe'mnedo
Green	eskbok
Gray	wabkshed
Grow	majiged
Hair	winsese'n
Hat	wiwwan
Hawk	piskeno
Head	shtegwan



Hear	nodan
Heart	de'h
Hello	bozho
Her	o kwe'yaw/win
Him	o nenyaw/win
Honor	wdentanma
Horse	ne'gdosha/be'shgoshi
Hot	gshate'
Hunt	giwse'
I/me	nin
Inside/in	bidek/bid
Knee	jigwen
Knives	komanen/koman
Lake	mbes
Land	kik
Language	zheshmowen
Life	bmadzewen
Listen	bsejon
Man	nene
Meat	wiyas
Mole	nepajneke'
Moon	nibakises
Mother	gye'/ne'ne'yem
Much	mje'sh
Night	nibatbek
Nine	zhak
No	jo/gawin
North	kiwe'dno/we'jksenyak
One	ngot
Out/outside	zag/zagech
Owl	kokoko
Peace	gwamzen/dokemwen
Pig	kokosh
Pipe	pwagen
Potato	peni/pen
Rabbit	wabos/mshewe'
Rain	gmowen
Red	mskwa
River	zibe

Ngot	one
Nish	two
Nswe	three
Nyew	four
Nyanno/Nyannen	five
Ngotwatso	six
Noek	seven
Shwatso	eight
Zhak	nine
Mdatso	ten

Mskwa



red

Wizawa



yellow

Wejebkwa



blue

Wabmskwamget



orange

Eskbok



green

Zawa



brown

Mkedewa



black

Wabshkya



white

Wejebkwatek



purple

Rock

Run

Salt

See

Seven

Shawl

Sheep

Silver

Sing

Sister

Six

Snake

Snow

Soup

South

Speak

Spirit

Spoon

Squash

Stone

Strawberry

Sugar

Sun

Swan

Talk

Ten

Three

Toe

Tomato

Tribe

Turkey

Turtle

Two

Up

Vegetables

Vision

Walk

Water

West

White

Wigwam

sen

bmepto

ziwtagen

wabtān/nekshē

noe'g

mōshwen

māntanish

wābshkabek

gemon

dekwē'm/nidgekō/messe'

ngotwātso

mneto/gene'bgos

gon

mbop

we'jnawkwe'k/we'jgshate'

kigdon

Mnedo

e'mkwan

kwese'man/wabgon

senis

de'men

wābwashpek/zisbakwet

kises

wābzhi

yajdonwen/kigdownen

mādtso

nswe

zedē's

mskwe'kojimen

neshnābe' babkan neshnābe'niwen

bne'/mseze'

mshike'

nish

shpemek

gteganke'wen

wābtemwen

bmose'

nibi/mbish

we'jbkeshmok/e'pingeshmok

wābshkya

wigwam/nso'egan

Wind
Winter
Wolf
Wood
Yellow
You

noden
ponok
mo'ewe'
mtegwen/mse'n
wizaw
gin

Monday
Tuesday
Wednesday
Thursday
Friday
Saturday
Sunday

ngotgishgek
nishgishgek
aptogishgek
nye'wgishgek
nyanogishgek
odanke'gishgek
neme'wgishgek

This
That
These
Those

ode
i
node/gode
ni/gi

Spring
Summer
Fall
Winter

mnokmek
niben
dgwage'
pono

Today
Tomorrow
Yesterday

ngom
wabek
wnago

Outside
Inside
In/out

zagech
bidək
bid/zag

a= "ah" as in father

ê= "eh" as in bet

i= "ee" as in peel

o= "oh" as in bowl

e= "uh" as in put or luck