Ojibwemowin Lesson 39: Review of Weather Terms for Spring Season

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‘Giishpin ganawendan gidinwewininaan gigaganawenimig aadizookaan gaa-ganawendang Anishinaabemowin.

If you take care of the language, the spirit-keeper of the language will take care of you.’

Tobasaanakwad Kinew
Verb Inanimate Intransitive (VII)

- VII refers to “It is …”
- Verbs that express an action of inanimate (non-living) things.
  Ex. Biidwewejjwa. The flow of a stream is heard.
  Minweweyaashkaa. The waves sound good.
- Do not require pronouns. Yay!
- Use tense markers gii and wii (past and future).
- Can incorporate particle words just like VAIs.
Weather Terms and VII's

- Nearly all weather terms are VII.
- Exceptions are references to Thunderbirds which are animate.

Animikii = Thunderbird (animate) represent a thundercloud.
Niibowa gimiwan agwajiing.

It is raining hard outside.
Bijiinaago gii-kimiwan gabe-giizhig.
It rained all day yesterday.
Ani-gimiwan noongom. Niminwendam.

It’s starting to rain now. I am happy.
Niiskaadad agwajiing noongom.

It is nasty weather outside today.
Dawn ani-nishkaadizi niiskaadak a gwajiing.

Dawn starts to get angry when it’s nasty weather outside.
Gii-niiskaad ad bijiina ago gii-anokiyaang.
It was nasty weather yesterday while we were working.
“Niin Ninagam gimiwang.”

“I’m singing in the rain.” Gene Kelly in Ojibwemowin.
Minwendamoog niimiwaad gimiwang.

They are happy when dancing in the rain.
Niibowa gii-niimiwag gabe-giizhig bijiinaago.

They danced hard all day yesterday.
Animikiig bimisewag ishpiming. Ani-chi-noodin agwajiing.

The Thunderbirds are flying overhead.

It’s starting to get really windy outside.
Animikiig gii-dagoshinoog bijiinaago.  
Gii-kimiwan gabe-giizhig.  

The Thunderbirds (they) arrived yesterday.  

It rained all day.
Animikiig gii-dagoshinoog bijiinaago.
Ingii-biindaakoojigemin.

The Thunderbirds arrived yesterday.
We made a tobacco offering.

Biindaakoojige = make a tobacco offering.
Mino-giizhigad omaa noongom. Gaawiin niiskaadasinoon a gwajiing.

It is a nice day here today.

It is not nasty weather outside.
It is not nasty weather here in Bad River.

Gaawiiin niiskaadasinoon omaa a Mashkiiziibiing.
It rained all day yesterday.

Gii-kimiwan gabe-giizhig bijiinaa ago.
It is windy and cold today.

Chi-noodin gaye gisinaa noongom.
I like it when it’s raining outside.

Niminwendaan gimiwang agwajiing.
Nimiigwechiwendaan gimiwang noongom.

I am thankful that it’s raining today.
I am thankful that it is a nice day today.

Nimiigwechiwendaan minogiizhigak noongom.
I am thankful for the water.
Nimiigwechiwendaan nibi.

We are thankful for the water.
Nimiigwechwendaaamin nibi.
Gimiigwechiwendaan ina nibi?
Are you thankful for the water?
They are thankful that it is raining.
Gidaa-miigwechiwendaanaawaagimiwang.

You all should be thankful that it is raining.
Nimiigwechiwendaan ani-ziigwang noongom.

I am thankful that spring is starting now.
Niibowa chi-gisinaa Pluto akiing.
It is very cold on Pluto’s surface.
Giizis chi-waasa ayaa akeyaa.
The sun is very far away in that direction.
Gagwejim ina?