

TLINGIT LITERACY SESSION

WHITEHORSE, YUKON

November 26, 27, 28, 1986

Guest Instructor:

MR. JEFF LEER

Staff Linguist

Alaska Native Language Center

University of Alaska Fairbanks

Fairbanks, Alaska

and

Department of Linguistics

University of Chicago

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TLINGIT LITERACY WORKSHOP

Yukon Native Language Centre

Whitehorse, Yukon

November 26, 27, 28, 1986

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Participants at Tlingit Literacy Workshop
 Whitehorse, Yukon, November 26, 27, 28, 1986
 Sponsored by Yukon Native Language Centre

NAME	NATIVE NAME	CLAN	MOIETY
Gail Jackson Teslin, Yukon	Sakinyáa	Deisheetaan (S'igeidí=Beaver)	Yéil
Gladys Johnston Teslin, Yukon	Ts'eestánk	<u>Gaanax</u> .ádi	Yéil
Jeff Leer Fairbanks, Alaska	Weihá Yeilkunéiyi	<u>Gaanax</u> teidí	Yéil
Lena Sidney Whitehorse, Yukon	Seil.aat		
Mamie Smith Carcross, Yukon	Shawtlaax		
Anne Turner Whitehorse, Yukon	Yeidisákw		
Mary-Ann Whelan Carcross, Yukon	<u>Kaalaa</u>	Dakl'aweidí	<u>Gooch</u>
Lucy Wren Carcross, Yukon	<u>Gooch</u> Tláa	Dakl'aweidí	<u>Gooch</u>

VOWELS:

Short Vowels

a

e

i

u

Long Vowels

aa

ei

ee

oo

DICTATION 1:

1. tá he's sleeping
2. té rock
3. a tú inside it
4. saa name
5. se it necklace
6. sée doll
7. shál song
8. doosh cat
9. a ká on it
10. yéi áwé that's the way

DICTATION 2

1. saa name
2. sá name it
3. sée doll
4. su as in yeisú
still
5. sóo (no meaning)
6. sei (no meaning)
7. si (no meaning)
8. saa name
9. sé voice
10. sá name it!

CONSONANTS: ch d g h j k n s sh t w y,
are pronounced like the English sounds, or very
nearly like them.

Plain stops d dl dz j g

Aspirated stops t t^h ts ch k

Plain fricatives l s sh x h

Other n w y

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|-----|----------|-------------------|
| 1. | dleít | snow |
| 2. | dzeit | ladder |
| 3. | lidzée | it's difficult |
| 4. | tsáats | bear roots |
| 5. | atlée | mom |
| 6. | xéidu | comb |
| 7. | taat | roaster |
| 8. | xóots | grizzly bear |
| 9. | tléil | not |
| 10. | íxde | down river, south |
| 11. | lingít | Tlingit, person |
| 12. | du jeewú | he's got it |

POSSESSED FORMS OF NOUNS: take a suffix, usually -i, low-tone if the word is high-tone, but high-tone if the word is low-tone.

	tás	thread	
a _x	tási	my thread	
	dóosh	cat	
a _x	dóoshi	my cat	word ends with fricative
	eex	oil, grease	
tsaa	eexi	seal oil	

If the word ends with a stop, the possessed form has an unaspirated stop before the suffix:

	t→di	k→gi	
	tl→dli	<u>k</u> → <u>gi</u>	
	ts→dzi		
	ch→ji		
	hít	house	
a _x	hídi	my house	
	gooch	wolf	
a _x	gooji	my wolf	
	gáatl	soda cracker	
a _x	gáadli	my soda cracker	
	séek	belt	
a _x	séegi	my belt	

POSSESSED FORMS OF NOUNS (continued)

	shaak	driftwood
a _x	shaagi	my driftwood

Possessed forms of nouns ending with rounded stops:
the suffix is u instead of i:

kw-->xu x'w-->x'u

kw-->xu x'w-->x'u

kw-->gu k'w-->k'u

kw-->ku k'w-->k'u

	yaakw	boat
a _x	yaagú	my boat

	gáaxw	duck
a _x	gáaxu	my duck

	náakw	medicine
a _x	náagu	my medicine

	<u>k</u> ook	box
a _x	<u>k</u> oogu	my box

	goo <u>x</u>	slave
a _x	goo <u>x</u> ú	my slave

	gúk	my ear
	tsálgí gúgu	groundhog ear

Possessive suffix after an unrounded consonant - i

Possessive suffix after a rounded consonant - u

w --> wu

y --> yi

náaw whiskey

ax náawu my whiskey

gaaw drum, clock, time

ax gaawú my drum, my clock

noow flat clear area

tsalgi noowú gopher colony

l'éiw sand

dzísk'u l'éiwu moose lick

táay garden

ax táayi my garden

kaay measuring stick

ax kaayi my measuring stick

dleey meat, flesh

wasóos dleeyi cow meat

Possessive pronouns:

Possessor		Possessed	
a <u>x</u>	my	dleeyí	meat
i	your		
du	his		
a	its		
haa	our		
yee	you guys		
has du	their		
<u>k</u> aa	somebody's		
at	something's		

Possessor		Possessed	
wasóos		dleeyí	crow meat
watsíx		dleeyí	caribou meat
xalak'ách'		dleeyí	porcupine meat
(dzísk'w →) dzísk'u		dleeyí	moose meat
(tsálk →) tsálgí		dleeyí	gopher meat
(nóoskw →) nóosgu		dleeyí	wolverine meat

If the possessor ends in two consonants, add -i/-u according to the rules given above. This has the effect of preventing three consonants in a row within the phrase.

PLACE NAMES

Possessor	Possessed (-i/-u)	
	héen	water, river, creek
watsíx	héeni	Caribou river
dzísk'u	héeni	Moose river
k'wálxi	héeni	Smart river
gúkl'i	héeni	Swan river
tsálgí noowú	héeni	Gopher Den river

CONSONANTS:

Plain Stops	d	dl	dz	j	g	g
Aspirated Stops	t	tl	ts	ch	k	<u>k</u>
Glottalized Stops	t'	tl'	ts'	ch'	k'	<u>k'</u>
Plain Fricatives		l	s	sh	x	<u>x</u>
Glottalized Fricatives		l'	s'		x'	<u>x'</u>
Other (n, y, w)						

DICTATION:

- | | | |
|-----|-----------|-----------------------------|
| 1. | t'áa | board |
| 2. | tl'átk | ground, earth |
| 3. | ts'ats'ée | bird |
| 4. | ch'áak' | eagle |
| 5. | k'óox | marten |
| 6. | kóox | rice |
| 7. | k'wátl | cooking pot |
| 8. | séek | belt |
| 9. | ax séek' | my daughter |
| 10. | ax káak | my uncle (mother's brother) |
| 11. | ax káak' | my forehead |
| 12. | taat | night |
| 13. | t'áat' | junco |
| 14. | ch'áak' | eagle |
| 15. | ch'áakw | long ago |

BIG AND LITTLE:

tlein	big
yádi	baby
-k' (w)	} little
-k' (w) átsk'u	

These come after the word they modify, not before as in English.

The forms -k'w and -k'wátsk'u are used following the vowels aa and a.

(continued)

hít tlein	big house
hít'k'	little house
hít'k' átsk'u	little house

lítaa	knife
lítaa tlein	big knife
lítaak'w	little knife
lítaak'w átsk'u	little knife

áa	lake
áa tlein	big lake
Áa Tlein	Atlin
áak'w	little lake
Áak'w	Auke Lake

héen	water, river
héen tlein	big river
Héen Tlein	Inklen River
héenák'w	little creek

If the word ends in two consonants the suffix -i or -u is added to it before tlein, yádi, -k'(w) or -k'(w)átsk'u.

dzísk'w moose

dzísk'u tlein big moose

dzísk'u yádi baby moose

sháchk meadow

sháchgi tlein big meadow

sháchgík' little meadow

1.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.

11.

DICTATION:

- | | | |
|-----|-------------|--|
| 1. | l'ook | coho |
| 2. | s'ísaa | cloth |
| 3. | s'íx' | plate, dish |
| 4. | x'úx' | paper, book, letter |
| 5. | ax x'é | my mouth |
| 6. | ax l'óot' | my tongue |
| 7. | l'ée x'wán | socks |
| 8. | s'él' x'wán | rubber boots, hip boots |
| 9. | x'aan | fire |
| 10. | s'íx' | dish |
| 11. | alts'ík' | he or she is holding it pinched
between fingers |

