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Bill Chatfield
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OJIBWE VOCABULARY

BY Bill Chatfield

The following vocabulary has been prepared by Bill Chatfield, a native speaker of Ojibwe from Leech Lake, Minnesota, and a member of the Bullhead clan. Bill and the Institute hope that this material will be helpful to people interested in grammatical and lexical studies of Ojibwe. The Institute provided only stenographic help for this project, the spelling of the Ojibwe words is Bill's own.

In general, fortis consonants have been represented by the voiceless symbols /p t k ch/. The corresponding voiced symbols /b d g j/ usually represent lenis consonants. Long vowels have been symbolized by geminate vowel clusters.

The first five pages contain a word-list of the usual kind. After that, Mr. Chatfield has special lists of examples illustrating various uses of the same morpheme. Also, there is a list of names for bugs, and a list of tree names.
A - beśiguubii igan - "ace", first
writing
aa - attention, something to be said
a - netamising okaavibii igan.

First setting of written type
aababaa - about & again, recurrent.
abaadaa - about dwells.
Aa' - Fine, alright, o.k., Good.
abaabaabiiiaa - about & waiting on one.
sab - if you will Aa'bin', OK please.
aaba' - Untie it. (animate).
abaan - nearby about. astir.
aabaa an - untie it. (inanimate)
aaba - round about. astir.
aab ' - Provide for a stay, welcome him.
ababin- relax, at ease (welcome)
abaabaabiibaagi- recurrent hollering.
abiiiaa- they win back all they lost
to him
abiaa - welcomed, provide ease to.
abad - regurgitate
achige - sets down wager.
achigeaa - provide security for.
abaabikaigan - key
abiding - once one time.
aginde - counted
abide - warmed, daakate - cold room.
agimaa - one counted, (animate).
adimaa - one is caught up to apace.
adamaa - buy from one.

