

*The Selkirk Indian
Language*

Noun Dictionary

(Northern Tutchone Athapaskan)

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Preface

My language is my way of letting other people hear what I think.

I believe that for me to think in the Indian way, I have to know my own Indian language. That's the only way to learn what our elders have to teach us. That's the only way to understand our songs and many of the other things that Indian people do and believe. From our ancestors we have learned how man and all the birds, fish, and land animals got to be here on this earth. We know how people who die are reborn again into their relations' families. Our elders have told us why we respect the people called Indian doctor -- because they can help people become well when they are sick; they can warn people to be careful because they know when someone is going to get bad luck; or they can tell a hunter where to look for game because they know in their mind where animals are. They do all these kinds

of things with spiritual power. These are things that Indian people know about, and many times the only way they can be talked about is in the Indian tongue because English does not have words for them. It is not easy to turn your tongue around and try to say things in English if there are no words for them.

I really hope that the parents and grandparents will start using their language again with their youngsters. I also hope that the youngsters will try to learn their Indian tongue from their elders and parents, and if the Indian language is taught in their village or school then I hope they will put their mind to what they are learning.

If we can hang on to our Indian languages then we can stay together and work together for our people always. If we keep our languages then we keep our understanding of all the different things

that make us Indian people. I think in this way we can do a lot for making ourselves and our children happy in the future.

I wish you all the best of luck in learning your own Indian language -- whether it's the Selkirk language written down in this book, or the Mayo language, or Old Crow language, or Burwash language, or any other. It is not an easy job, but the thing to remember always is why you're doing it -- this will give you strength and make your task easier.

Daniel Johnson

Chairman

Council for Yukon Indians

Introduction

This dictionary has been written for the native people who speak and understand the Selkirk Indian Language. It is a reference guide to a small portion of the words of their language and is by no means complete. The words and spellings in it are based on the speech of two members of the Selkirk Band, Mr. Tommy McGinty and Mr. Johnson Edwards. Mr. McGinty has worked on the project from the very start and spent countless hours teaching his language so that it might be recorded and preserved. His patience and humour have rescued the effort on more than one occasion when we seemed to be stalled for one reason or another. It has been a joy to work with him. Mr. Edwards joined us only recently but has helped greatly by explaining the exact meanings of words and phrases and by offering alternative ways of saying certain things. Both men have endured more questions than they should be

subjected to in a lifetime, and I thank them both for putting up with all of it. Many members of the Selkirk Band have assisted us in various ways, especially Chief Danny Joe and Mr. Harry Baum, and to all of them we extend our sincere thanks.

The cover sketch by our friend Mr. Ted Harrison is based on a photo of Needlerock taken by the late Bishop I.O. Stringer. That photo is now a part of the Kathleen (Van Bibber) Thorpe collection and we are grateful to her for allowing us to use it.

Work on this dictionary began in the summer of 1974 but did not resume until the autumn of 1976 because of funding problems. It is fitting to acknowledge the support of a number of organizations and individuals who helped us in our search for financial aid and in that manner contributed to the completion of this booklet. Special thanks, then, to the following: the Council for Yukon Indians,

the Yukon Native Brotherhood, the Yukon Teachers' Association, Ms. Eleanor Millard, Mr. Gordon McIntyre, Mr. Erik Nielsen, Ms. Jane Strong, and Mr. Don Woloshyn.

All of us who have had a hand in preparing this booklet hope that it will serve to reveal some of the beauty and richness of the Selkirk Indian Language and will encourage people to keep it alive by using it more. It is a priceless heritage which has been passed down from generation to generation. Once lost, it can never be regained.

This first version of the Selkirk dictionary no doubt contains many mistakes of one kind or another. Please let us know if you find any, and also let us know of other words which you think we should put in next time.

John Ritter

Whitehorse, Yukon

February, 1977

The Selkirk Indian Language

In the title of this dictionary we have used the term 'Selkirk Indian Language' because that is the name most commonly used by people who speak the language. Most of those people, members of the Selkirk Band, now live in Pelly Crossing, while Fort Selkirk itself is all but abandoned. The movement of people from the Fort began in the late 1940's and was virtually complete by the mid-1950's. The reasons for this move are many: a decline in fur trapping, closing of the Hudson's Bay Company trading post, halting of steamboat traffic on the Yukon River, and completion of the Dawson highway. All these factors served to realign the people from the river to the highway, and Fort Selkirk lost its importance as a focal point of Band activities. Not all members of the original Selkirk Band moved to Pelly Crossing, however, and some have taken up residence

in Whitehorse, Dawson, Mayo, and other communities. But although more than twenty years have elapsed since the beginning of the move from Fort Selkirk, the people who were members of the Band "in the early days" continue to call themselves "Selkirk people" and their native way of speaking, "the Selkirk Indian Language".

The language has another, more technical name, Northern Tutchone Athapaskan, given by linguists and anthropologists interested in classifying the languages of the Yukon. This name requires a little explanation.

Let us look first at the word Athapaskan. This is the name given to a large number of North American native languages which share a great many similarities in vocabulary and structure. They are all closely related, one to another, and so they are called a family of languages. These Athapaskan languages

are spoken over a huge area of North America in three separate regions: the American Southwest (Arizona and New Mexico), the Pacific Coast (Southern Oregon and Northern California), and the far North including most of interior Alaska and a large section of the Northwest Territories, British Columbia, and the Yukon. On the basis of language it can be shown that the Athapaskan peoples originated in the North, probably somewhere in central Alaska. At some remote period in the past, groups of these people left their homelands and migrated Southward and eventually settled in the areas they now occupy. Although the exact details of these movements are unknown to us, we are at least certain that the direction of travel was from North to South, and not the other way around.

All of the native languages of the Yukon Territory except Tlingit (spoken

in Carcross and Teslin) belong to this Athapaskan family. These include:

(1) Gwich'in (also known as "Loucheux" or "Kutchin"), spoken in Old Crow.

(2) Han, spoken in Dawson City.

(3) Kaska, spoken in Ross River, Watson Lake, and Upper Liard.

(4) Tagish, spoken now by only a handful of people in the Tagish-Carcross area. Many of the descendants of the original Tagish people now speak Tlingit.

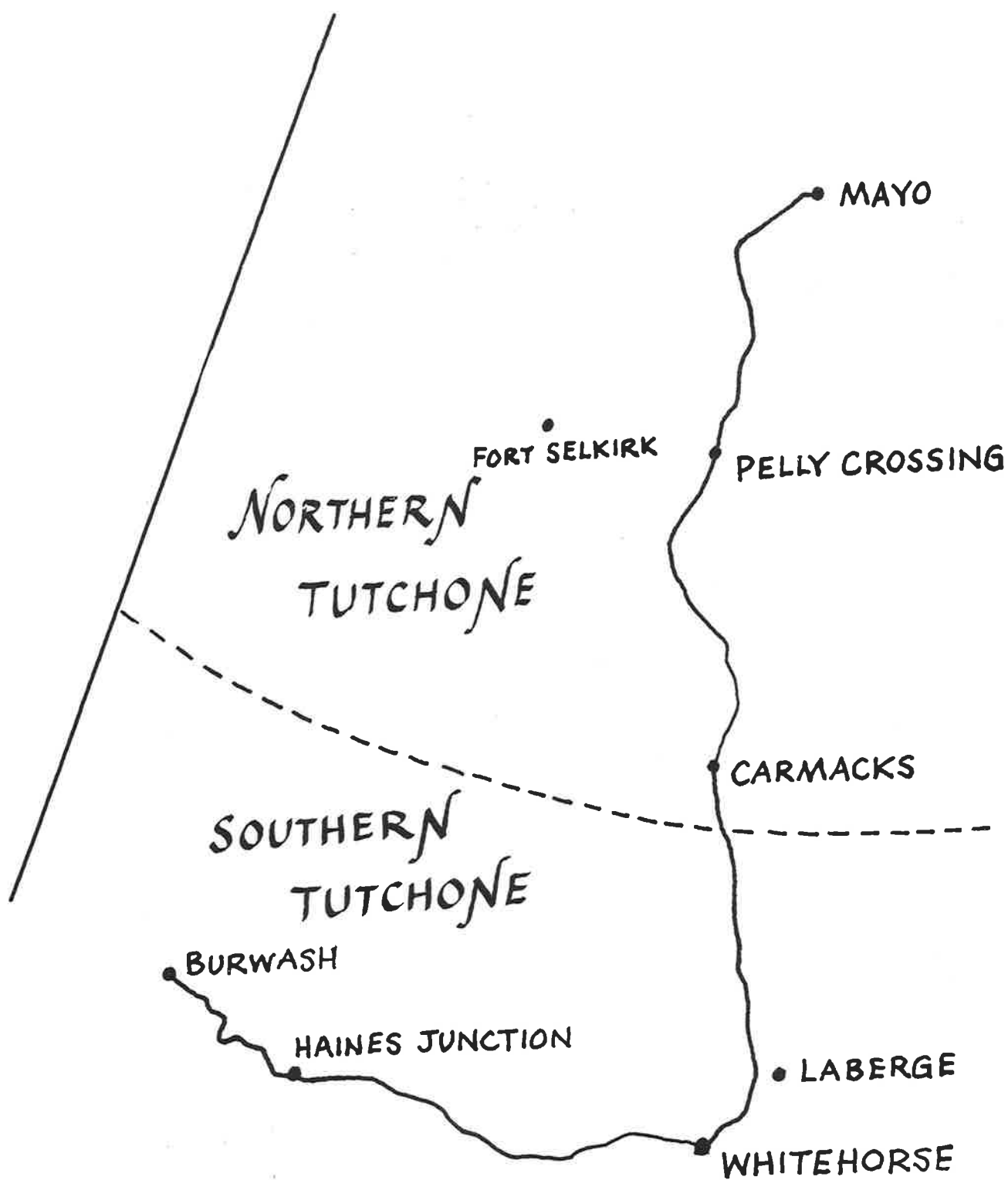
(5) Tutchone, spoken in a number of Yukon communities ranging from Mayo in the North to Burwash in the Southwest.

All five languages are Athapaskan. See the map on page 11.

Let us look a little more closely at the name Tutchone. This is an outsider's term, perhaps an attempted English spelling of the widespread



Yukon Native Languages



Tutchone - Speaking Communities of the Yukon Territory.

Interior native word for "wood" or "stick", dechan. Early travelers to the Yukon, such as Campbell and Schwatka, reported that the native people of the Interior were called "Wood Indians" or "Stick Indians". Even today the Mayo people recognize the term Dechan To Hot'yan ("People Who Live in the Woods") as the original name for the people who lived in the Stewart Valley. So it is possible that Tutchone is one way of trying to spell dechan. Whatever its origin, it has come to be used as a name for the Selkirk Indian Language -- and for others as well. See the map on page 12.

Those who have studied the Yukon languages now recognize two main divisions, or dialects, of the Tutchone language:

Northern Tutchone spoken in Mayo, Pelly Crossing (Selkirk), and Carmacks - Little Salmon.

Southern Tutchone spoken in
Burwash, Haines Junction (Champagne -
Aishihik), and Whitehorse - Lake Labarge.

This division reflects the fact that a speaker of the Selkirk Indian Language, for example, has no trouble at all communicating with people from Mayo or Carmacks. There are differences in pronunciation and vocabulary, to be sure, but they are very slight. If a Selkirk speaker meets up with someone from Burwash, however, the differences in language would be very apparent to him and he might have to make a conscious effort to understand what is said. In the very same way, a Burwash speaker would have no problem talking with someone from Lake Labarge or Haines Junction even though he would recognize slight differences in speech. If he travelled to Pelly Crossing, however, he would have a much harder time understanding the language spoken around him. So the Tutchone

The Selkirk Alphabet

The following sections describe the basic sounds of the Selkirk Language and the symbols we have chosen to represent those sounds. We hope the descriptions will assist the reader in decoding the words in the dictionary. The consonants are discussed first (1), then the vowels (2), and finally the tones (3).

1. Consonants

The Selkirk alphabet contains 38 letters and letter-groups to represent the basic consonant sounds of the language. These are listed below along with examples of their use in whole words.

tl	tlin	dog
	etlen	lots, many
dl	dlu	toboggan
	dlák	squirrel
tl'	tl'o	grass
	tl'ó'	gall

h	hunday	story
	humbrá'	their knife
m	médhdhin	owl
	man	lake
n	nan	land
	nátsat	strong
mb	umbát	his stomach
	mbo	bluff (cliff)
nd	ndu	island
	undáák	his eyes
y	yat'aak	sky
	gúyát	beads

1.1 Consonants + r

Certain of the basic consonants listed above can also occur in combination with the letter (and sound) r. Examples of these "r-blends" or "r-clusters" follow below:

tlr	tetlro	soft, mushy
dlr	hudlro	ling cod

tl'r	tyok tl'ró'	fish slime
tr	tro	urine
lr	Elró'	Coast Indian
tr	trá'	arrow
dr	tedrúa	mink
t'r	t'ró'	charcoal
sr	sra	bear, beer
zr	dezra	cow moose
kr	króde	otter
gr	k'ongrun	doll
k'r	k'ro	alder
khrr	khro	thornbush
ghr	eghró'	egg
'r	'rá'	fog
mbr	mbra	knife
ndr	tondru	night time

1.2 Consonants + y

A number of the basic consonants form combinations or "clusters" with the letter y. The following "y-blends" are found:

tly	etlyaa	rags
dly	kenedlyat	pointed
tl'y	tl'yaw	rope
ty	tyó'	dust
ly	telyók	ling cod
ty	tu tyan	cup
dy	ledyát	tea
t'y	tyó' t'yó'	bread
tthy	tetthyaw	stone axe
tth'y	utth'yán'	his wrist
thy	thyán'	star
dhy	udhyáák	his mouth
tsy	tsyaw	snowdrift
dzy	dzyan	day
ts'y	huts'yát	he lies

sy	tso esyát	he splits wood
zy	tthezya	comb
ky	kya	credit
gy	gyo	king salmon
k'y	tth'an k'yáát	grave
khy	khyá'	trap
'y	'yáák	shirt, jacket
ndy	dendyák	moose

2. Vowels

The vowels and diphthongs of the Selkirk Indian Language are: i, u, e, o, a, aa, ay, and aw. Each of these sounds can also be pronounced with air flowing out of the nose, and in that case are said to be nasalized. We indicate those sounds by adding the letter n after the basic symbols: in, un, en, on, an, aan, ayn, and awn.

