On the so-called "purposive" verbs in Nahuatl*

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1 Introduction

1.1 Directionals in Nahuatl

- Directional prefixes *on-*, *wāl-* 'toward/away from'
- "Purposive" forms *tīw-*, *kīw-*, etc. 'go/come in order to...' (?)
- Verbal compounds with 'go'/'come' verbs

Andative (outbound, translocative) vs. venitive (inbound, cislocative)

Table 1: Classical Nahuatl directionals

	Andative	Venitive		Translation
Directional prefix	*on-*	*wāl-*		'away from/towards'
"Purposive"	*-tīw(i-')*	*-kīw(i-')*	(nonpast)	'go/come in order to ...' (?)
	-to(-')	*-ko(-')*	(preterit)	
	-ti(-')	*-ki(-')*	(optative)	
Verbal compound	*-tiw(i-')*	*-tiwāllaw (-tiwālwi-')*		'go ...ing' (also: 'gradually')

1.2 Andative vs. venitive

(1) *in   īski-tlamantli=īn   in   Ø-kim-**om**-maka-ke'*
     ART as.much-thing=this ART 3s-3PLO-AND-give-PST.PLS

    'They [Aztec envoys] **gave (andative)** them [the Spaniards] all these things.'

(2) *Ø-kin-**wāl**-kwepkāyōti-li'-ke'*
     3s-3PLO-VEN-return.favor-APPL-PST.PLS

    'They [the Spaniards] **returned (venitive)** them the gift.'

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(3) *Ø-kin-**wāl**-maka-ke'*   *kōskatl*   *xoxoktik* *kostik* *iwkin* *mā* *in* *Ø-āposōnal-ne'neki*
3S-3PLO-VEN-give-PST.PLS necklace green   yellow like   as.if ART 3s-amber-pretend

'They [the Spaniards] **gave (venitive)** them [the Aztec envoys] green and yellow necklaces which look[ed] like amber.'   (*Florentine Codex* XII, 6)

(For their metaphorical uses see Andrews (1981), Launey (1997))

1.3   "Purposive" verbs

cf. Carochi (1645, f. 28–29); Launey (1979, 214–216); Andrews ([1975] 2003, 251–259)

(4) *ka* *ō=ti-kim-itta-**to**-'*   *in* *to-tēkw-yō-wān*   *in* *tēteo'* *in* *ātl*
AFF ANT=1PLS-3PLO-see-ANDP.PST-PLS ART 1PLS-lord-INAL-PL.POSS ART god.PL ART water

i-'tik
3SGP-inside

'We **went to** see the gods, our lords out at the sea.'

(5) *in*   *īxkich* *mo-tilma'-tsin* *ō=ti-kim-maka-**to**-'*
ART all   2SGP-cape-HON ANT=2PLS-3PLO-give-ANDP.PST-PLS

'We **went to** give them all of your capes.'   (*Florentine Codex* XII, 6)

(6) *ka* *san* *ti-k-īxkāwī-**ko**-'*   *in* *ti-k-to-siyawkechi-lī-**ko**-'*
AFF only 1PLS-3SGO-have.uniquely-VENP.PST-PLS ART 1PLS-3SGO-REFL-greet-APPL-VENP.PST-PLS

in   *ti-k-to-tla'palwī-**ko**-'*
ART 1PLS-3SGO-REFL-salute.APPL-VENP.PST-PLS

'We came with only one purpose; we **came to** greet him, salute him.'
                (*Florentine Codex* XII, 16)

cf. Ameyaltepec, Guerrero: "purposives" as subject directionals (Amith, 1988)

1.4   Non-purposive use of "purposive" forms

(7) *aw* *in*   *ō=Ø-a'si-**ko**-'*   *tekōwak ...*
and when ANT=3s-arrive-VENP.PST-PLS Tecoac

'When they **arrived** (lit. came to arrive) at Tecoac ...'   (*Florentine Codex* XII, 27)