1. s'eek smoke, cigarette
s'eik
2. x'ádaa file
3. ch'a k'át finally, at last
4. x'áat' island
5. x'aa point of land
6. kook'áa it's too short
7. x'wáal' down feather
8. t'aaw wing feathers

m	wáa sá?	How? What did you say?
	máa sá?	
l	daleiyí	lake trout
(glottal stop)	wa. é	you
	we. é	
	at la. áat	stuff, baggage
	yei <u>k</u> unas. áat'	it's getting cold out
	<u>k</u> usi. áat'	it's cold out

ROUNDED CONSONANTS:

náakw	medicine
a <u>x</u> náagu	my medicine
náa <u>k</u> w	octopus
t'e <u>i</u> x yanáagu	bait for hook
adáakw	she's rendering it (fat)

EXAMPLES OF UNDERLINED CONSONANTS:

dá <u>a</u> k	inland, back (in the woods, hills)
dá <u>k</u> de nagú	go out (into the open) home (out of the woods)
dá <u>k</u> de nagú	go back (into the woods)
í <u>x</u> de nagú	downstream, south
í <u>x</u> t'	shaman
ó <u>o</u> x	bubble
a <u>x</u> o <u>o</u> x	my tooth/teeth
yak'éi	it's good
a <u>x</u> yáa lik'éi	I treasure him/her/it, he/she/it is precious to me
k'wát'	egg(s)
<u>k</u> 'wátl	pot
kó <u>o</u> k	cellar, hole in the ground
<u>k</u> óok	box
Kó <u>o</u> khitaa	Pit House Clan
<u>K</u> óokhitaa	Box House Clan
at koowú	tail of something (fish)
<u>x</u> áat koowú	fish tail
at <u>k</u> oowú	den of something
gán	(fire)wood
gán	hey you!
x'áan	anger
<u>x</u> 'aan	fire
kínde	up(wards)
yaa nda <u>k</u> ín	it's flying

(continued)

x'éigaa	true
Lingít x'éináx	in Tlingít

POSSESSED BODY PARTS:

The use of -i/-u with body parts is different than with other nouns. Sometimes it changes the meaning of the noun:

a _x jín	my hand/arm
kínaa.át jíní	coat sleeve
xóots jíní	bear arm/paw
tsaa jíní	seal flipper

Most often -i/-u is added to indicate that the body part is detached from its original location on the body.

a _x oo _x	my tooth
a _x oo _x ú	my false tooth/teeth; my extracted tooth.
<u>k</u> aa oo _x ú	corn
shaan oo _x ú	
a _x shá	my head
s'EEK shaayí	black bear head separated from his body)
s'EEK shá	bear head - on his body
a _x gúk	my ear
<u>k</u> aa gúk	somebody's ear
<u>k</u> aa gúgu	somebody's ear cut off, dried fruit

TONE: high tone is marked with the accent (´)

shaa mountain

sháa women

xaat root

ax xaadí my root

xáat fish

ax xáadi my fish

náakw octopus

naakw rotten wood

du náawu his body

du naawú his dead body

du áayi his lake

du aayí his

du táayi his garden

du taayí his fat

táay garden

taay fat

góon gold

du góoni his gold

goon spring (water)

du gooní his spring (water)

POSSESSIVE ENDING: the possessive suffix has four forms.

- i after unrounded consonant
- u after rounded consonants (w)
- yi after unrounded vowel
- wu after rounded vowel (u, oo)

áa	lake
watsíx áayi	caribou

t'áa	board
ax t'áayi	my board

dei	road, trail
ax deiyi	my road, trail

gishoo	pig
ax gishoowú	my pig

A short high-tone vowel becomes a long low-tone vowel before the possessive suffix {-yi or -wu}

té	rock
ax teiyí	my rock

atxá	food
ax atxaayi	my food

atshí	song
ax atsheeyí	my song

(continued)

a _x lú	my nose
yéil lú	raven's beak
yéil loowú	raven's beak
a shú	the end of it
a shoowú	half of it
a tú	inside it
a _x toowú	my thinking, my mind

PLACE NAMES:

1.	Watsix Shaayí	Caribou Mountain
2.	Jánu Héeni	Goat Creek
3.	Jánu (heeni) Aayi	Goat Creek Lake
4.	Tsalgí Tóoli	Gopher Knoll
5.	Kéitladi X'áat'i	Seagull Island
6.	S'eeek Shaayí Héenák'u	Black Bear Head Creek
7.	T'á Yádi Aayi	Little Salmon Lake
8.	T'á Tlein Aayi	Big Salmon Lake
	T'á Aak'u	Big Lake Big Salmon Lake
	T'á Aayi Tlein	Big Salmon
	Gooch Aayi	Wolf Lake
	Watsix Héeni	Caribou Creek
	Xalak'ach' Héeni	Porcupine Creek
	Tlaxaneis' Koowú	Kingfisher Den
	Tlaxanas'koowú	
	Ch'áak' Kúdi	Eagle Bay - "Eagle Nest"
	Xaay Góon	Beaver Lodge Pass