aabijiibaa - awake from deep sleep or death.
abajiaa - in use now, (animate).
abaji'- use him; abajituun- use it
aabajichigaade - in use now (inanimate)
abaajichiga'uu - about go scratch its hide
with foot.
abiiinjiaa - defeated in the worst.
abijibide - continual motion.
apijibizuun - gone, one way. (animate)
apijibide - gone. item.
apiji'in - lay prone gone, accident.
fall from high precipice to its death
apijibizuun - gone one way trip. (animate)
abijibizuun - continual traveling.
abaabaabiiiaa - await for one abouts by them.
amajiaa - aroused by them.
amajij - arouse him; amajiaa - aroused by
andikamon - suspender, pl.an.
abiita - half. annind - some
aanitū - therefore. opii - distance, time.
aaninduwaa - its genuine. waabik - of metal.
monidun waabik - magnetized steel.
aaši - set him there, aatuuun, set it there.
aateg - lays there, thing, aate - sets there.
aasik - put him, set him ividi, thereover.
assaadaa - down set him so, by we.
aamb - come. manjaan - leave, go.
aanawavad - of no use, failed, faulty.
agwuke - stick on it, adhesive.
aagaawa - hardly, barely, meassly.
aanišaa - josh, ridicule
baabaa - round about
baabaa ayaa - is about nearby.
babaadada - is dwelling nearby
babaagwuzi iwe - is about moving others
babaajikaanjige - is about eating swell things.
babaagimudi - is about stealing.
babaagwise - is about hunting.
babaainwaazu - is about attempting.
babaa inakamigizi - is about some activity
babaa jime - is about with a boat.
babaa jaajikweam - paddling alone in canoe, one end up in air, said of a couple on outs.
babaa - mlaska - is about on boat trip.
bi'ishaan - to come to here.
babaa maadizi - is about traveling.
bibimuuden - come crawling
babaa niiwhag - are about the two of them.
bidaguushin - he arrives here.
babaa niiwhag - is about traveling the three of them.
be'sig - one babaa ayad its about.
babaa ondendiwhag - are about absenting themselves from.
be'suu - close, nearby.
babaa ogiimawi - is about as head man, adviser
bina- please booch - incur igwu just the same
babaa oodaaminowag - are about playing.
bo di' - leave him be.
babaabaapijikaazuwag - are about with determined efforts,
boonaogu - smarts the wound.
babaabaapina kamiguuziwhag - much ado about, they.
boonitun bagidinan - release your grip.
babaa que que kise-twists about on its own
bwanawiaa - not able to move him.
swap - afterwards.
babaa sakauu - is about with a cane
bwaatamii - lacks impulse
babaa zegizi - is about frightened.
ba'siba' - spear it, or lance use.
babaa tchi inaadizi - went about in great style.
babaa uundamizi - is about urgent duty.
babaa tchi tiitibawugong - of boat on waves.
babaa vanishining - is of getting lost.
babaa wisuukeng - is to abound in restricted places.
babaa ziiyiikeng - about making the river.
babaa nikanending - of overnight trips.
bibagaid - hollers out.
biichaa - its of great distance.
biiduud - one brings it.
biingwi - sand.
biidig - indoors. aagwajing - outside.
biapisiikaa - subsequent
biibaabi' - to come to wait for at this place. here wait.
baate - arid, bagwaj - wilderness
digwaadam - a chance
chachamu - sneezes
chachaganakadowe - on seesaw
chachaganakii'wo - rides the waves
chidani - very rich
chimaajeed - big departure
chini mikamaan - on the way to find it.
chiniwijjiwag - will journey on with.
chichiga'u - how a dog scratches
chinichiiwad - great event
chinaagang - of little weight
chikichinaag'ak - extra light matter.
chi, syllable before any word, denotes that word as foremost of note, great, big in size or of greater importance. It is subject to any sound through out the native tongue of the Ojibwe lingo. It is the most widely used syllable.
daabida - similarity
dabina - do please
daadaga - excuse
daadaga bina niin - excuse please me.
debibidun - catch it
debibibiś - catch him
dadibaabi - he will scan
dabaabiiiaa - will wait for
dibaabi - scans
dajiaa - tardy too late
daiašaa' - will attend
dababaa abi - will be about
dabašeeš - below
dakwaa - short
dewi - speak truthfully
desiniiji bakite' - slap
deweigan - drum
dangiškow - kick him
ebid - at home. in.
echiged - donor
edang - meant
eneendang - minds
ešaad - made so
eteg - set
eud - uses
ewi'id - loans me
ewi'id - came and said to me
epichigisgak - yet while it's day
epitendiyaan - while I'm gone
enabid - sits that way, dwells so.
enedang - according to his idea.
endid - complacency
eyayidad - peacefully dwelling
enabiyaan - sit so, I, my home sets.
enabid - their home of.
enigwukwag - its size. item. object.
endudang - as he does, with
eniginid - its size, ani.
endudawaad - as he does to him
eni'ikidod - said it, apart from.
endudawaad - as they do to him.
eni'gwuk, - force it more for effect.
endoodaming - the way its done.
to what use.
ebid - lays prone. at home, in he is
ebipan - was there prone. was at home
ebiwaapan - them that were in occupancy
ebi'ind - provided with room for, him.
enabi'indwaa - set in room that way
enabi'waapan - as to the way they were set
gaa - nope
gaabi'abid - had set then, roomed.
gabaa - alit (vehicle)
gabaada - lets alit
giwen - go home
ganabuj' - perhaps
gwomaapi - eventually
gachiaa - approach unto
gaagaa - childs word for insect
geni'abid - that will occupy in the future
giiniabid - that laid on the way, roomed there.
gwiinawiaabi - no room to occupy
geniaabitang - that will occupy later
geghu - don't. kaawiin - no
gwuumage - wonder if, gemaa - preferential.
giiguu - something. giin - you
ganabach - probably
wiin - him
giinawaa - all of you
giinitam - you first
gitaa - unfastens itself out of snare or rope.
igiitaakvi - escapes from trap
giijibaatuu - runs from a pen, as hog, etc.
gikimanizide - foot asleep, his.
gikiwanimo - he told a lie.
gikatamanjiuu - it has chills
ginaaben - your husband
giwi - your wife
gidayi - your horse, dog or beast of burden
gidayi'iim - your very own
gidayi'iiman' - things
gibibimaadis - you've lived it all
gii'yaw your body
giduun - your mouth
gijichaag - your soul
ginib - your dead
biiinibo - it died
giipanadizi - it spoiled
gimiikawaadiz - you're pretty
gimiikwaadiz - your successful
gibagaandiz - lazy
gibadakaz - you're alert
gimaanadiz - you're ugly
gimanaadiz - timidity
gimiwaadiz - you're affable

giddi kwogaa - you are vacating from there?

giwisins - you're eating

giwiiwisin na? - you will eat?

gigsawisin - you will eat.

giispin - if so

gonaa - be giikin'uyanan - you can growl
'abaadaa' - make home for, about

abaada'aadaa - round about make it a home, lets we.
abaadaaind - make home for abouts

abaadaindwaa - round about for them abouts.
abaada'aawag - about make home for them.
abaadaaindwaa - round about for them as to habit.
abaada'aabaniig - about make home for them recently
abaadaawad - round about them in groups.
babaadaag - do go dwell about together
babaadadaa - round about dwell we.