(8) *niman* *i'siwka* *Ø-wāl-pēw-ke'* *Ø-a'si-ti-wetsi-ko-'*   *in* *mēxi'ko* *san* *yowal-ti-ka*
then quickly 3s-VEN-depart-PLS 3s-arrive-L-fall-VENP.PST-PLS ART Mexico only night-L-by

in   *Ø-a'si-**ko**-'*   *san* *Ø-wāl-yowal-kalak-ke'*
ART 3s-arrive-VENP.PST-PLS san 3s-VEN-night-enter.PST-PLS

'Then they set out in a hurry towards here; they came to arrive quickly at Mexico; it was already dark when **they arrived** (lit. came to arrive) here; they entered by night.'
                (*Florentine Codex* XII, 17)

(9) *ka in ō=Ø-machisti-**to*** *in kaxtīllān kil senka' an-chikāwak-e'*
AFF ART ANT=3s-be.known-ANDP.PST ART Castile it.is.said very 2PLS-strong-PL

an-tiya'kāwān
2PLS-brave.PL

'It has **gone to be known** all the way to Castile that you are very strong and brave.'

(*Florentine Codex* XII, 16)

2   "Purposive" in Ixquihuacan Nahuatl

Table 2: Ixquihuacan Nahuatl directionals

	Andative	Venitive		Translation
Directional prefix	—	*wal-*		'away from/towards'
"Purposive"	*-tih (-tīwe-h)*	*-kih (-kīwe-h)*	(nonpast)	?
	-to(-h)	*-ko(-h)*	(preterit)	
	-h (-tih)	*-ki(-h)*	(optative)	
Verbal compound	*-tih (-tīwe-h)*	*-tiwīts(-eh)*		'go ...ing' (also: 'gradually')

2.1   Typical use of "purposive" forms in Ixquihuacan Nahuatl

(10) *ma-Ø-walā-kã ma-Ø-kim-īxmati-**ki**-h n ichtikeh*
OPT-3s-come-OPT.PLS OPT-3s-3PLO-recognize-VENP.OPT-PLS ART thief.PL

'May they **come to see** who the thieves are.'

(11) *wan ENTONCES ok sipa y-ō-Ø-kalaki-**to** n ī-nānah n Luis,*
and then still once already-PST-3s-enter-ANDP.PST ART 3SGP-mother ART Luis,

*y-ō-Ø-ki-nōtsa-**to** n ākĩ īn-wã ō-katka-h ompa kal-ihtik*
already-PST-3s-3SGO-call-ANDP.PST ART who 3PLP-with PST-be.PST-PLS there house-inside

'And then, Luis's mother went into the house (lit. **went to enter** the house) again; she **went to call** those who stayed in the house.'

(12) *ō-sē-yā-ya HASTA ZACATLÁN PARA sē-k-āna-**tih**, sē-Ø-kōwa-**tih** tlaōl,*
PST-1PLS-go-IPF until Zacatlán for 1PLS-3SGO-take-ANDP 1PLS-3SGO-buy-ANDP corn

*sē-Ø-kōwa-**tih** n tlēn chikāwak ...*
1PLS-3SGO-buy-ANDP ART REL strong

'We used to **go** all the way to Zacatlán **to take** [things]; we **go buy** corn; we **go buy** liquor (lit. something strong)...'

2.2   Non-typical use of "purposive" verbs in Ixquihuacan Nahuatl

(13) *ENTONCES ō-tlayuwa-**ko** nipa īch n ātēntl ... ompa ō-tlayuwa-k, ompa*
then PST-be.dark-VENP.PST behing at ART riverside there PST-grow.dark-PST there

3

ō-ti-walah-keh
PST-1PLS-come.PST-PLS

'[On the way back from business,] **[when we reached] at the riverside, the night fell**. There the night fell, we came down there.'

(14) *Ø-ki-wīka   n kokox   Ø-ki-mēmeh-tih, wan ohkṍn ō-Ø-k-ahxītā-ya*
3s-3sGO-bring ART sick.person 3s-3sGO-bare-go and thus   PST-3s-3sGO-reach.CAUS-IPF

*ZACATLÁN, wan tlā Ø-poliwi-**tih**   īch n   ohtli ... O COMO milāk Ø-poliwi-**tīweh**   ...*
Zacatlán   and if 3s-be.lost-ANDP at ART road   or like   true 3s-be.lost-ANDP.PL

'He [used to] carry the patient and brought him to Zacatlán; and if he **passes away on the way there**, ... say, if he really **has passed away on the way**, ...'