Please bear in mind that while all these sounds can be easily written with English letters they do not correspond

in any direct way to the English sounds we associate with those letters. Each of the Selkirk vowels is listed below along with an approximate description of its true sound. Note especially the importance of the symbols ' and n when they stand together with the vowels.

1. i has the sound of the vowel in English see, bee. Examples:

ki	moccasin
di	grouse
hudzi	caribou

2. i' has the sound of the vowel in English see, bee, but it is much shorter and ends with a sharp, abrupt stop. Note that ' is a separate letter and is called a "pinch" or "glottal stop". It can occur with all the vowels, not just with i. Examples:

hudzi dí'	caribou antlers
udzí'	his heart
utthí'	his head

3. u has the sound of the vowel in English Luke. Examples:

tu	water
d <u>lu</u>	toboggan
sru	inconnu fish

4. u' has the sound of u but is shorter and ends with a sharp, abrupt stop. Examples:

dan gh <u>ú'</u>	man's tooth
ud <u>lu'</u>	his toboggan
hut <u>ú'</u>	their water

5. e has a range of sounds which vary between the e of English met and the a of English make, cake. It is often preceded by a short "y" sound, giving the impression of "eeya" or "aya". Some examples of e :

e	snowshoe
ge	rabbit
se	sun
néye	wolverine
khe	goose

6. e' has the sound of e but is shorter and ends with a sharp, abrupt stop.

Some examples:

tsé'	beaver
lezé'	money
uté'	his father

7. o has the sound of the vowel in English go, so. Examples:

tso	fire wood
cho	big
tl'o	grass

8. o' has the sound of o but ends with a sharp, abrupt stop. Examples:

tó'	walking stick
udyó'	his younger sister
tádó'	driftwood

9. a has two sounds:

When a is the last letter of the word it usually has the sound of English a in father. Examples:

ta	wave
ttha	Indian "carrot"
dya	crane bird
khya	pack (sack)

When a occurs in the middle of a word it usually has the sound of English a in sofa. Examples:

man	lake
mbat	food
ják	berries
dlák	squirrel
etthán'	meat

10. aa has the sound of the vowel in English father. Examples:

tádlaat	water moss
tats'aat	sucker fish
dan ndáák	man's eyes

11. a' has the sound of the vowel in English father but is shorter and ends with a sharp, abrupt stop. Some examples of a' :

trá'	arrow
khyá'	trap
khá'	club

12. ay has the sound of the vowel in English tie, buy. Examples:

egay	wolf
etsay	he is crying
Enakay	Eskimo

13. ay' has the sound of ay but is shorter and ends with a sharp, abrupt stop, as in:

utáy'	his uncle
déláy'	bell

14. aw has the sound of the vowel in English how, cow. Examples:

aw	spruce boughs
daw	blood
ddhaw	mountain

15. aw' has the sound of aw but is shorter and ends with a sharp, abrupt stop. Examples:

udów'	his blood
tsé' áw'	beaver dam
udambáw'	his lips

2.1 Nasalized vowels

The nasalized vowels and diphthongs are in, un, en, on, an, aan, ayn, and awn.

Examples of in, un :

i + n	tlin	dog
	utsin	his nose
	unín'	his face
u + n	gun	worm
	utsun	his grandmother
	kún'	house

Note that n is pronounced as ng after the vowel i in these examples, so that tlin sounds like tling and utsin like utsing. Also, after the vowel u, the n may sometimes be heard as ng, and kún' might be heard as kúng'. In all these cases we do not have to write the letter

g because it is predictable, that is, in is always pronounced as ing, and un may only sometimes be heard as ung. We simply write in and un.

The other vowel + n combinations are a little more straightforward to the speaker of English. These are:

e + n	huchen	it's raining
-------	--------	--------------

	utthéyén'	his brains
--	-----------	------------

o + n	k'onk'é'	gun
-------	----------	-----

	ts'ónk'e	camp robber
--	----------	-------------

a + n	dan	man, person
-------	-----	-------------

	man	lake
--	-----	------

aa + n	sra aan	bear den
--------	---------	----------

	uts'áán'	his wife
--	----------	----------

ay + n	sra dezayn	small black bear
--------	------------	------------------

aw + n	sto dhyawn	stove pipe
--------	------------	------------

3. Tone

The Selkirk Indian Language is tonal. By "tonal" we mean that the pitch or melody of the words is very important, and

great care must be taken to make sure that each syllable is pronounced with the right "accent".

There are two tones, high and low. For the moment let us write high tone with an acute accent (´) over the vowels, low tone with a grave accent (`). Note the following two words:

thí´	dog salmon
tthì`	rock, stone

thí´ is pronounced with a sharp, high pitch, while tthì` is pronounced with a lower, fading pitch.

Consider also the following two words:

ùts'`àt	her forehead
ùts'`át	her womb

ùts'`àt is pronounced as a sequence of two low-pitched syllables, while ùts'`át is pronounced as a sequence of a low-pitched syllable followed by a high-pitched syllable. Notice that the two words are otherwise spelled the same way, that is,

they contain identical vowels and consonants and differ only in their individual pitch "melodies", or tone. The words mean very different things, of course, but it is only the pitch levels which keep them apart in sound. The point here is: the syllable pitches, or tones, are just as important to the make-up of words as are the vowels and consonants.

Now in some cases this syllable tone can be predicted. Consider these two words:

dàw	blood
ùdǎw'	his blood

The word dàw is pronounced with a low tone when it stands by itself, but when the ' ("pinch" or "glottal stop") is added to it in a possessive form such as ùdǎw' ("his blood"), it takes on a high tone. This example is important because it indicates one way in which tone can generally be predicted: in

and have adopted the convention of marking only high tone ('). Low tone is left unmarked. All the examples given in this section will thus be written as follows:

thí'	dog salmon
tthi	rock, stone
uts'at	her forehead
uts'át	her womb
daw	blood
udáw'	his blood
kún'	house
ukí'	his moccasin
dedlín'	key
dan nín'	man's face
dlák	squirrel
tádlaat	water moss

udów'	his blood
tsé' áw'	beaver dam
udambáw'	his lips

2.1 Nasalized vowels

The nasalized vowels and diphthongs are in, un, en, on, an, aan, ayn, and awn.

Examples of in, un :

i + n	tlin	dog
	utsin	his nose
	unín'	his face
u + n	gun	worm
	utsun	his grandmother
	kún'	house

Note that n is pronounced as ng after the vowel i in these examples, so that tlin sounds like tling and utsin like utsing. Also, after the vowel u, the n may sometimes be heard as ng, and kún' might be heard as kúng'. In all these cases we do not have to write the letter

g because it is predictable, that is, in is always pronounced as ing, and un may only sometimes be heard as ung. We simply write in and un.

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	man	lake
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ùdǎw'	his blood

The word dàw is pronounced with a low tone when it stands by itself, but when the ' ("pinch" or "glottal stop") is added to it in a possessive form such as ùdǎw' ("his blood"), it takes on a high tone. This example is important because it indicates one way in which tone can generally be predicted: in

most cases a high tone will appear on a syllable which ends with ́, the "pinch" or "glottal stop". Some additional examples are:

kún'	house
ùk'í'	his moccasin
dèdlín'	key
dàn nín'	man's face

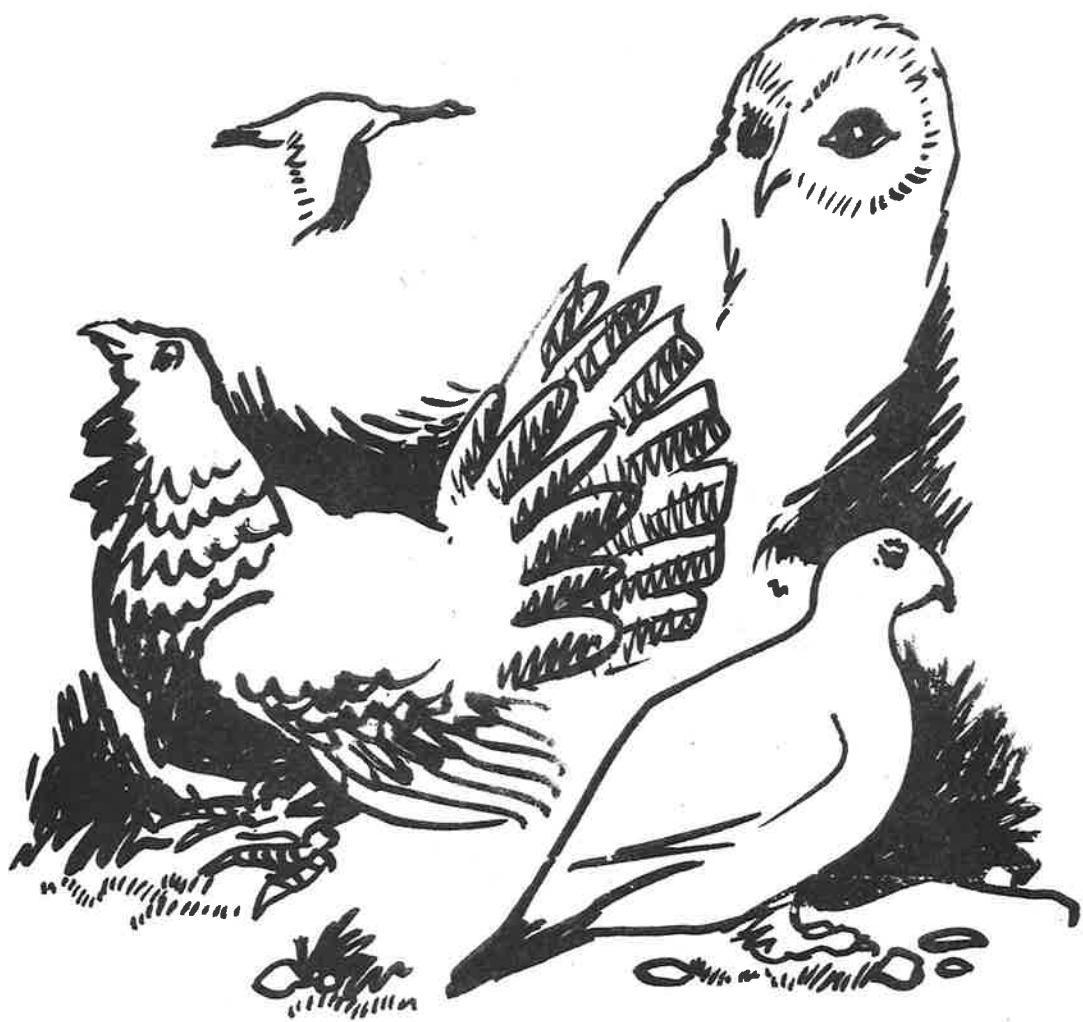
In each case we find a high tone on the syllable which ends with ́.

But this doesn't tell the whole story of tone in the Selkirk Language. For example, high tone very often occurs on syllables which don't end with ́, as in dlák ("squirrel") or tádlààt ("water moss"). For anyone interested in learning the language from scratch, the proper tones and tone patterns will have to be learned just like the vowels and consonants: by steady practice and repetition.