chidaawin - great dwelling
chibabaaadong - great groups dwell around.
daabaa daawag - may about dwell
daabaa deewag - they shall come to dwell
endaaawaapan - where they had dwelled
enidaawad - dwellings along the way, them.

giinidaayang - as we dwelled along

giinidawaad - they dwelled on
ima daada - therein we'll dwell
igu abiitanda - that one we'll occupy
jini daayang ima - of our dwellings

jibi daayeg - for your group to come dwell.

kikii pidaa naaduug - you must have dwelt here before
kaawika daadiim cna - never dwelt of this place.
mi'yi'iv daa'aadaa - make we his home
maamawi daa'adaanig - mass dwell them lets
nindaakii ta'aag - I maybe should dwell make for them

niwita'aag - I will make them abide.
nindaa wiidabimigug - I with they stay may
odaabiibiitanaawaa - they may dwell therein awhile
ogaa abitaaanaa waa - they will dwell there
pijinag da'aawag - afterwards their dwellings are provided them.
popinenimuwag wiabiwaad - enthusiastic about a dwelling

pooj igu wiabiwaag - demand they to stay que squekisininiwan odawinan - twisted around are his teepees (in circles).
quaquaskwaniwag daaindwa abinujinyag - jump up and down the children to abide
saagwenimuwi wiitaad imaas viabi'ind - hesitates about, abode favored them, him.

chiminwedang onji daa'a - highly pleased to be source for dwelling given him.
daawin - dwell

babaadaag - about dwell you may.
chibabaadaa siyeg - such as your dwellings humble
dababaadaawag - insisting they go dwell about
daababaadaawag - may about dwell them or all
daakipaadaawag - esteem them they should dwell about
eindaawaad - while in their dwellings.
eindaag - peacefully dwell
eidaang - of true dwelling
eindiag - of true dwelling

eindangiban - peacefully as I dwelled
gibaadam - your dwelling about?
gichi daawin - that grand dwelling
giitig pidaam - you did dwell by?
giibabaadaam - you are dwelling about together  
giipabaadaang - of dwellings of the past  
jibabaadaang - idea of dwells by them  
jibabaadaangiban - idea of dwells by all if  
maminodang - amply dwellings of  
jibabaadaaysiaangiban - ideals on dwellings of if  
maminodaawad - amply dwellings of them  
megwaa eindawaad - during peaceful dwellings  
niwiipi daminaaban - we were to come dwell  
ningiipadaamin - we dwelled about  
odaaabi abitaanawaa - may room it. they  
ogi abiitanaawa - all did room it  
owii abiitanaawa - they want to room it.  
papagoosbiibi - incessant imposer  
papaag wiinawiabi - gad about no rooms  
šiiigooteeni endad - empty spaced his home  
tatawateni odaawin - spacious his abode  
tchi daawin - extra big dwelling  
wiipidaa oma - will come to live here  
zugganini - odawin - durable is his abode

Sit, Stay

abichigewin - prone respect deed. (wake)  
abitaqdaa - sit we for lets  
abidaa - set in (remain we)  
abiitawaa - set still for it by them  
abiitamuk - still set for it, by all (permit)  
abiichigaade - wake in session for, now.  
abiitandaa - still set for it let us. dwell in it. too.  
abiichigem - wake in session  
abiichigewaad - wake attending, them.  
abiichigenwaabun - wake acts of the past. or was dwelling temporarily. Said of the past.  
abiitawaabun - wake for him was.  
abiitawindiban - wake was for him, over-night stay.  
biabiichige - one come to sit at wake, or stay for the night. visiting, as biaabitawaavag. pl.  
biabiitawaavad - come to wake to one by some.  
biabiitaagevag - wake or some came for stays about.  
biabiitaageyangiban - came to stay for or part of the night.  
biabiwag - come to stay, definite
biabiiban - came to stating of places one stayed at before
chiabiitawind - a big gathering for it at the wake. Or an important visiter.
chinitaabiitaagegewag - a dedicated group that attended the wake. a slur to relative spongers

abbi - lay prone. at home. is in.

a bii ban - was home, was in.

abbi-wag - pl. all home all are in.

abbi-baneeg - were home them.

abbi-daa - let's remain, at home

aa-bii-ban - was home, in or prone

abbi'k - remain, all.

abbin - remain you Bina-anyhow?