3   Semantic tests for "purposives"

(a) Does *M* actually happen?

(b) Does *E* occur after *M* is completed?

(c) Is *E* the objective of *M*?

(d) Do *M* and *E* share the subject?

(e) Does *E* occur at the same place as the subject of *M*?

(a) Does *M* actually happen?

(15) **Context:** I came to the market.

*ō-ni-Ø-kōwa-**ko**   no-ZAPATOS*
PST-1SGS-3sGO-buy-VENP.PST 1SGP-shoes.PL
'I came to buy my shoes.'

OK: I actually bought shoes.
OK: I haven't bought any shoes but I'm still looking for ones.
OK: I could not find any shoes in the market so I gave up.

(b) Does *E* occur after *M* is completed?

(16) **Context:** My friend lives in another village and I went to say hello to him.

ō-ni-k-tlahpalō-to   sē no-AMIGO
PST-1SGS-3sGO-greet-ANDP.PST one 1SGP-friend
'I came to greet a friend of mine.'

OK: I came to his house and said hello to him.
NG: Soon after I left my village, I ran into him and said hello.

(17)   **Context:** My brother is sick; so we brought him to the hospital.[1]

*ō-Ø-pohpoliwi-**ko***   *n*   *no-knih*
PST-3s-pass.away-VENP.PST ART 1SGP-brother

     OK: He died before arriving at the hospital.
     NG: He died soon after the arrival at the hospital.

(c) Is *E* the objective of *M*?

(18)   **Context:** I visited my friend at his house and said him hello.

     a. *ō-ni-k-tlahpalō-**to***   *sē*   *no-AMIGO*
       PST-1SGS-3SGO-greet-ANDP.PST one 1SGP-friend

     b. *#ō-ni-k-ahsi-**to***   *sē*   *no-AMIGO*
       PST-1SGS-3SGO-arrive-ANDP.PST one 1SGP-friend

(19)   **Context:** On my way to the city, I ran into my friend and said him hello.

     a. *#ō-ni-k-tlahpalō-**to***   *sē*   *no-AMIGO*
       PST-1SGS-3SGO-greet-ANDP.PST one 1SGP-friend

     b. *ō-ni-k-ahsi-**to***   *sē*   *no-AMIGO*
       PST-1SGS-3SGO-arrive-ANDP.PST one 1SGP-friend

(d) Do *M* and *E* share the subject?

     cf. (13)–(14)

(e) Does *E* occur at the same place as the subject of *M*?

(20)   **Context:** I'm on my way back to my village in order to help my family build a new house. On my way to the village, they called me and said that they had just finished building the house.

*#ō-Ø-tlami-**ko***
PST-1SGS-3SGO-finish-VENP.PST

Intended meaning: 'It finished when I came to this point.'

4   Discussion

     Question: How can these two uses be accounted for in a uniform way?

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[1](17) is a problematic example; the follow-up study revealed that what makes (17) unacceptable with the latter context is that (17) is uttered at the hospital. For instance, it is possible to say *ōpohpoliwito* on the way home from the hospital, even if the "brother" died at the hospital.

Table 3: Semantic tests for "purposives"

		"Purpose" use	"On-way" use
(a)	Does *M* actually happen?	Yes/No	Yes
(b)	Does *E* occur after *M* is completed?	Yes	No
(c)	Is *E* the objective of *M*?	Yes	No
(d)	Do *M* and *E* share the subject?	Yes	Yes/No
(e)	Does *E* occur at the same place as the subject of *M*?	Yes	Yes

4.1 A unified account: Three presuppositions

(i) **"Purposive" as *M–E* succession:** "Purposive" forms themselves do not mark any logical or causal relation between *M* and *E*; they simply denote that *M* and *E* occur in succession.

(ii) **Projection of semantic features:** The agument structure of the verb stem is projected onto the whole "purposive" verb (verbal complex); the "purposive" suffixes do not affect the argument structure of the entire verb.

(iii) **Relevancy condition:** Two logically or cognitively irrelevant events cannot be combined into one verb.