We have tried to keep down the number of symbols in the Selkirk alphabet

and have adopted the convention of marking only high tone ('). Low tone is left unmarked. All the examples given in this section will thus be written as follows:

thí'	dog salmon
tthi	rock, stone
uts'at	her forehead
uts'át	her womb
daw	blood
udów'	his blood
kún'	house
ukí'	his moccasin
dedlín'	key
dan nín'	man's face
dlák	squirrel
tádlaat	water moss



BIRDS

BIRDS

bird (any)	chuan
bird egg	chuan ghró'
bird feather	chuan tró'
bird nest	chuan t'ó
bird wing	chuan t'é'
blackbird	tetl'rua
bluebird	chuan denintl'run
camp robber	ts'ónk'e
crane	dya
duck (any)	tyat, chat
canvasback	ndaak ttho
gadwall	tlin tsén sro
goldeneye	tthék'í'
grebe, eared	dát utthí' dettho
grebe, horned	dát zra
grebe, red-neck	dát cho
harlequin	tagéa hutyat
mallard	nát'ak
merganser	tyok tyat
old squaw	ah'alé'
pintail	dzendyó'
scaup	tyat tthí' denintl'run

scoter, common	tyat denét'ro
scoter, surf	tthetsáán' áw'
scoter, white-wing	ndáw'
shoveler	datak
teal	tyat jaada
widgeon	shashin
eagle, bald	ge saya ; túnde
eagle, golden	thak
flycatcher	chuan dettho
goldfinch (?)	dzuan ttho zra
goose	khe
goose, snow	khe gay
goose, white-fronted	tádhák
grouse, blue	di cho
grouse, ruffer	intrá' ; inták
grouse, spruce	di ; dan dí'
grouse, willow	intth'ún'
gull	méhk'én' ; mék'én'
gull, Bonaparte's	méhk'én' utthí'
	denét'ro
hawk	únzi
kingfisher	téch'áw'
loon, Arctic	tth'émbí'
loon, common	tútsay

loon, red-neck

magpie

osprey

owl, great grey

owl, great horned

owl, small grey

owl, snowy

phalarope

pine grosbeak

ptarmigan

raven

redpoll

robin

sandpiper

shrike

snipe (?)

sparrow

Stellar's jay

swallow, barn

swallow, cliff

swan

tuch'aat

ts'ónk'e zayn

t'o ts'yá'

etthédzaat ;

etthélí'

médhdhin

nédé' ts'é'yaana

nédé' ; náhdé'

degay undáya ;

tagok ndoa

tthet'o dzyawa

k'ambe

ts'ek'i

damba

tútsi

tadrúa

dzech'un ; dzéhch'un

tach'aat

gun chuan

tet'oka

tthaw ninzyaana

tetlok zyawa

degay ; tagok

warbler

chuan detthoa

winter birds

ts'ágaan ;

huk'a dlína

woodcock (?)

yadhok

woodpecker

tso esháwa

woodpecker, 3-toe

etsána

unidentified:

inlyát

dzak damba



BODY PARTS

BODY PARTS

man's body	dan nezhan ; dan nehtín'
left side	tl'o ts'an
right side	sók ts'an
his anus	uttháw'
his arm	ugáán'
his armpit	ugáán tl'yáák
his back	ut'a ; unat'aak
his backbone	uchán'
his belly	umbát
his biceps	udezrun ; utsántthí'
his bone	utth'án'
his brains	utthéyén'
her breast	ut'ók
her nipple	ut'ók tthí' ; umá' tthí'
his breastbone	uyuntth'án' ; uzhuntth'án'
his calf muscle	uts'ó'
his cheeks	umétthán' ; unínmbó'
his chest	udzechín'
his chin	uyédé'

his ear

udzák

his eye

undáák

his eyebrow

unelún' ; uts'élrún'

his eyelash

undáák yé'

pupil of eye

undáák naghóyé'

his face

undáák zún'

his fat

unín'

his fingers

uk'e

little finger

ulatth'ó'

middle finger

ulatsawa

his fingernails

ulatth'ó' cho

his flesh

ulagán'

his foot

utthán' ; ut'íngyán'

his heel

ukí'

his sole

ukentl'é'

top of foot

uketl'aak ; uketl'a

his forearm

ukent'aak

his forehead

utth'yán'

his gallbladder

uts'at ; uts'ataan

his gums

utl'ó'

his guts

ughutthán'

his hair:

uts'ik

his armpit hair	ugáán tl'yáak yé'
his body hair	uyé'
his chest hair	udzechín' yé'
his grey hair	utthí' degay
his head hair	utthéyé'
his hand	ulé'
back of hand	ulat'aak
his palm	utl'á' ; utl'aak
his head	utthí'
his heart	udzí'
his hindquarter	ugháw'
his hipbone	uk'áy' ; uk'áytth'án'
his jaw	uyétth'án'
	uzhétth'án'
his kidney	ut'ró'
his larynx	uk'rá'
his knee	ugwát
his leg	utth'án'
his lower leg	ukechán'
his lips	udambáw'
his liver	udhát
his lungs	udzé'yók ; udzadyák
his marrow	uzhák
his mouth	udhyáák

his navel

ujúk'yá'

his neck

ujú' yétyak

his neck glands

uk'rá'

his neck veins

udhétl'yáw'

his nose

utsin

his nose ridge

utsin gháán'

his nostrils

unyan ; unin

his pelvic bone

utl'étth'án'

his penis

utsók

kid's penis

dunyána lélró'

his pubic hair

utl'ékhé'

his ribs

ucháán'

his rump, buttocks

utl'é'

his scrotum

ughródhó'

his shoulder blade

ugáchán'

his shoulder bone

ugázrun

his shoulder joint

ugázrun gwát

his skin

udhó' ; ut'yún'

his spine

uchán' ; uchántth'án'

his spinal cord

udyán' khá'

his teeth

unínts'ú'

lower teeth

ughú'

k'étl'aak ghú'

upper teeth	k'étaan ghú'
his tendons	uch'át
his testicles	ughrótsí'
his thigh muscle	udingho
his thumb	ulachú'
his toes	ukechú'
his little toe	uketsawa
his big toe	uketth'ó' cho
his toenails	ukegán'
his tongue	utthyáw'
his umbilical cord	ujútl'yáw'
his upper body	umbát day
his uvula	uk'rálák
her vagina	udrú'
her clitoris	udrú' tthyáw'
his veins	uch'ú'
his waist	utl'át
his whiskers	udayé'
her womb	uts'át ; uts'ádhó'
his wrist	uts'ángwát

NON-MATERIAL

man's mind

dan yíndí'

strong mind

uyíndí nátsat

weak mind

uyíndí tetsu

man's name

dan zí'

man's shadow, spirit,
ghost

dan yúnzrún'

dan yézrún'

BODY PRODUCTS, CONDITIONS, DISEASES

BODY PRODUCTS, CONDITIONS, DISEASES

blister	túndót
blood	daw
boil	ts'ó'
breath	dan dezrun
corpse	etí'
crippled person	dan utó hothyat
diarrhea	tl'át huts'ík
ear wax	dan dzák t'ró'
excrement	tsén'
flatus, fart	jaat
gall	tl'ó'
hunchback	dan unán' hánan'e
milk (woman's)	ayéndyá' má'
	ayéndyá' t'ók
mucus	tsin ghó
pus	kho
scab	tyat
scar	shat
semen	khan
snowblindness	náák thun
spit	dezyaak

sweat (he sweats)

tears

tooth tartar

tuberculosis

urine

vomit

wart

tenedhyáw'

náák tú' ; tsáy tú'

ghutsáán'

kho dzedetl'í'

tro

neku

tth'yáw'



CLOTHING and ORNAMENTATION

CLOTHING AND ORNAMENTATION

beads	gúyát
belt	thi ; thay
bracelet	tth'yánzhu
button	'yáák tsáw'
cap	ts'á' ; ts'aat
clothes	nde
coat made of caribou or sheep skin	dayaan
dress, skirt	ayéndyá' 'yáák
earrings	dzák tl'yáw'
fur coat	daghan 'yáák
handkerchief	kw'ánt'i
head band	detthí tl'at hechú
hood	'yáák ts'á'
mitts	maat
moccasins	ki
mukluks	kechan tho
nose ring	lényu
pants	tho
parka	yakaak 'yáák ; pók i
pocket	ts'at'áát ; ts'at'á

ring	letth'i
scarf	dháánt'aak ;
	dhánt'a
shells	nintth'an ;
	intth'an
shirt, jacket	'yáák
shoes	kegwát
shoelaces	kegwát tl'yáw'
sleeve	gáánmáát
stockings, socks	stógyan ; dógyan
suspenders	wánét'i
tattoo (chin)	deyéde' denetrá'
underclothes	t'é' 'yáák ;
	t'anede

COLOURS

COLOURS

black	denét'ro ; denét'ro'
brown	dettho
green, blue	dentl'run
	denintl'run
grey	dets'a
	dets'aat
light grey	ukádegay
pink	detsik ; dentsik
red	det'aw
white	degay
	dek'aw
off-white	dembia
mixed colours in check pattern	nedenakrá'
mixed colours	uk'óhonétsin
striped colours	nedenets'at



COOKING and EATING UTENSILS

COOKING AND EATING UTENSILS

baking pan

tyó' tth'é'

barrel

dechan yúnthé' cho

beer bottle

sra tth'é' ;

beer opener

náw' tth'é'

bowl

sra lagán'

bucket

tth'é' delrún' ;

can opener

tu tyan deghró'

cup

tu yúnthé' ;

dish pan

tu tth'é'

fork

mezan uyí edets'et'á'

meat fork

tu tyan

frying pan

tth'é' uzhát

knife

k'ets'etsaw tth'é'

table knife

mezan gok ;

ladle, dipper

mezan goa

mezan gok cho

kágáán'

mbra

uzhí nets'ekwan mbrá'

tth'é' uchí' húnlin ;

tu tú tyán'

lard pail	khi tth'é' ; khi dhó'
lid	udántaan ; udánintaan
plate, dish	tth'é' ; tth'é' t'aan
birch-bark dish	k'i tth'é'
pot	únthé' ; zúnthé'
cast-iron pot	tthi zúnthé' ; mezan tthi yúnthé'
copper pot	tthetsáán' yúnthé' ; tthetsáán' zúnthé'
pot handle	únthé chí' ; únthé dégáw'
pot holder	zúnthé' syá' ; zúnthé' zyá'
pot holder (straight stick)	únthé jáw'
roasting stick	jok ; etthán' jáw'
rolling pin	dechan delrún'
saucer	tth'é' dat'ana ; tu tyan ketl'aak
spoon	ts'á'
sheep-horn spoon	mbak dí' ts'á'

tea pot

ledyát tyan ;

ledyát zúnthé'

tin can

mezan tyan ;

mezan zúnthé'

toothpick

dan uyétsák déchán' ;

dan ghú' detak

nets'egyat



FIRE

FIRE

ashes	tthe lyó'
	tthendru lyó'
candle	kándlaw
	kándlo
charcoal	t'ró'
coal oil	khi dék'án'
dry brush	aw hegan
fire (burning)	kwán' dék'án'
fire hole	nínmbá' tets'í'
	yétyaak ;
	sto dhyan yédaak
fire place	kwán' yédaak
	kwán' yétyaak
fire wood	tso
flint	tl'ya
kindling wood	tso groa
	tso tedenazyát
matches	kwán'
paper matches	k'ók kwán'
wooden matches	dechan kwán'
poker	kwán' uzhi t'ets'edháy'

red coals

tthyat (det'aw)

smoke

tets'í'

smoke dust, soot

tets'í' lyó'

sparks

kwán' atáw'

tree brush used
to start fire

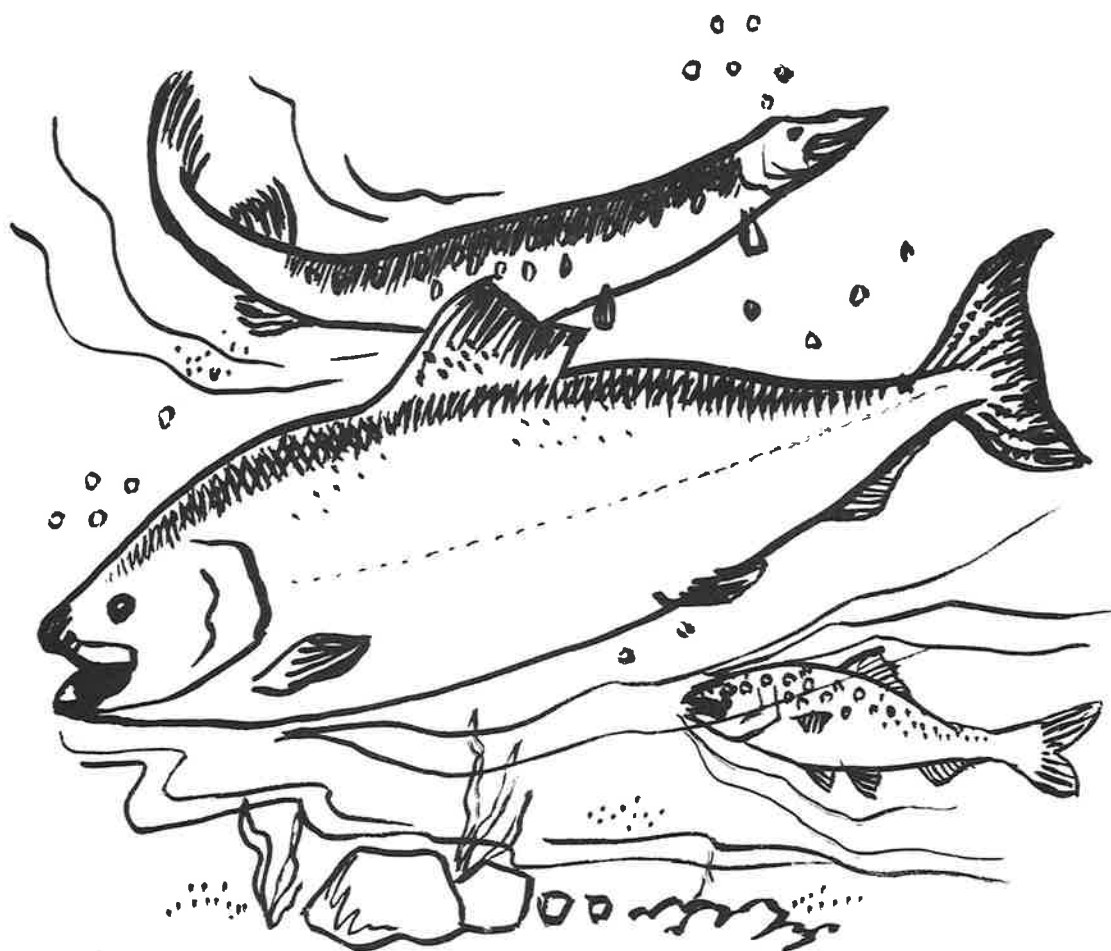
dintth'in

wood chips

tso tthyá'

wood shavings

egá'