Geographic features often used in place names:

héen	river, creek
héenák'w	small creek
áa	lake

(continued)

áak'w

x'áat'

shaa

tóol

gooch

táxk

goon

kunageey)

geey }

x'aa

gíl'

x'áas

ísh

little lake

island

mountain

knoll, hill (with trees)

hill (with buckbrush)

one-faced hill

spring (water)

bay

point

cliff

waterfall, strong rapids

hole in river

DIRECTIONALS:

ixde	going down river
nánde	going up river
dákde	going back away from the water (river, lake)
íkde	going down to the shore (beach)
dákde	going out into the lake to the shore
yánde	going from the lake to the shore
diyáade	going to the other side of the river, lake
kínde	going up
yínde	going down
neildé	going into the house
gánde	going out of the house
dákde	going to the back of the house (inside)
dákde	going from the back of the house <u>out</u> to the front

	<u>toward</u>	<u>naa form</u>	<u>-nax .a form</u>
up	kínde	keenaa	kéenax. á
down	yínde	yeenaa	yéenax. á
upstream	nánde	naanaa	náanax. á
downstream	íxde	ixinaa	éexnax. á
back	dákde	diginaa	dáaknax. á
out	dákde	diginaa	deikéenax. á
to the beach	íkde	iginaa	éeknax. á
to the shore	yánde		yánnax. á
across	diyáade		diyáanax. á
inside (home)	neildé		neilnax. á
outside	gánde		gáannax. á

PLACE NAMES: around Carcross, Yukon

200	Carcross	Naataase Héén
201	Tagish Lake	Taagish Áayi
202	Windy Arm	Cheizhéle' (Tagish)
203	Tutsi Lake	T'ooch' Áayi (Charcoal Lake)
204	Little Atlin Lake	Xáat Tlein Áayi (Big Fish Lake)
205	Atlin Lake	Aa Tlein (Big Lake)
206	Montana Mountain	Tsálgí Shaayí (Gopher Mountain)
207	Caribou Mountain	Watsíx Shaayí
208		Takaadí T'ooch' (Rockslide Charcoal Mountain)
209	Nares Mountain	X'eis'awáa Shaayí (Ptarmigan Mountain)
210	Crag Lake	Kaxwéix Áayi (Highbush Cranberry Lake)
211	Chootla Lake	Man Chóodlá ("Little Lake" in Tagish)
212	{Crag Creek?}	Kaxwéix Héeni (Highbush Cranberry Creek)
213	Wheaton River	Gááse Tú' ("Jackpine Water" in Tagish)
214	Marsh Lake	Titl'éileis ("sandy beach at the end" in Tagish)
215	Teslin Lake	Deisleen Áayi
216	Nisutlin River	Nilaseen (Héeni)
217	Teslin (Village)	A x'aká (on its mouth)
218	Wolf River/Red River	L'éix'w Héeni (Ochre River)

OTHER PLACE NAMES:

Taku River

Nakina Lake

Inklin River

Sloko Lake

Squanga Lake

Kusawa

Kluane

3 Aces

Jubilee Mountain

Mount White

Takhini

Hootchi Lake

T'aakú

Naak'ina. áa

Héen Tlein

L'óox'u Áayi

Dasgwáange

Koosawu Áa (narrow lake)

Lux. aaní

(comes from lóox aaní
Whitefish land country)

Tléináx Tawéi (lone sheep)

K'iyán (hemlock at the base)

Sinwaa

Taxhéeni (from téix héeni
"broth from boiled food")

Hóoch'i Áayi (last lake)