"Purpose" use:

(21) *ni-Ø-kōwa-tih   no-ZAPATOS*
     1SGS-3SGO-buy-ANDP 1SGP-shoes

     'I went in order to buy my shoes.'

***M–E* succession:** 'come' → 'buy my shoes'

Projection: The whole verb is agentive/volitional

Relevancy: This is a volitional complex event which 'coming' follows 'buying my shoes'

"On-way" use:

(22) *ō-tlayuwa-**ko***
     PST-be.dark-VENP.PST

     'Night fell when [we] came at this point.'

***M–E* succession:** 'come' → 'it gets dark'

Projection: The whole verb is non-agentive, impersonal

Relevancy: This is an impersonal complex event which 'coming' follows 'it getting dark'

(23) *Ø-poliwi-**tih***
3s-be.lost-VENP.PST

'He passed away on his way.'

M–E succession: 'go' → 'pass away'

Projection: The whole verb is non-agentive

Relevancy: This is a non-agentive complex event which 'going' follows 'passing away'

5   Implications

(7′) *aw   in   ō=Ø-a'si-**ko**-'   tekōwak ...*
and when ANT=3s-arrive-VENP.PST-PLS Tecoac

'When they **arrived** (lit. came to arrive) at Tecoac ...'   (*Florentine Codex* XII, 27)

(8′) *niman i'siwka Ø-wāl-pēw-ke'   Ø-a'si-ti-wetsi-ko-'   in   mēxi'ko san yowal-ti-ka*
then   quickly 3s-VEN-depart-PLS 3s-arrive-L-fall-VENP.PST-PLS ART Mexico only night-L-by

*in   Ø-a'si-**ko**-'   san Ø-wāl-yowal-kalak-ke'*
ART 3s-arrive-VENP.PST-PLS san 3s-VEN-night-enter.PST-PLS

'Then they set out in a hurry towards here; they came to arrive quickly at Mexico; it was already dark when **they arrived** (lit. came to arrive) here; they entered by night.'

(*Florentine Codex* XII, 17)

(9′) *ka in   ō=Ø-machisti-**to**   in   kaxtīllān kil   senka' an-chikāwak-e'*
AFF ART ANT=3s-be.known-ANDP.PST ART Castile   it.is.said very   2PLS-strong-PL

an-tiya'kāwān
2PLS-brave.PL

'It has **gone to be known** all the way to Castile that you are very strong and brave.'

(*Florentine Codex* XII, 16)

Table 4: Normal and "purposive" verb paradigms (Ixquihuacan)

	Normal verb: 'to say'	Andative purposive	Venitive purposive
Indicative present	*-ihtoa*	} *-tih*	*-kih*
Indicative future	*-ihtō-s*		
Indicative imperfect	*-ihtowā-ya*	*?*	*?*
Indicative preterit	*-ihtoh*	*-to*	*-ko*
Optative	*-ihto*	*-h*	*-ki*

(24)   a. *ō-ni-tla-kwā-**to*** 'I went to eat'
       b. *ō-ni-tla-kwah-ti-yah* 'I went eating'

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(25) *san t-on-kochi'tlēwa-**ko**-'*   *san t-on-tēmiki-**ko**-'*   *a'-nelli a'-nelli*
only 1PLS-AND-dream-VENP.PST only 1PLS-AND-dream-VENP.PST NEG-true NEG-true

*ti-nemi-**ko**-'*   *in tlāltikpak*
1PLS-live-VENP.PST ART world

'We merely **come to** stand sleeping, we merely **come to** dream. It is not true, not true that we come to live on earth.'   (*Cantares mexicanos* f. 14v; Bierhorst, 1985, 174–175)

Abbreviations

1 = first person; 2 = second person; 3 = third person; AFF = affirmative; AND = andative; ANDP = andative purposive; ANT = antecessive; APPL = applicative; ART = article; CAUS = causative; HON = honorific; IPF = imperfect; INAL = inalienable; L = linking suffix; NEG = negative; OPT = optative; PL = plural; PLO = plural object; PLP = plural possessor; PLS = plural subject; PST = past (preterit); REFL = reflexive; REL = relative pronoun; SG = singular; SGO = singular object; SGP = singular possessor; SGS = singular subject; VEN = venitive; VENP = venitive purposive

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