FISH

FISH

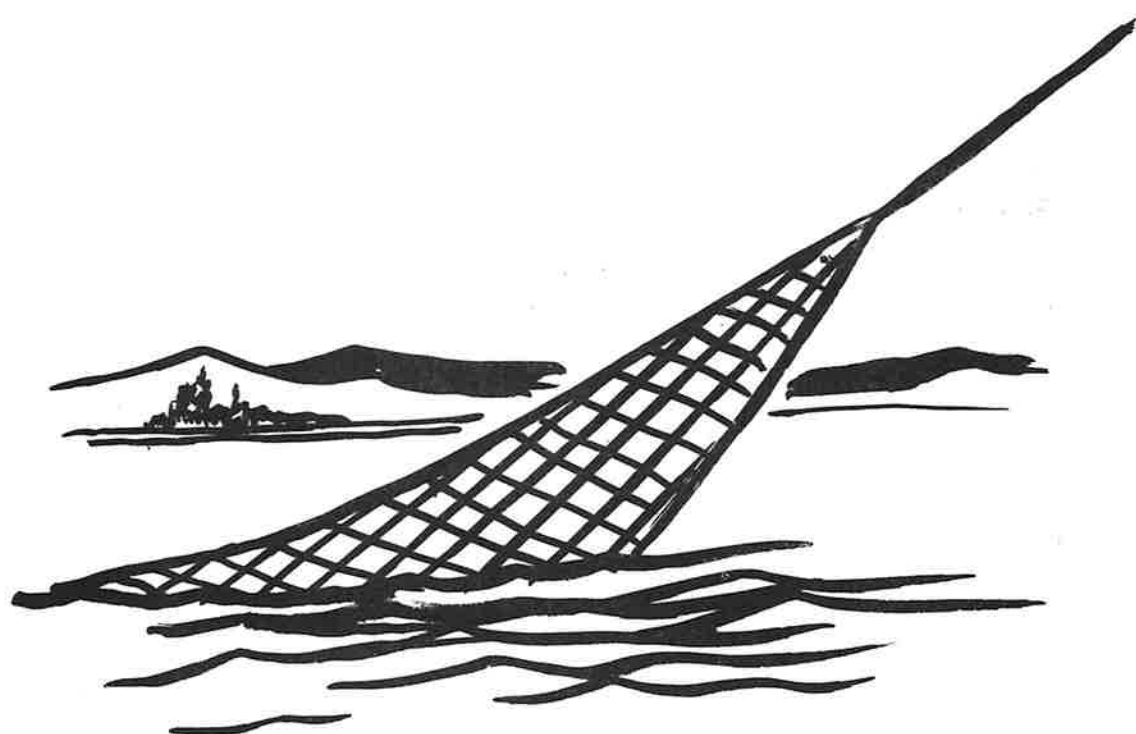
fish (any)	†yok
fish eggs	†yok k'ún'
fish fins	†yok t'é'
fish scales	†yok t'rú'
fish slime	†yok tl'rú'
dog salmon	thí'
eel	tetthá'
grayling	t'a
inconnu, coney	sru
jackfish, pike	téti ; táti
king salmon	gyo
male king salmon	khak
ling cod	telyók
	hutsum
	hudlro
	†yok chí ndo
	uchí' mbra thó'
sucker	tats'aat
trout	mbyaat
whitefish	†yok degay
sharp-nosed	sakay ; shaankay
whitefish	

whitefish (spawned?)

legha

whitefish

tezrá' ; tizrá'



FISHING, HUNTING and TRAPPING

FISHING, HUNTING, AND TRAPPING

fish hook	t'ráán'
fish net	temyán'
floaters	tétrún' ; tétrún' dáláw'
sinkers	tetthí'
fish spear	tyok déttth'án'
fish trap	shá'
fish trap (sack-like)	ó'
gaff hook	k'ek'ák
arrow	trá'
arrow bag	trá dhó'
arrowhead	trá tthí'
arrow feather	k'ádet'e
bow	intín'
bow string	intín' tl'yáw'
caribou fence	tthyaw
club	khá'
horn club	edí' khá'
gun, rifle	k'onk'é' ; kw'ank'é'
barrel	k'onk'é' dhyáwn' ; k'onk'é' dhyán

double-barrel	k'onk'é' t'egé' in'é' ; shágáán' dégro
single-barrel	k'onk'é' udhyáwn tak ech'i
bullets	k'onk'é' t'thí'
gunpowder	k'onk'é' kwán'
gun sight	k'onk'é' túkí'
gun stock	k'onk'é' tín'
hammer	k'onk'é' dzák
pistol	k'onk'é' zra
shotgun	shágáán'
trigger	k'onk'é' t'ets'adandi
pack (sack)	khyá
skin stretcher	eka
game look-out	nák'yá'
trapline	khyá tan



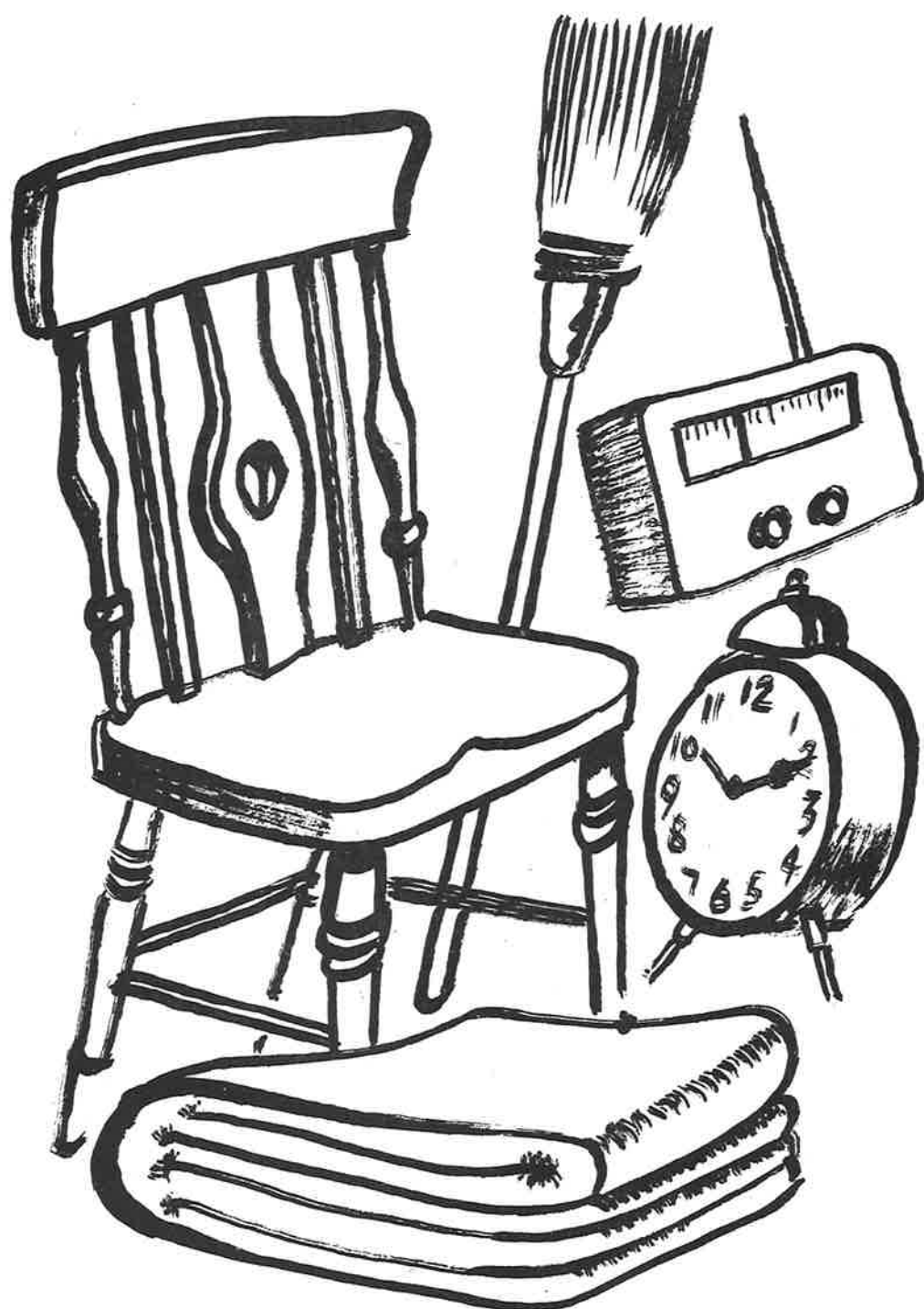
**FOODS, BEVERAGES,
TOBACCO, MEDICINE**

FOODS, BEVERAGES,
TOBACCO, AND MEDICINE

apples (dried)	tso dzák
back grease	echek'eyí'
baking powder	mekedro
beer	sra
bread	†yó' t'yó' ; †ét'yó'
bread in loaf	†ét'yó' dan
butter	khi dettho
chew made from fungus	métl'áát
ashes	
chewing gum	dzí' ts'a'á' ; k'ot'yan dzí'
chewing tobacco	†at
cigarette	†at ts'edétth'ún'
cookies	†yó' gan zra
cow milk	t'ók ; má'
crackers	†yó' gan
fat for tallow	ek'e
fish	†yok
boiled fish	†yok hechá'
dry fish	†yok gan

fish strips	+yok nenatthák
flour	+yó'
food (any)	mbat
gravy (flour)	+yó' t'iro
gravy (meat)	etthán' tú'
grease	khi
bone grease	tth'an yí'
honey	dedzyan tsáán' ; dedzyan tsén'
Indian 'carrot'	ttha
kidney fat	et'ró k'eyí'
marrow	ezhak
marrow fat	ezhak yí'
meat	etthán'
dry meat	etthán' gan
pounded meat	etsún'
fried meat	etthán' int'yó'
boiled meat	etthán' intro
smoked meat	+ets'í' yétthán'
raw meat	etthán' +at'aw
half-raw meat	etthán' dedlat
brisket meat	eyuntthán'
shoulder meat	ek'adatat
rib meat	echáán' tthán'

medicine	ts'úndí'
aspirin	dan tthí' ts'úndí'
cough medicine	deko ts'úndí'
linament	ts'úndí' dan ka
	hets'edi denintl'run
stomach medicine	dan mbát t'á' ts'úndí'
vicks	dan dzechín ts'úndí'
molasses	k'án' tú'
moose rib meat (dry)	echáándhák
potatoes	pédo ; pándo
prunes	jak cho gan
raisins	jak gan zra
rice	ráy' ; tl'ólé'
salt	lesyá'
snuff	ts'etsan
soup	tadhaw
bone soup	tth'an tadhaw
sugar	sáwga ; syáwa
sweets	tekan ts'a'a'
syrup	k'i tú'
tea	ledyát
whiskey	kwán' tú' ; nó'
wine	ják tú'



**HOUSEHOLD FURNISHINGS and
PERSONAL BELONGINGS**

HOUSEHOLD FURNISHINGS
AND PERSONAL BELONGINGS

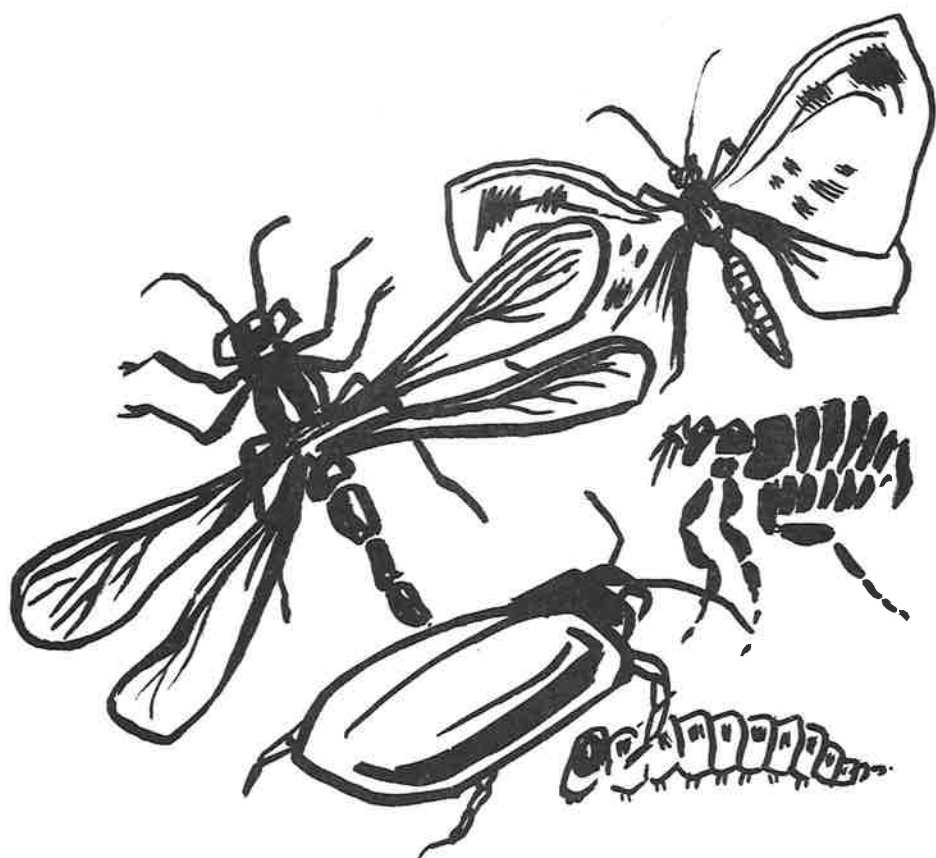
babiche (large)	ken+an
babiche (small)	kentl'yaw
baby crib	bébi byáát
baby swing	bébi démyán'
bag, sack	kéndró'
ball	dakák
bed	byáát ; byááda ; deti k'yá'
bedsheets	tyá' ka hambá'
bedsprings	mezan tl'yaw nédo nedenech'ú'
bell	délay'
belongings	nde
Bible	et'ódint'i k'ók
blanket	ts'at
HBC blanket	ts'at degay nedenets'át
book, paper	k'ok
box (wooden)	dechan tyan
broom	tl'ó dhát
calendar	uka to ts'edatyan

