

S/he’s Saying (It)

Reviewed by JW Webster

a<sup>21</sup>di<sup>23</sup>ha<sup>2</sup>

/a<sup>21</sup>/, v.tp-o, Lexical Root, JW p.12, CED p.10

PRC	-a <sup>2</sup> di <sup>23</sup> h/a <sup>2</sup>	Present	
		ga <sup>2</sup> di <sup>3</sup> ?a <sup>2</sup>	I’m saying it.
		ha <sup>2</sup> di <sup>23</sup> ha <sup>2</sup>	You’re saying it.
		a <sup>21</sup> di <sup>23</sup> ha <sup>2</sup>	S/he’s saying it.
NCMP	-a <sup>2</sup> di <sup>23</sup> sg-	Past	
		ga <sup>2</sup> di <sup>23</sup> sgv <sup>23</sup> ?i <sup>2</sup>	I was saying it.
		ha <sup>2</sup> di <sup>23</sup> sgv <sup>23</sup> ?i <sup>2</sup>	You were saying it.
		a <sup>21</sup> di <sup>23</sup> sgv <sup>23</sup> ?i <sup>2</sup>	S/he was saying it.
CMP	-a <sup>2</sup> dv <sup>22</sup> hn-	Past	
		a <sup>21</sup> gwa <sup>2</sup> dv <sup>22</sup> hmv <sup>23</sup> ?i <sup>2</sup>	I said it.
		ja <sup>2</sup> dv <sup>22</sup> hmv <sup>23</sup> ?i <sup>2</sup>	You said it.
		u <sup>21</sup> dv <sup>22</sup> hmv <sup>23</sup> ?i <sup>2</sup>	S/he said it.
IMM	-a <sup>2</sup> d/a <sup>2</sup>	Command	
		ha <sup>2</sup> da <sup>2</sup>	Say it!
INF	-a <sup>2</sup> dv <sup>0</sup> d/i <sup>2</sup>	Basic Infinitive	
		a <sup>22</sup> gwa <sup>2</sup> dv <sup>0</sup> di <sup>2</sup>	For me to say it.
		ja <sup>2</sup> dv <sup>0</sup> di <sup>2</sup>	For you to say it.
		u <sup>22</sup> dv <sup>0</sup> di <sup>2</sup>	For him/her to say it.

**Notes:** This verb pairs the Outsourced Reflexive /a<sup>2</sup>da<sup>22</sup>(d)/ with the Processive Adverbial Suffix to convey the idea of speech. A person is “in the process of” using words or speech *outside* themselves, as a tool or outsourced instrumentality. Alternatively, the verb may be describing an act of “externalizing” *oneself* in the form of speech. The literal meaning, then, is highly metaphorical. There’s nothing in the Root that explicitly denotes speech, words, mouths, or any other such thing.

**Transitivity:** There’s no way to classify this verb as “intransitive,” because it certainly takes a direct object—the “thing said.” This verb appears to be used mostly when a speaker is quoting something that was said—“[insert phrase here] *he said it*,” for example. It operates like a Gestural Phrase. The speaker says something, then “gestures” to it with this verb to clarify that *it* was a thing the subject said. The verb is not used when speakers want to emphasize to whom a thing was said—it’s used to emphasize the *thing said* itself. That being said, if you were to say “gv<sup>21</sup>wa<sup>2</sup>di<sup>23</sup>ha<sup>2</sup>,” the only comprehensible meaning *would be* “I’m saying (It) *to you*,” so the verb is *technically* capable of being used that way. So this is another example of Cherokee transitivity being (in many cases) a basically arbitrary matter of word choice and lexicalization. If you’re wondering why “ji<sup>22</sup>yo<sup>11</sup>se<sup>3</sup>ha” is used as “I’m saying *to him*,” but “ji<sup>22</sup>ya<sup>2</sup>di<sup>23</sup>ha<sup>29</sup>” is not—the answer is that *this was simply not the verb that came to be used for that*.

Root Formula:

Approx. Literal Meaning(s)				
/a²da²²(d)/ <i>Outsrc. Reflex.</i>	+	/i²²h/ <i>Processive</i>	+	/a²/ =
		<i>Adv. Suffix (PRC)</i>		
				“In the Process of [Using Something] Outside Oneself”
				“In the Process of [Putting Something] Outside Oneself”
				“In the Process of [Using Speech/Words] Outside Oneself”
				“Outsiding Oneself”

Sentences:

<b>Gado usdi a²¹di²³ha²?</b> / what / it is / he is saying it / <i>What is he saying?</i> (CED)	<b>Chaneline dikanowadvsvdi “hlesdi jadahyonelv’i” a²¹di²³ha².</b> / eighth / they are told / don’t / you will commit adultery / it says it / <i>The eighth commandment says “thou shalt not commit adultery.”</i> (CED)
<b>“Hasinuga” ga²dv²²nv⁴⁴, hasinesv’i.</b> / back up / when I will say it / you will back up / <i>When I say “back up,” back up.</i> (CED)	<b>“Dijalehvga” ga²dv²²hnv⁴⁴, nigad dejalehmv’i.</b> / y’all stand up / when I will say it / everyone / you will stand up / <i>When I say “stand up,” everyone stand up.</i> (CED)
<b>Gosdi nu²²dv²²hmv⁴⁴na² ulosv ojidona’v na’v’i.</b> / something / without him saying it / he passed by / they and I were standing / near / <i>He passed by us without even saying anything.</i> (CED)	
<b>Jgwisdi gawoniha, asehnv tla gohusdi ya²²di²³ha².</b> / a lot / he is speaking / but / not / something / he is not saying it / <i>He’s talking a lot, but he’s not saying anything.</i> (CED)	<b>Kilo gayhgogi yigi, julotsgi ganhdada a²¹na²di²³sgo³³?i².</b> / someone / liar / if it is / fork / tongued / they say it / <i>If someone is a liar, they say he has a forked tongue.</i> (CED)
<b>Usegajv gvhna a²¹na²di²³ha².</b> / barely / he-alive / they are saying it / <i>They say he’s barely alive.</i> (CED)	<b>Gadogi ha²¹di²³sge³?</b> / what-said / you were saying it / <i>What were you saying?</i> (CED)
<b>Juksvsdi uhayvhle a²¹na²di²³ha².</b> / smoke / it smothered him / they are saying it / <i>They say he was asphyxiated by smoke.</i> (CED)	
<b>Jigilili yinigawe adanelv na’v, kilo dagaluhji a²¹na²di²³sgo³ Anijalagi.</b> / chickadee / if it sings / a house / near / someone / he will arrive / they say it / they-Cherokees / <i>When a chickadee sings near a house, Cherokees say that someone will come.</i> (CED)	