abbi-keg - remain awhile. Both or all. all will stay. Later, when?

abbi-ke-gwun - you must remain, after both or all.

abbi-kung - we'll remain later

abbi-pun - if one could have remained?

abi-yeg - that you all home

abi si weg - remain why not

abi-yegi-ban - remaining in while in the past.
abi-yeg - at your remaining or while.

abi-ziing - remain not in usually

abi-sig-gwa - remain not why

zunaa-gabi - difficult remaining

abibi-pun - remain they if they
aada' - surpass

aada' - surpass that one
abaa aada' - out do it all around
aadawaa - surpassed, by himself
aadawaadaa - surpass him lets, we
aada'ok' - surpass him, unitedly. now.
adawaakeg - surpass him when, together
aadawaašinan - mercilessly surpassed
aada'igaazud - surpassed even so
aadawaaban - was in the act of worsting him
aada'igazu - out done by them
aada'igaazuzi - surpassed, severely
biaadawaa - intent on besting him by them
babaa'aada'igaazushi - bested about pitifully
chi'aada'ond - big scores out do him
chiaada'waa - greatly outdone
giadaawaa - he was surpassed
gikichiadaawaa - so great was he out done
gipiadaawaa - hereat they worst him
gagwe'aadawaa - attempts to surpass him
škwaa'adawaa - ends its worsting to him
škwunana - left it part of its substance from the worsting
jiaadawaapan - should out do him
jionji'aadaond - it to be the cause of its undoing
kiipi'aadawa - did come to outdo him by all of them
kiika'gw'adaawaa - attempts made to surpass him

mijibiaadaond - befits them to outdo him here
miisaguuwiiiaada'ond - by chance they will best him
nindaa adawaasagw - I can out do him
ninga adawaas - I will surpass him
ningii aadauug - I, me he surpassed
ningii'ninga'ig - me severely outdone by him
ogiipi adawaan - he come to outdo him
oga'adawaan - he will surpass him
pikichi aadawaond - come a big besting to administer him
paapagoš spaane gabewaawag - incessently ever getting bested
quayak adawaas - rightly outdone
quinaš duudam chiaadawaond - foresaken to fidgetyness undoing
šaagwude'ed wonji adawaas - weakhearted reason is surpassed
šaagwaadizi wonji aadawaond - weak natured caused its undoing
tšimaji adawaas - great evil to be worsted
tšidudawaas iko aadawaond - great injury to lose
uudikidowing aadawa - his wording besets him
uudimewin wonji aadawaond - his tone caused his loss
wiyašikimu adawaas - whines of loss
wašiyagiaša adawaas - without cause he is pitifully outdone
yi'iw wonji adawaas - exactly that reason caused his loss
yi'idi kataši adawaad iniw - right over there he effectively surpassed him
BUGS

enigunz - ant (pl. sag)
opinii maniduuunz - spud bug (pl. sag)
guujizinz - fly (pl. sag)

asabikegshii - spider (yag)
mizisaak - horsefly (wag)
muze - worm (eg)
wudzishkwanishyi - dragon fly (g- ag)
zagime - mosquito (g)
esigaa - woodtick (g)
asquezigaa - sated welfed tick (g)
omimisiw - fishfly (ag)

babig - flea (wag)

ikwa - louse 'greyback (ag)
iskinak - nit (wag)

manidizg - wee god, insect (sag)

bingvuushae (ag) nat s

memegwaa - butterfly (g)
aamuu - bee (g)

napinenz - bedbug (sag)
papakine - grasshopper (g)

awatesi - lightningbug, firefly (nag)

TREES

aagimaak - elm (pl. wag)
aamiibaatig - soft maple (uug)
aninaatig - maple (uug)
azaadivaatig - popple (uug)
apakwanagemag - norway (mikaa)
bagaaniminsh - hazel nut bush (iin)
bagesanimishiin - plum groves

bigiwaatig - balsom (uug)
bawaai'minaani minsh - pin cherry bush

gawaandaag - spruce (uug) highland

bigiwaadag - spruce (uug) swamp

giizhik - cedar (ag)

maanaaadi - baumagillion (wag)
mishiwaandag - tamarac (aatig)
mishiwaatig - deamood (uun)
miguumin - oak (iig)
omikaagdag - jackpine (uug)
ozigaawaakuuminaagaatig - chokecherry

wiiguubimish - basswood (iig)

wiigwaasatig - birch tree (uug)

wiishishibiguuminshiisan - willow

mishvaabiiminshiin - red willows

kinikinik