camera	uzhí picture ts'ehutsi ; dan yéZRún' nedélí'
candle	khi dék'án'
wick	khi dék'án' tl'yáw'
cane, walking stick	tó'
canvas, tarp	k'ése dek'aw ; k'ése det'ru
chair	detl'ede
clock	se k'e+e'atyan
clothesline	yáák tl'yáw'
comp	tthezya
cupboard	tth'é' ut'e hedle
curtain	ndru ts'ene'in dedambá'
dish rag	tth'é' k'édí'
dish towel	tth'é' uzhí k'ets'edi
dog collar	tlin dháántaan
doll (baby)	k'ongrun ; gungrun
door knob	adántaan té+Rún'
down mattress	tro tyá'
drum	ts'ekhaw
glasses	dan náák hedle

sunglasses	náák hedle denét'ro
field glasses	uzhí hets'ende
glue	uzhí huts'edetth'áw'
guitar	dededon
harmonica	dezak dan dhyá'
	ts'ejan
junk	etlyaak
key	dédlin'
map	nan ka uk'ók
mask	dan nín' ka hechú'
mirror	dan nín' uzhí
	k'ets'enete
money	lezé'
mop	uzhí dechan tyá'
	k'ets'etsaw
mosquito dope	tth'ina ts'úndí'
newspaper	k'ok uka hunday
	húnlin
padlock	kún' kín' hedédin'en
paper, book	k'ok
pencil, pen	uzhí ets'edenetl'át
pillow	tro tthá'a
pillow case	tro tthá'a dhó'

pipe (tobacco)	†etín'
playing cards	k'óke
clubs	kenekí' ; keninkí'
diamonds	natanet'a
hearts	edzí'
ace	minárs
jack of clubs	mézro zra
king of hearts	mézro cho
joker	jógar
radio	dezak cho ejan
rags	etlyaaak
razor	dan deyé' uzhií
	ts'et'á'
razor blade	dan deyé' mbrá'
record	dezak dembá'
record player	dezak
refrigerator	ut'a nachonetan
rope	tl'yaw
twine	tl'yaw zra nézró'
sewing bag	inchú' ndró' ;
	inchú' kéndró'
skin mattress	tyá'
sleeping bag	tro ts'át

slingshot	etthí' tli'yáw'
soap	detlí'
spit can	dezyaak tth'é'
stove	sto
stovepipe	sto dhyáwn'
	sto dhyán'
oven	ut'á' et'yó'
table	uka nets'ekwan
telephone	tli'yaw gé' huts'endi
thread	tth'í' ;
	k'ése tth'í'
tobacco can	tat tth'é'
toy	dunyán' uzhi' nuhuzhi
trash can	tsan tth'é' ;
	tsan tyan
trunk	nde ut'e hedle
umbrella	chen dázhát
wallet	lezé' dhó'
washbasin	detlí' tth'é' zra
washboard	uka k'ets'etsaw
washtub	detlí' tth'é' cho
watch, clock	se ka k'ete'atyan
whistle	hunsrún'
window screen	mezan etl'un



INSECTS and BUGS

ant	dedyá'
bee	dadzyan ; dedzyan
blackfly	ninkhrua ;
	nekhrua
bloodsucker	tut'yát
blue fly	ts'o
bug, worm	gun
butterfly	lukra ; nukra
caterpillar (black)	gun dezro
caterpillar	gun dech'ok
fleas	etl'ák ; tlin tl'ák
frog	ts'a ; ts'aat
grasshopper	lusiga ; nusiga
louse	zhé'
maggots, fly eggs	ts'o zra
mosquito	dintth'in ;
	dintth'ina
mosquito larvae,	tets'awa
just hatched	
silverfish (?)	lawá
spider	hutsí' ; hutsía
spider web	hutsía myán'

termite, wood bug

tso khá'

water bug

tetsé' ; tutsé'

worm in caribou head

egú'

worm in guts

tthaw gún'



LAND and WATER

LAND AND WATER

animal lick	enaan
bank, sidebank	mbo yékí' ;
	mbo nan
white bank	mbo k'aw
bare place	huntl'ro
bench ridge	tl'o etsan ; mbo
bluff (steep)	tthi dedlan
brass	mezan dettho
bushes (thick)	hudets'áw'
canyon	tthi yeninlin
charcoal	t'ró'
clearing, open place	hunsun ka
coal	tthi dék'án'
copper	tthetsáán'
creek	tagéa
dirt	tsan
dust	+yó'
earthquake	nan detlat
eddy	tl'adindlin ;
	tl'indlin
foam	degrodán'

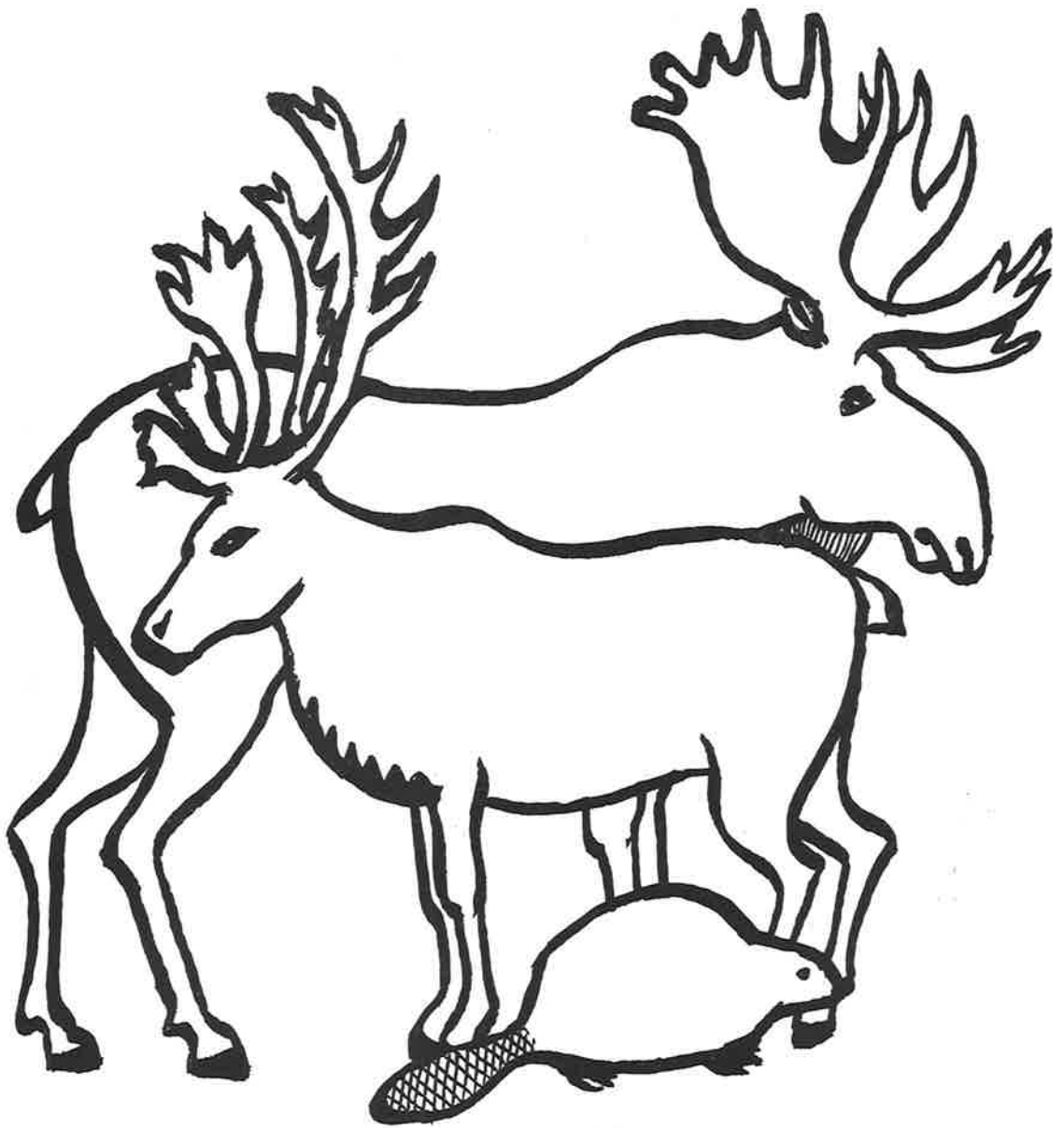
flat place	hutyá' ;
	dohonétén'
game trail	nyana tan
glacier	tth'ún' ;
	tth'ún' tli'ró'
gravel, sand	the
ground, earth	nan
dry ground	nan hegan
hard ground	nan delan
hill	shú'
cottonwood hill	t'ó shú'
spruce hill	ts'ók shú'
sidehill	ddhaw yékí'
hill standing alone	nadlada
hilly place	hutatok ; hutatyok
hole, depression	hunét'rún'
ice (chunk)	tyat
clear ice	tth'ún' intli'ro
cracked ice	tan teketáw'
crusted ice	tan hulyok ;
	tan hulyáw'
packed ice	zha tenét'an
rough ice	tyat delyat

rough ice	†yat tach'ók
running ice	†yat da'áw'
running ice in fall time	tan zi nede'áw'
shell ice	tan dhyaw
slushy ice	tan zi
solid ice	tan
thin ice	tan dedeláw' ;
	tan ts'edeláw'
Indian land	dan kezhi
iron, metal	mezan
island	ndu
brush-covered island	ndu dets'áw'
lake	man
head of lake	man tatl'aat
outlet of lake	man dechaak ;
	man techaak
shore of lake	man tl'ambe ;
	man mbe ; man tambe
meadow	tl'o ka
mountain	ddhaw
bald mountain	ddhaw intl'ro
flat-top mountain	ddhaw tthét'á'
	dohonétén'

tree-less mountain	ddhaw handat
mountain pass	ddhaw k'ák
mountain peak	ddhaw nech'aga
mountain ridge	ddhaw gháán' ;
	hágháán' ;
	ddhaw k'áán'
mud (sticky)	+yó' tth'áw'
niggerhead	tl'óshó' ;
	tl'ózhó'
ocean	'yá' cho
open place	takaak
overflow	daka tú' ;
	teka tú'
path, trail	tan
point on river	edelaan
portage	hudato
rapids	tu tadint'i
red paint, ochre	tsi
river	tagé'
across river	núndín'
riverbank	tagé' daak ;
	tagé' tl'adaak
	mbo daak

bend in river	sáánhelin
bottom of river	tetl'aak ;
	tyaak
downriver	tagé' de
fork in river	tagé' tédlin
head of river	tagé' tl'aat
mouth of river	tagé' dechaak
narrow place on river	tadatth'an
upriver	tagé' nday
rock	tthi
rocky place	tthi te
rock slide	tetth'o
sand	the
fine sand	the ddhyát
sandbar	the ndu
shore	tambe
shortcut	uk'ets'ohodeden
sign, marker	tan gé' hots'edin'in
slough	te'e ; tehe'e
spring (water)	tédlín'
steam (from kettle)	tezru
steam (on river)	'rá'

swampy place	tu tlyat
timber (stand)	ts'ok néshen
timberline	tth'imbe
trail	tan
toboggan trail	dlu tan
trapline	khyá tan
valley	intl'a ; etl'aat
water	tu
cloudy water	tu dzen elin
drop of water	tu dets'ín'
mineral water	tu denints'ak hínlin
open water	taddhaw
puddle	tu dedéten
rain water	chen tú'
rising water	tu hínlin
snow water	zha tú'
muddy water	tu tth'áw'
waterfall	tu dzenédélin
waves	ta
big waves	ta ts'echo
well	tu ch'áák