DICTATIONS:

g/k/k'		g/k/k'	
1.	gán	firewood	<u>k'</u> ateil pitcher
2.	k'eeljáa	storm wind	gagaan sun
3.	koon	hem	<u>kóok</u> box
4.	keitl	dog	<u>kéedu</u> dam
5.	k'adéin	well	<u>k'eik'</u> w tern
6.	goon	spring water	gúkl' swan
7.	k'ákw	small owl	gáax she's crying
8.	gáal'	clam	<u>k'eikaxwéin</u> flower
9.	kakéin	wool	k'anáaxán fence
10.	k'áts'	sharp edge	<u>kut'</u> aay hot weather

tl'/l'		ts'/s'	
1.	tl'ee <u>k</u>	finger	s'íksh wild hellebore
2.	l'ée x'wán	socks	s'íx' plate, dish
3.	tl'átk	land	ts'ats'ée bird
4.	tl'aak'wách'	wild rhubarb	ts'ootaat morning
5.	l'ál	jackpine	s'igeidí beaver
6.	l'éiw	sand	s'óos'ani spruce cone
7.	tl'éil	milt	ts'ootsxán Tsinshén
8.	l'óot'	tongue	s'EEK black bear
9.	l'eedí	tail	s'eenáa lamp
10.	tl'úk' <u>x</u>	worm, snake	s'él' rubber

k' /x'			<u>k'</u> / <u>x'</u>	
1.	x'áan	anger	<u>k'</u> wátl	pot
2.	k'adéin	well	<u>x'</u> áakw	salmon that has turned red
3.	K'iyán	Jubilee Mtn	<u>x'</u> agwéinaa	napkin
4.	x'ées'	tangle	<u>k'</u> eik'w	sea pigeon
5.	x'aa	point	<u>x'</u> ás'	jaw
6.	k'óox	marten	<u>x'</u> oon	punk
7.	x'áax'	apple	<u>k'</u> eikaxwéin	flower
8.	x'óow	blanket	<u>x'</u> aan	fire
9.	k'eeljáa	storm wind	<u>k'</u> anáaxán	fence
10.	k'wálx	fern rhizome	<u>x'</u> éex'wál'	safety pin

a/aa			e/ei	
1.	kát	spear head	té	stone
2.	káak	mother's brother	dei	road
3.	tás	thread	tlein	big
4.	gán	firewood	sé	voice
5.	gáan	outside	gwéil	bag
6.	hás	them	neil	home
7.	shál	spoon	wé	that
8.	sháal	fish trap	yéil	raven
9.	táakw	winter, year	shé	blood
10.	shaa	mountain	teil	pitch

	i/ee		u/oo	
1.	dís	moon	shú	end
2.	kées	bracelet	goon	spring of water
3.	lí	don't!	ún	shoot it!
4.	téel	shoe	lú	nose
5.	hít	house	kút	nest
6.	ín	flint	óosh	if only
7.	xéen	fly	yóo	like that
8.	sée	doll	tóol	hill
9.	shí	song	du	his/her
10.	ísh	hole in river	lúk	drink (coffee)

	d/t/t'		dl/tl/tl'	
1.	dei	road	tléik'	no
2.	t'aa	board	dleit	snow
3.	dís	moon	tl'átk	earth
4.	téix'	heart	tlákw	always
5.	t'éex'	ice	tl'úk'x	worm
6.	táakw	winter	dláa	gee!
7.	dáanaa	money	tláa	mother
8.	T'aakú	taku	Tl'anaxéedák _w	mythical woman
9.	tawéi	mtn sheep	tléil	not
10.	dóol	crane	dluwkát	carefully

dz/ts/ts'

- | | | |
|-----|------------|----------------|
| 1. | dzéit | ladder |
| 2. | tsín | muskrat |
| 3. | ts'ats'ée | bird |
| 4. | tséek | barbecue stick |
| 5. | dzísk'w | owl, moose |
| 6. | dzánti | flounder |
| 7. | tsóok' | again |
| 8. | ts'ootaat | morning |
| 9. | dzaas | thonging |
| 10. | Ts'ootsxán | Tsimshian |

j/ch/ch'

g/k/k'

- | | | | | |
|-----|-----------|----------------|-------------|-------------------------|
| 1. | chookán | grass | k'ínk' | stink fish head |
| 2. | ch'áak' | eagle | kées | bracelet |
| 3. | ch'oo yéi | the same way | gáas' | post |
| 4. | jánu | mtn goat | goon | spring water |
| 5. | chaan | mother-in-law | k'óox | marten |
| 6. | ch'áakw | long ago | káts | powdered
clam shells |
| 7. | jáaji | snowshoe | k'ei | well |
| 8. | jigwéinaa | hand towel | kóox | rice |
| 9. | ch'eet | diving bird | k'idaaká aa | one next door |
| 10. | cháas' | sockeye salmon | goox | slave |

