

## 53<sup>rd</sup> Algonquian Conference Proposal for Presentation

**Title:** *Aaniish gagwejimaasiwad!* “Wh-imperatives” in SW Ojibwemowin

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This presentation will highlight conversationally-prevalent question asking forms that are not commonly found in the current literature – with focus on the so-called ‘wh-imperative’ form. In SW Ojibwe as a beginning reference point on this topic, there are a few common speaking patterns in which an A-pronoun (wh-pronoun) occurs with a verb in plain conjunct order, resulting in the patterns that are generally understood as ‘why don’t you...’ suggestions, and ‘what if...’ wondering phrases. In general, wh-questions in SW Ojibwe are said with initial change. Investigating the lack of initial change in these question forms could help advance current analyses of initial change in this language and within the language family. The presentation compares the types of question asking in attempt to create a holistic taxonomy of types and distribution of verbal order and offer work-in-progress syntactic analyses on the differences between the ‘traditional’ question and these alternative forms. A comparative sample of a common information seeking question and the ‘wh-imperative’ is highlighted below:

<b>Most Common Wh-Question Changed Conjunct (w/ IC)</b>	<b>Wh-imperative/suggestion Plain Conjunct (no IC)</b>
1. aaniish (w)enji-ishkwaataasiwan a:ni:ʃ e:ndzi-ɪʃkwa:ta:siwaŋ WH IC.RR-quit.NEG.2sgCONJ ‘Why haven’t you quit?’ Note: Information-seeking nuance (JN - ZBMR 262)	2. aaniish ishkwataasiwan a:ni:ʃ ɪʃkwa:ta:siwaŋ WH quit.NEG.2sgCONJ ‘Why don’t you just quit.’ Note: Suggestion, not ‘question’ (JN - ZBMR 275)

This presentation stems from the MA thesis of the presenter who is interested in continuing work on this subject area and hopes at this conference to get feedback from those in the larger Algonquian languages community and from different research vantage points. Expanding focus on the question forms featured in this presentation can help increase the nuance of speech and understanding for all learners, linguists, and those who are both. This presentation and paper will raise a call for the greater inclusion of all question forms of this type in wh-question research and serve as documentation of these patterns of speech for any learners of the language.

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