MAMMALS

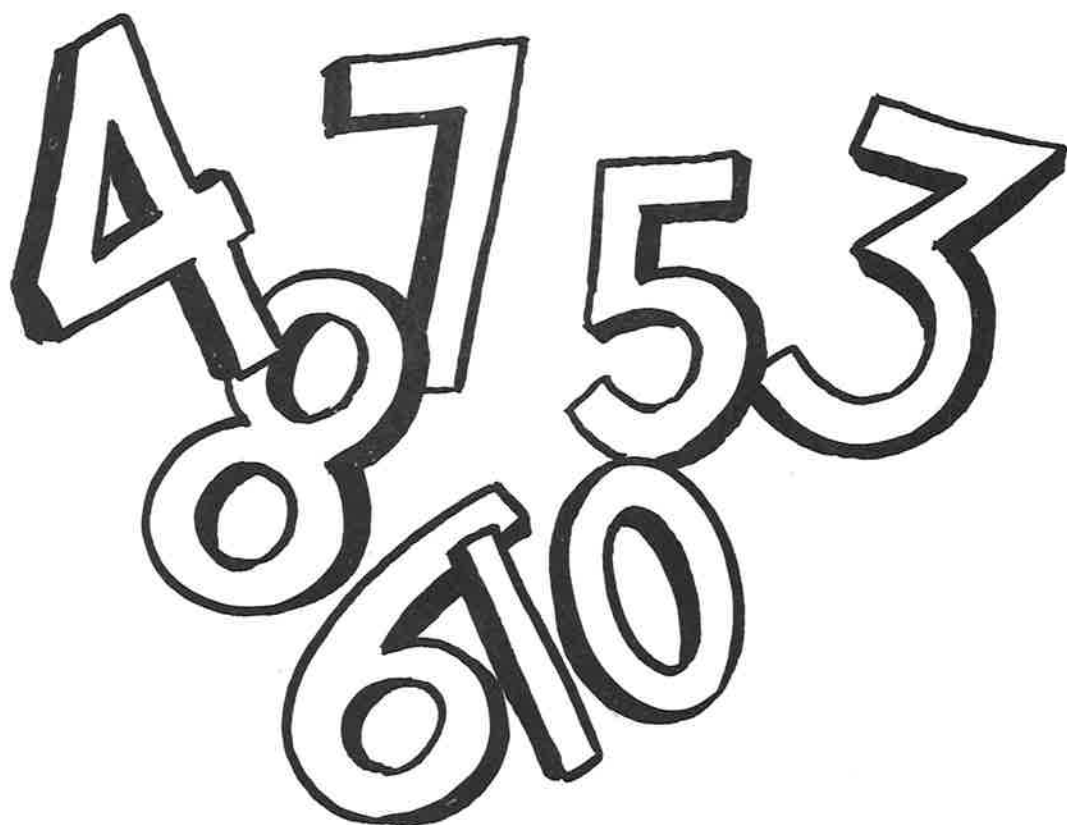
MAMMALS

animal (any)	nyana ; nena
animal flesh	nyana t'ángyán' ; nyana gúnzáw'
animal fur	nyana dhó'
animal hole, den	nyana aan
animal horn	nyana dí'
animal tail	nyana chí'
animal tracks	nyana kyáák
bat	dluan ánedaw
bear	sra
black bear	sra denét'ro
brown bear	sra dettho
bear cub	sra zra
female bear	sra dé't'ó'
grizzly bear	sra cho
grizzly bear with 2 or 3 cubs	sra tencho tezhi nédí'
male bear	sra té'
silver-tip bear	sra degay
small black bear	sra dezayn
beaver	tsé'
family of beavers	tsé' dezra

albino beaver	tsé' degay
blue beaver (rare)	tsé' denintl'run
largest beaver	tsé' cho
next-largest (5-6 years old)	tsé' dende
4-year-old beaver	tsé' tade'yá'
2-3 year-old beaver	tsé' kwat
1-year-old beaver	tsé' zra
beaver castor	tsé' lín'
beaver dam	tsé' áw' ; tsé' denin'áw'
beaver house	tsé' kín'
caribou	hudzi ; udzi
caribou herd	hudzi ndró'
female caribou	hudzi dé't'ó'
largest caribou	hudzi cho
next largest	etsók
next largest	dezhu'
smallest caribou	hudzi zra ; detsyak
running caribou	hudzi dedé'ts'yá'
dog	tlin
bitch	tlin ts'í'
old dog	tlin shen ; tlin shaan

pup	tlin zra ; tlina
fox	nuntthi
black fox	nuntthi denét'ro
dark cross fox	kekáák det'aw
red fox	zek'aan
silver-grey fox	nuntthi kádegay
white fox	nuntthi dek'aw
groundhog	dendi
gopher	tsaw
lynx	néde
blue lynx (rare)	néde denintl'run
brown lynx	néde dettho
grey lynx	néde ukádegay
light brown lynx	néde ukádettho
silver-tip lynx	néde denindlyó'
marten	nunt'ín'
black marten (rare)	nunt'ín' denét'ro
brown marten	nunt'ín' det'aw
mink	tedhoga ; tedrua
black mink	tedhoga denét'ro
brown mink	tedhoga dettho
moose	dendyák ; denyák
largest bull	dendyák cho

next largest bull	tén' zraan
calf	detsik
cow	dezra
mouse	dluan ; dlún'
mouse with long nose and ears	dluan tsin ndo
muskrat	dzana
otter	króde
pika	tthi dlína
porcupine	dech'ok
porcupine quills	dech'ok ch'ó'
rabbit	ge
sheep	mbak
female sheep	mbak dé't'ó'
lamb	mbak zra
largest ram	sezhaan cho
next largest	mbak dezhu
goat	ezhunshí'
squirrel	dlák
weasel	nembia ; nehmbia
wolf	egay
pack of wolves	egay mbé' ;
	egay ndró'
wolverine	néye



NUMERALS

NUMERALS

one

tyák t'i

two

téket'i

three

tádet'i

four

tínt'i

five

ulák'o

ten

ulák'o téket'i



PEOPLE

PEOPLE

boy	dek'áána
Burwash people	Eu'aana hot'yán'
cannibal, man-eater	dan hodyá'
chief	dan héki ; dan hanozhí'
Coast Indian	Elró'
Coast woman	Adáka yéndyá'
Crow	Ts'ek'i ; Handyáát
Dawson people	Ezhaan
Eskimo	Enakay
girl	ayéndyá' zra
girl just become a woman	ts'et'yan
kids	dunyána
Loucheux people	Tatl'aat hot'yán'
man, person	dan
male	dek'áán'
old man	gálin
Mayo people	Necho hot'yán'
medicine man	dan dezhan ; khyó' et'in

medicine man

zhaak et'in

minister

gé'khi

Bishop

gé'khi cho

old timers

ts'inki

orphan

tthinte

policeman

dli'

poor person

dan tekedede

prostitute

egyá'

Ross River people

K'álat hot'yán'

slave

hande

Snag people

Nat'azha hot'yán'

soldier

dan námbé'

Tanana people

Dzan to hot'yán'

Whitehorse people

Eunt'yan

Whiteman

k'ot'yan

widow

ayé'ndyá' tthinte

Wolf

Egay ;

woman

Hagunde

ayé'ndyá'

old woman

ts'ándó' shaan

young woman

ayé'ndyá' chan



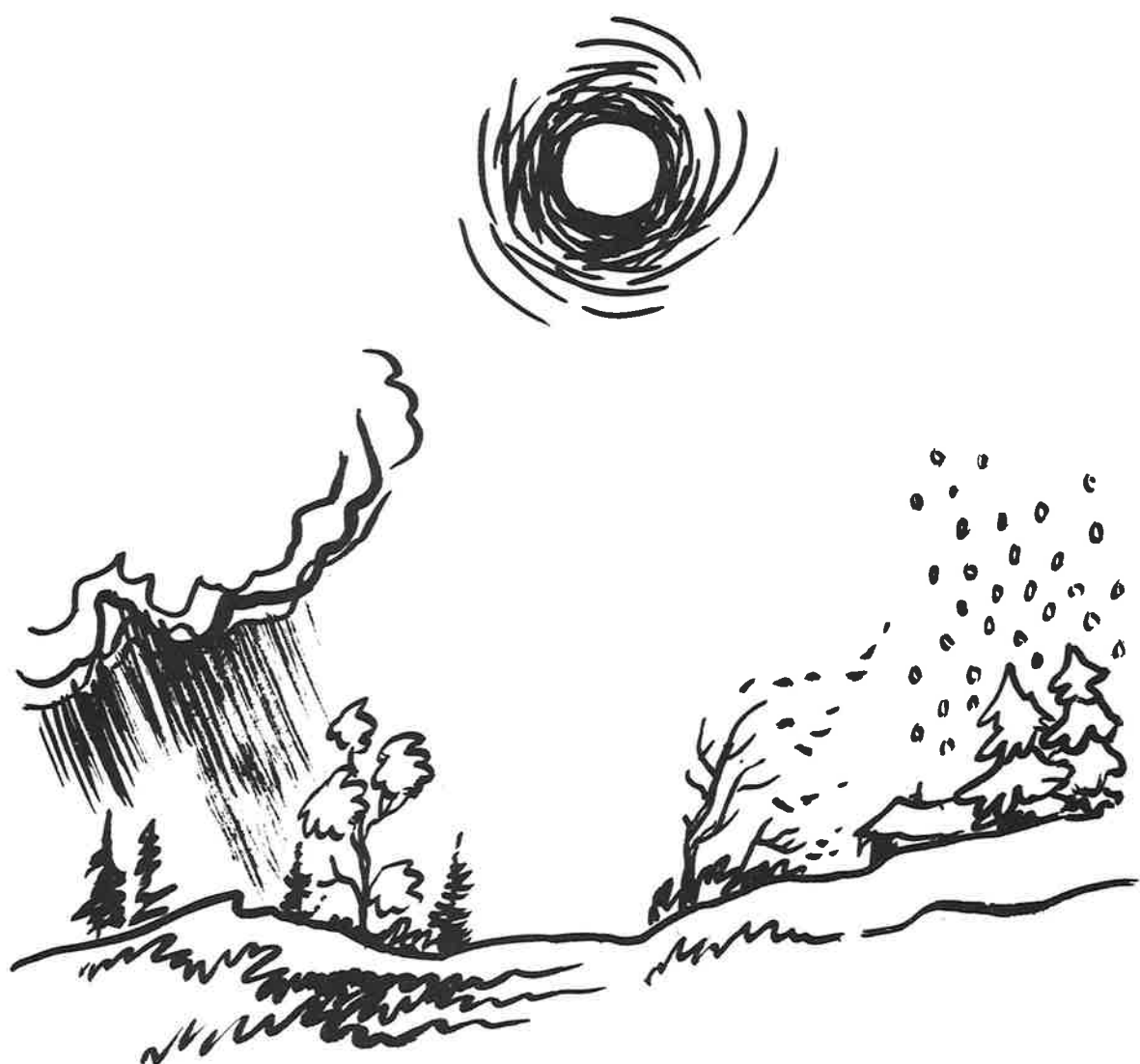
RELATIVES

RELATIVES

his father	uté'
his mother	une
his grandfather	utsí'
his grandmother	utsun
his uncle (father's brother)	utáy' ; utáya
his uncle (mother's brother)	undo ; undoa
his aunt (father's sister)	umbí'
his aunt (mother's sister)	unea
his father-in-law	utsí'
his mother-in-law	umbí'
her father-in-law	utsí'
her mother-in-law	utsun
his older brother	unday ; undaya
his oldest brother	unday echo
his younger brother	uchaw ; uchawa
his youngest brother	uchaw hétl'é'
his older sister	undaat
his oldest sister	undaat echo

his younger sister	udyó'
his youngest sister	udyó' hétl'é'
his wife	uts'áán'
her husband	ugálín'
his co-husband; her co-wife	undák
his brother-in-law	ule
his sister-in-law	ule
her brother-in-law	ule
her sister-in-law	uts'ándí' ; ule
his son	uzhi
her son	uzra
his daughter	utthi ; utthia
her daughter	uyets'í'
his nephew (brother's boy)	uzhi
his nephew (sister's boy)	umbrá'
his niece (brother's girl)	utthi ; utthia
his niece (sister's girl)	umbrá'
his son-in-law	utthigálín'
her son-in-law	uyedén'

his daughter-in-law	utthu ; utthua
her daughter-in-law	uya'aat
his grandchild	utthu ; utthua
her grandchild	uché' ; uchéc
his friend	uyé+ák
his friends, his relatives	uyé+áán'
his dear friend, his sweetheart	udzua ; udzún'



SEASONS, DAYS, MONTHS

SEASONS, DAYS, MONTHS

winter	yakaak ; yaka
spring	edétyát
break-up	tan dégro
summer	shan ; sakaak
autumn	nohodedék'á'
last year	hetthi yakaak
this year	ekáán' yakaak
next year	hétl'é' yakaak
full moon	se k'anámáán' ; se nenézhén
half moon	se k'unk'o ; se dekí' k'aninkhó'
third quarter	se nádedeten
last quarter	se hunádedetth'at
ring around moon	se deka de'eshat
night	tondru ; tendru
day	dzenú' ; dzyan
short day	dzenú' hudúkw'an ; dzenú' dekw'an
morning	k'ámbé'
noon	dzyan tétl'át

afternoon	nese'ún'
getting dark	nohodedekhyá'
midnight	tondru tl'át ; totl'át
yesterday	het'én' k'é'
today	ek'áán' dzenú'
tomorrow	het'én' dé'
Sunday	nédzyán'
Christmas	nédzyán cho
New Years	yakaak +enahúnt'en
January	nan ze ("earth month")
February	nets'enezhe ze ("chasing-the-moose month")
March	dan ze ("people-get black-from-sun month")
April	edé+yát ze ("break- up-of-ice month")
July	+yok ze ("fish month")
September	etthán' ze ("moose month")
December	yakaak ze ("winter month")



SHELTER

SHELTER

cache	tsek'yá'
high cache	dadzaw tsék'yá'
log cache on ground	nan ka tsék'yá'
underground cache	nan t'e tsék'yá'
campsite	dan nenetró' yédaak
brush camp	mán' kún'
grave house	kún' hudets'a
house	kún'
log cabin	dechan kún'
moss house	nínmbáy' kún' ;
	nántrún' kún'
old place, camp	kúk'yá' jat ;
	kúnk'yá' hutró'
shed	kún' zra
smoke house	tets'í' kún'
tent	dezhat ; k'ése
teepee	nínmbá' ; ínmbá'
toilet	tsén' kún'
town, village	dan kezhi
Indian village	dan kék'yá'

beer parlour	sra kún'
church	huts'edenedi kún'
community hall	dan ts'edek'i kún'
dance hall	ets'elin kún' ;
	elin kún'
hospital	denéde kún'
hotel, lodge	chets'etin kún'
jail	denét'ro kún'
police station	dlí' kún'
post office	k'ok kún'
restaurant	hotyá' ;
	nets'e'á kún' ;
	nets'ekwan kún'
school	dunyána hanádan kún'
store	mbat ye'ekyáát kún'
bedroom	k'éndyát kún'
corner	kún' kéts'aat
door	adántaan
floor	dechan tyá'
kitchen	ets'et'yó' yétyáák ;
	ets'et'yó' kún'
porch	kún' k'á'aan hu'en

ridge pole

kún' tét'áák tetl'at
nin'e

roof

kún' tét'áák

roof poles

kún' tét'áák zrú'

roof covering

kún' tét'áák dehembá'

smoke hole

stó dhyáwn' yétyaak

stó dhyán' yétyaak

steps

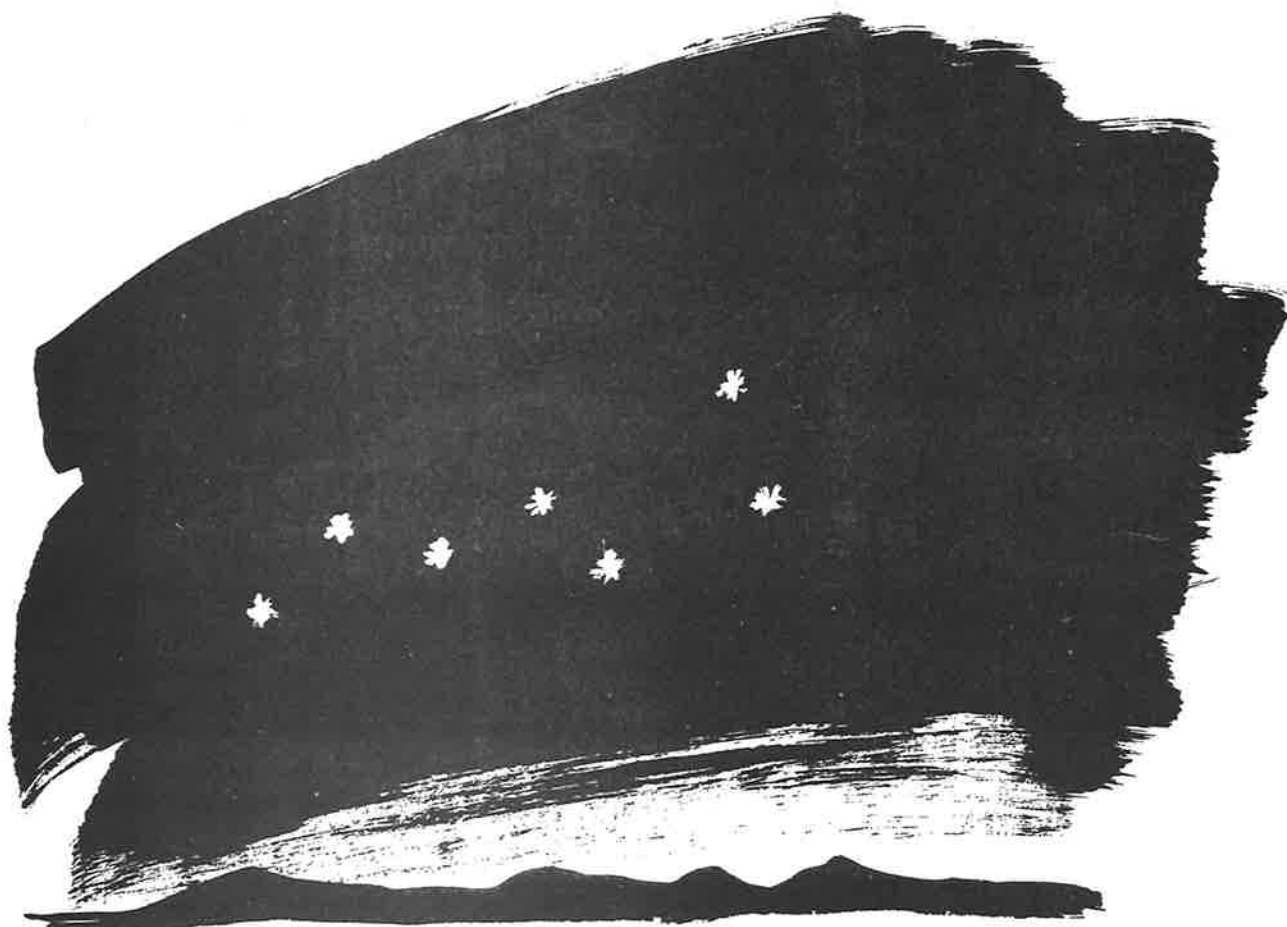
katédáw'

wall

kún' yékí'

window

ndru ts'ene'in



SKY and WEATHER

SKY AND WEATHER

clouds	k'o
rain clouds	chen k'o
cold weather	húk'ó'
darkness	hudenét'ro
dawn (daybreak)	dégé'
dawn (light on horizon)	humbe
dawn (sun up)	yedéken
dipper (big)	yéde cho
dipper (little)	yéde zra
eclipse of sun	se t'ín'en
fog in air	ets'áw'
fog on water	'rá'
frost, dampness	so
frosted up	nohodézo
hail	chenlan ; chenlyat
horizon	humbe
lightning, thunder	índrú' ; ndrú'
moonlight	edzeze
ring around moon	se dekí' de'eshat
Northern lights	yémbí'
burning, flashing	yémbí' dink'en

rain

it's raining

rainbow

shade

sky

snow

it's snowing

snow on branches

soft, loose snow

snowdrift

wet snow

star

"caribou stars"

evening star

falling star

sun

bright sun

sundog

chen

chen huhchen ;

echen

hutsíá myán'

hut'át'ún'

yat'aak

zha

zha hushá' ;

eshá'

dazha'

zha detl'yat

tsyaw

zha hetsaw

thyán' ; théln'

tlin hudzi nanda

thyán' cho ;

théln' cho

thyán' tsáán'

se

se henindin

se dekek'o kwán'

dink'en ; se dehunk'o

hedék'án'

sunrise

se hé'é'

sunset

se huné'é' ;

se hunín'en

warm weather

hudhaw

wind (blowing)

ints'i huts'i ;

nets'i huts'i

wind blowing
back & forth

néts'í' néts'í' ;

dzenú' néts'í'

cold wind

ints'i k'ó' ;

nets'i k'ó'

cold wind which
"chases away" the
warm weather

nádzát néts'í'

cold "pinching"
East wind

huts'ák néts'í'

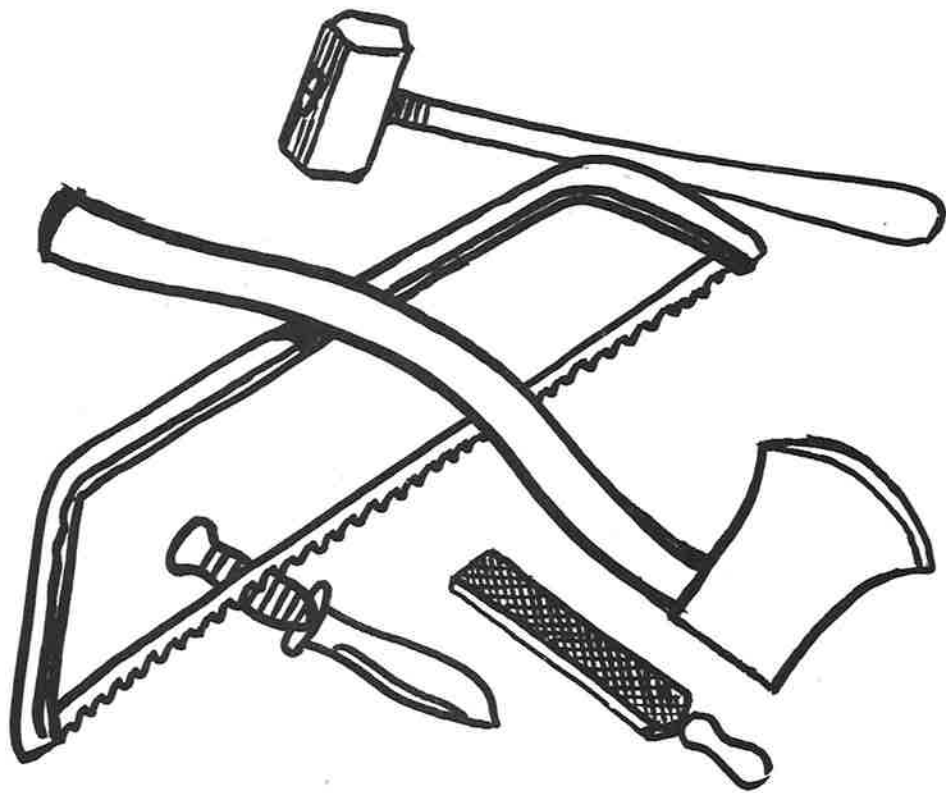
warm wind

ints'i dhaw ;

nets'i dhaw

whirlwind

hets'embe



TOOLS

TOOLS

awl	inchú'
axe	khwat
double axe	etets'ín' uk'é'
	húnlin
axe handle	khwat tín' ;
	khwat chín'
stone axe	tetthyan ;
	tetthyaw
chisel	dechan tándá'
caribou-bone chisel	náttha
drill	uzhí hets'edetá'
file	k'édé'
hammer	hámra
hand plane	dechan uyí ts'eghá'
hatchet	khwat zra
ice chisel	tanda
knife	mbra
knife blade	mbra k'é'
pocket knife	mbra zra ;
	mbra tadintl'aga
wood knife	mbra uyí uts'eghá'

wood knife	uyí ts'otsi mbrá'
sharp knife	mbra dét'ó'
dull knife	mbra uk'é hedú'
metal, iron	mezan
nails	etsáw'
pipe (metal)	mezan dhyawn ;
	mezan dhyan
pliers	mezan ade'á'
pump	tu hetth'un'
rake	uyí huts'ets'at
rope	tl'yaw
knot	srá'
saw	dechan t'á'
screw	dechan hets'edetá'
screwdriver	uyí hets'edetá'
scythe, grass cutter	tl'o uyí ts'et'á'
sewing needle	sagaw
shovel	uyí huts'egwat
skin flesher	táángwat
skin scraping pole	edhó zrú'
skin stretcher	eka
snowshoe chisel	eghú' ; ts'ighú'
snowshoe drill	srú' ; sru hegáw'

showshoe tools

e ínmbó' ;

syá' ; sru hugáw'

tacks

etsáw' zra

tanning scraper

dédhho

wedge

ndaw ; mezan uyí

tso ts'esyát

whetstone

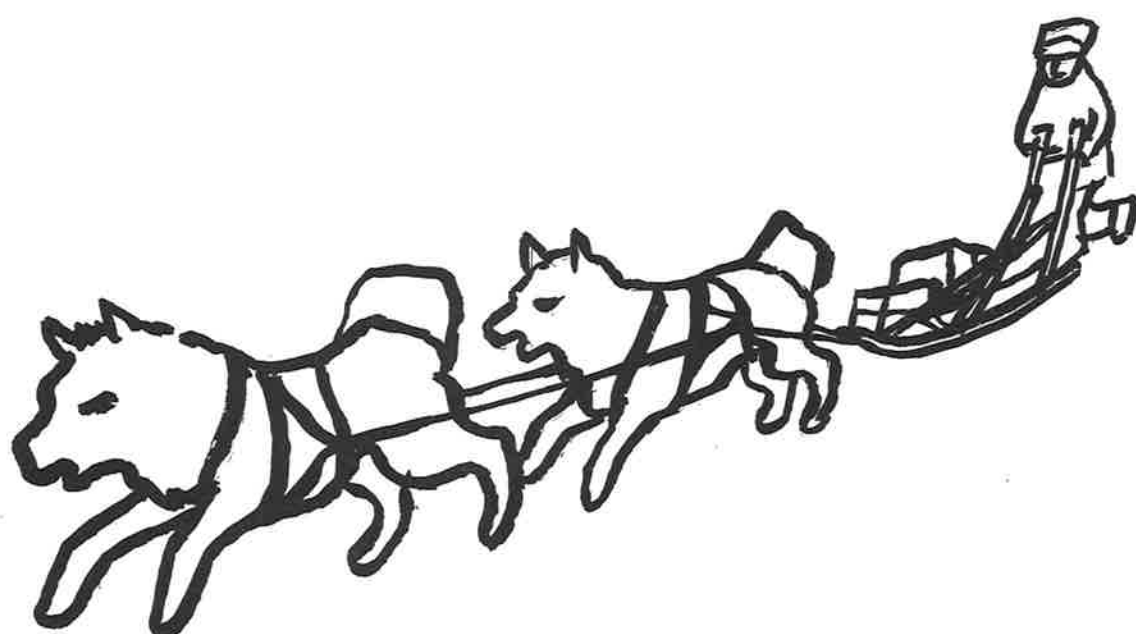
tthék'rá'

wire

mezan tl'yaw

wire cutter

mezan uyí kets'et'á'



TRANSPORTATION

TRANSPORTATION

boat, scow, canoe	ts'i
back of boat	ts'i tl'é'
front of boat	ts'i tthí'
skin boat	edhó' ts'i
square boat	ts'i utl'é k'int'ra
canoe	ts'i zra ;
	ts'i delrún'
birchbark canoe	k'i ts'i
crosspiece	ts'i íntth'á'
ribs	ts'i nághwát
paddle	tát'o
pole for boat	ts'i tó'
raft	khwán'
2-log raft	tso tékech'i ghwán'
sled	khaw
handlebars	khaw uchin uts'edinyat
snowshoe	e
babiche	e íntl'yáw'
back of snowshoe	e chedún'
frame	e déchán'
front crosspiece	e dzeddháw íntth'á'
hunting snowshoe	e cho

joint	ts'etak
foot part	e kentan
netting	e neghat ; e ghat
pointed-nose snowshoe	e utsin k'enéts'ók ; e utsin kenedlyat
round-nose snowshoe	e sanámá' ; e utthí' delrún'
foot straps	e kénch'áák
trail snowshoe	tangé' hu'é'
steamboat	ts'i ts'echo
toboggan	dlu
birch toboggan	k'i dlu
toboggan brake	uzhí huts'enets'áw' ; uka dets'ede'yó'
handlebars	dlu tl'échín'
runners	dlu tl'a hedle



TREES , PLANTS , BERRIES

TREES, PLANTS, BERRIES

alder (grey)	kesro
alder (red)	k'ro
alder "ear"	k'ro dzák
balsam	ts'ók tsín'
birch	k'i
birch "ear"	k'edzák
inside bark	k'i syak
outside bark	k'i t'yún'
cottonwood	tedun t'o
jackpine	gun'
poplar	t'o
poplar sap	t'ó k'án'
spruce	ts'ok
small red spruce	ts'ok mbra
spruce bark	ts'ok t'yún'
spruce branch (dry)	thungáán'
spruce boughs	ts'ok áw'
spruce cone	daladzan ; ts'ok dádzáw'
spruce gum	ts'ók dzí'
hard gum	dzí' delon
sticky gum	dzí' tl'rú'

stump

thorn, thornbush

water lily

weed (any)

wild celery

wild onion

wood, stick

driftwood

firewood

twisted-grain wood

unidentified plants:

berry

berry seed

ripe berry

unripe berry

blackberries,
mossberries

blackberries (?)

blueberries

nunchan

khro

kat'aak ;

kadat'aak

gun ; guan

ints'yan

dan nekhrún' tɬ'ó'

dechan

tádó'

tso

tso nédó'

neshún' khen

nakadáy'

tantsán'

ják

ják tthí'

ják denínzín'

ják dalon

dent'ró'

ts'a ják

nénindhe ; néndhe

ják denintl'run

blue grouse berries	di cho ják
bunchberries (?)	nánmbé' ; nantlat
camprobber berries	ts'ónk'e ják
cranberries, high-bush	tséntthya ; gókhyó'
cranberries, low-bush	intl'át ; nintl'át
currants	tlin ják
juniper	ts'ek'i ják
raspberries	dech'ok ják ; t'anch'ok
rosehips	ninchún'
silverberries	dan ják
soapberries	ninghro
stoneberries	ják nelon
strawberries	hutsía ják ; hutsí' ják
unidentified berries:	datl'aw ják nunt'ína ják ts'ank'an khro ják

MISCELLANEOUS

wheels (truck, car)	khaw dǎmá'
word	hundi
old word	dek'i



PLACE NAMES

PLACE NAMES

In this section we list the native names for natural features of the land -- lakes, rivers, mountains, and so forth -- which happen to have officially recognized English names as well. The 81 names given below represent less than half the total number recorded. Generally speaking, all features named in English are also named in the native language, but not vice versa.

Translations of the native names are not listed here because we don't have enough room for them, but we should look briefly at the meanings of some of the names the Selkirk people and their ancestors have given to the various features of their environment. In the majority of cases the meanings of the place-names are known and understood today, but in some cases they are not. It is a fact that as time passes and language undergoes slow changes, place-names have a tendency to lose their original descriptive meanings and become

just names, plain and simple. For example, most Yukoners are familiar with the place-name Stewart River, but how many of us know how and when the name was given and who the name refers to? Probably not very many. If we were asked, "What is the meaning of the name Stewart River?", we would very likely reply, "Oh, it refers to a large river which flows into the Yukon, just below White River", or something of the sort. Most of us are unaware that the early Hudson's Bay Company explorer Robert Campbell named the river after his assistant-clerk, James G. Stewart, in 1851. This is an interesting fact, possibly, but generally we use the name Stewart River without worrying much about its history. Examples of this sort are very common.

In the case of the Selkirk Indian language, we find that there is a native term for the Pelly River, Ts'ékí' Netú', but even the oldest members of the Selkirk Band find it hard to pinpoint its meaning.

Some have suggested it might mean, "I walk up along the river", or something like that, but no one is absolutely sure. For almost everyone, then, Ts'ékí' Netú' has become a name, like Stewart River, which is used and recognized but whose origin is generally unknown.

But in most cases we do know the meanings of the native place-names. What are they like? On what basis are features named? If we divide up the names according to likeness of meaning, we find the following kinds:

(1) Names referring to animals.

Certain creeks and mountains are named for moose, caribou, wolverines, foxes, mountain sheep, and bears. Harvey Creek, for example, is called Mbak Tagé' in the native language and means Mountain Sheep Creek.

(2) Names referring to birds. We find lakes (and one mountain) named after seagulls, ptarmigan, blue grouse, and the Arctic loon. Granite Mountain is known

to the native people as K'ambea Ddháw' (Ptarmigan Mountain).

(3) Names referring to trees and plants. Certain features are named for thornbushes, blackberries, water moss, grass, roots, waterlilies, poplars, birch, and thick brush. The well-known Macmillan River bears the Indian name, Khro Tú' (Thornbush Water) because, it is said, the banks are lined with wild rose bushes.

(4) Names referring to fish. Lakes, creeks, sloughs, and mountains are named after dog salmon, grayling, jackfish, ling cod, and two species of whitefish. Ptarmigan Mountain, a familiar component of the scenery around Pelly Crossing, is known in Indian as Tezrá' Ddháw' (Small Whitefish Mountain) because that particular whitefish is found in two lakes, Tatlmain and Towhat, which lie at the base of the mountain.

(5) Names referring to tools or materials used in making a living. Two

examples are Tl'ya Netú' (Flint River), English: Tay River; and Déddho Ddháw' (Rock Scraper Mountain), English: Kalzas Range. We can tell in these cases that the names must be very old indeed because they refer to things which were actively used long before the time of White contact.

(6) Names referring to specific people. Certain creeks, lakes, and mountains are named for people who have lived, hunted, fished, or worked in the area. Some of them are within living memory, while others are no longer known except as ts'inki, "old timers". Thus, the McArthur Group is called Sedzuan Me Ddhaw' (Sedzuan's Mother's Mountain), while Summit Lake is known as Sedzuan Man' (Sedzuan's Lake). Four places are named for non-natives. The native people do not share the Euro-Canadian practice of naming mountains, glaciers, and so forth, after individuals who have not lived in the country. A person's name becomes

attached to a place only if he has lived there a long time or if some striking or unusual event involving that person has taken place there.

(7) Names referring to mythological events or creatures. Here we find such examples as Nembia Cho Ddháw' (Giant Weasel Mountain; English: Lone Mountain); Hodyá' Ndú' (Man Eater Island; no English name); and Ddhaw Daana Tthí' (Midget People Rock; no English name). Each of these places is the subject of a story or legend about happenings in the distant past which has been passed down from generation to generation.

(8) Names which describe physical features. This is by far the largest category of names. Included here are names of creeks and rivers which make mention of some particular characteristic of their flow and current, and names which describe the colours of rocks and sand found in certain areas. The native name for Big

Creek is Tu Nátsat Tagé' (Strong Water Creek); Merrice Creek is traditionally called Hédhe Netú' (Cave-in Creek); and Frenchman Lake is known as Eútth'i Mán' (Grey Clay Lake).

There are other categories as well, but from those described here you will get some idea of what the native place-names are like and what they mean. They tell us much about the culture of the people.

The names listed below were supplied by Mr. Tommy McGinty and the late Mr. Sam Isaac. Mr. Johnson Edwards assisted with translations and verifications of site locations.

Armstrong Mountain	Denéde Ddháw'
Big Creek	Tu Nátsat Tagé'
Big Kalzas Creek	Tí'ihch'en Tagé'
Big Kalzas Lake	Tí'ihch'en Mán'
Black Creek	Mbak Kegro Tagé'
Caribou Creek	Ddhaw Intl'ro Tagé'

Clarke Creek

Clarke Hills

Coffee Creek

Coldspring Creek

Cripple Creek

Crosby Creek

Deep Creek

Detour Lakes

Diamain Lake

Dromedary Mountain

Drury Lake

Earn Lake

Earn River

Ess Lake

Five-Finger Rapids

Frenchman Lake

Glacier Creek

Glenlyon Range

Granite Canyon

Granite Mountain

Grayling Creek

Grey Hunter Creek

Harvey Creek

Tth'un Tagé'

Ets'áw' Ddháw'

Ts'i Deten Tú'

Elró' Tagé'

Tthedhyá' Tagé'

Tatsén' T'oa Tagé'

Khay Tú'

Di Cho Mán'

Man Ndo

Sra Chenjú' Ddháw'

Man Ttho

Tétsaw Deheten Mán'

Tétsaw Deheten Tagé'

Tadru Mán'

Tthi Cho Nédezhe

Eútth'i Mán'

Tagé' Etsyawa

Tthe Ezhú' Ddháw'

Tthi Zhát Yeninlin

K'ambea Ddháw'

T'a Man Tagea

Tl'ya Netú'

Mbak Tagé'

Hobo Creek	Tu Denét'ro Tagé'
Hoochekoo Bluff	Duch'e Tthi He'en
Ingersoll Islands	Ndu He'en
Kalzas Range	Déddho Ddháw'
Klaza Mountain	Nuntthi Kina
Klotassin River	Tl'o Tsan' Tagé'
Legar Lake	Legha Mán'
Little Kalzas Lake	Tení'ihnten Mán'
Little Salmon Creek	Techo Tagé'
Little Salmon Lake	Techo Mán'
Little Sheep Creek	Mbak Enaan Tagé'
Lone Mountain	Nembia Cho Ddháw'
Macmillan River	Khro Tú'
McArthur Group	Sedzuan Me Ddháw' ;
	Ddhaw Ghró'
McCabe Creek	Dant'ró' Tú'
McGregor Creek	Dant'ró' Shú' Tú'
Menzie Creek	Tth'an Túa
Merrice Creek	Hédhe Netú'
Mica Creek	Taghwát Tagé'
Mist Lake	Ts'i Mán'
Moose Lake	Teki Udezí' Mán'
Mt. Pitts	Ddhaw Tsawa

Needlerock
 Needlerock Creek
 Pelly River
 Plateau Mountain
 Prospector Mountain
 Ptarmigan Mountain
 Ragged Lake
 Rink Rapids
 Selwyn River
 Seymour Creek
 Snag River
 Stewart River
 Stoddart Creek
 Summit Lake
 Tadru Lake
 Tatchun Creek
 Tatchun Lake
 TatImain Lake
 Tay River
 Towhat Lake
 Tummel River
 Victoria Rock
 Volcano Mountain

Tthi Nádhát
 Tthi Zhát Yeninlin
 Tagé'
 Ts'ékí' Netú'
 To Deten Ddháw'
 Intth'o
 Tezrá' Ddháw'
 Ndu Etlen Mán'
 Tthi Cho Teninlin
 Intth'o Tagé'
 Lédlín Tú'
 Tagé' Daghwát
 Necho Netú'
 Né'e Tú'
 Sedzuan Mán'
 Teten Mán'
 Téchán' Tagé'
 Téchán' Mán'
 TatI'ámán'
 TI'ya Netú'
 Taghwát Mán'
 Ts'ek'oa Tagé'
 Tthi Ts'et'yan
 Nelruna

Von Wilczek Creek

Eutsaw Tú'

Von Wilczek Lake

Tthe Ndu Mán'

Wellesley Lake

Kát'aak Mán'

White Mountain

Elró'

White River

Nat'azha Tú'

Wolverine Creek

Ddhaw Tsawa Tagé'

Yukon River

Tagé' Cho



Fish camp at Tthi Ts'et'yan (Victoria Rock). This photo was probably taken before 1920. The campsite is located just below Fort Selkirk on the Yukon River. Note Melé' (Selkirk Wall) on the opposite side of the river.

(Credit: Yukon Archives)



Shí', Old Abraham. This photo was taken in the late 1920's. It is said that the ravens would come right up to Shí' when he sang his medicine songs. He passed away in 1939, leaving behind one daughter, Sophie Anderson.

(Credit: Yukon Archives)



Ezaga (Old Isaac), Lezéan (Eliza), and daughters: Leta (Johnson), Jessie (Alfred), Lucy (Peter), and Jessie (Isaac), or Edhó' Troa. Photo taken around 1915. Ezaga and family often lived year-round at Tatli'ámán'.
(Credit: Yukon Archives)



Copper Joe. This well-known man was born somewhere in Alaska, perhaps in Ahtna or Tanana country, and later moved to Fort Selkirk. His Indian name was Dundiaté', and he was a member of the Wolf 'clan'. In his later years he moved to Burwash where this photo was apparently taken.

(Credit: Yukon Archives)



Confirmation class at Fort Selkirk, 1945.
Left-to-right: Betty Robert, Kitty Jonathan,
Ada Blanchard, Rita Sam, Enna Blanchard,
Bishop Geddes, David Tom Tom (hidden), and
Sam Silverfox.

(Credit: Yukon Archives)



Sam Isaac (Sún'), in front of his cabin at Pelly Crossing. This photo was taken not long before his death in 1974. Sam and his wife Ella (Eh'íya) had two daughters, Mary and Victoria.

(Credit: Lucy Johnnie)