

TLINGIT LITERACY SESSION

Yukon Native Language Centre
Whitehorse, Yukon

October 13-15, 1993

Guest Instructor:

DR. JEFF LEER

Staff Linguist

Alaska Native Language Center
University of Alaska Fairbanks
Fairbanks, Alaska

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Yukon Native Language Centre
Tlingit Literacy Training Session
October 13-15, 1993

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Review of changes to the writing system:

1. Underline consonants → consonant plus h
x → xh
g → gh
k → kh
2. Long vowels are written with a single letter and a mark.
aa → à
ei → è
ee → ì
ou → ò (rarely used)
oo → ù
3. "Indian l" (ł) l → ł

Vowels

a	as in m <u>a</u> ma
e	as in ca <u>e</u>
i	as in Fi <u>i</u>
u	as in Lu <u>u</u>

Think of these vowels as they sound rather than how they look.

1. át thing
2. té rock
3. dè road
4. hí t house
5. hî n water
6. shú end
7. ún shoot it
8. û nà gun
9. sà name
10. tá sleep

Dictation

1. àn town
2. jùn dream
3. gán wood
- gén wood (Carcross)
4. tàn sea lion
5. sèt necklace
6. wushká cheek (outside) (Teslin)
- washká cheek (outside) (Carcross)
7. îsh dad
8. gút dime
9. sà name
10. tá sleep

kètl dog
kedládi puppy (Teslin)
kedlédi puppy (Carcross)
ketlyádi puppy (Atlin)
kagán daylight (Teslin)
kegén daylight (Carcross?)

hàt wutuwa.át we came here (Teslin)
hàt wutuwa.ét we came here (Carcross)
hàt kamtuwa.éts' we came slowly (Teslin)
hàt kawtuwa.éts' we came slowly (Carcross)

du shá his/her head
shé blood

Consonants

d	dl	dz	j	g	gh
t	tl	ts	ch	k	kh
	tl'	ts'	ch'	k'	kh'
	ʈ	s	sh	x	xh
	ʈ'	s'		x'	xh'
m	n	l	y	w	

Vowels a, e, i, u, -- and only sometimes o. These are very basic.

1. atlî mother (Teslin)
etlî mother (Carcross)
2. tsín muskrat
3. ʈítà knife
4. yêʈ raven/crow
5. shát spoon (Teslin)
shéʈ spoon (Carcross)
6. xêdu comb
7. dlèt snow/white
8. chíʈ cache
9. dûx sinew
10. tîʈ shoe

Reading and Translation Practice:

1. às dàhùní tree bark
2. gishù tàyí bacon
3. gijùk kúdi golden eagle nest
4. àn dàt kanahìk monkey (Teslin)
àn dàt kenahìk monkey (Carcross)
5. dânà dàkagwêhi purse
6. át shakamdligàn strolling around (Teslin)
ét shakawdligàn strolling around (Carcross)
7. gandàdagûgu woodpecker (Teslin)
gendàdegûgu woodpecker (Carcross)

- | | | |
|-----|------------|----------------------|
| 8. | taskadliyí | backstrap (Teslin) |
| | teskedliyí | backstrap (Carcross) |
| 9. | xûn kayénà | buzz toy (Teslin) |
| | xûn keyénà | buzz toy (Carcross) |
| 10. | xwàsâ yàkw | canvas boat |

Dictation: (g) and (gh)

- | | | |
|-----|---------|-----------------|
| 1. | gân | outside |
| 2. | ghâch | rug |
| 3. | gán | wood (Teslin) |
| | gén | wood (Carcross) |
| 4. | gùch | hill |
| 5. | ghùch | wolf |
| 6. | ghèwú | fishnet |
| 7. | gùsû | where is it |
| 8. | ghítghà | spruce needles |
| 9. | gûn | gold |
| 10. | ghâtł | pilot bread |

Dictation: (k) and (kh)

- | | | |
|-----|--------|-----------------------|
| 1. | khâ | man |
| 2. | kâ | car |
| 3. | kìjín | five |
| 4. | khîdu | beaver dam |
| 5. | khustí | living |
| 6. | kûshdà | land otter |
| 7. | khûk | box |
| 8. | kâni | brother/sister-in-law |
| 9. | kùtîyà | totem pole |
| 10. | khênà | awl |

Dictation: (x) and (xh)

x and xh at the beginning of a word :

1. xâna evening
2. xhât fish
3. xûts grizzly bear
4. du xhìk his/her shoulder
5. du xhùní his/her relative/friend
6. xûn north wind
7. xhát me/I
8. xêdu comb
9. xwâsdâ canvas
10. du xhán with him/her, his/her place

Dictation: (x) and (xh) at the end of a word:

x and xh at the end of a word:

1. stùx stove (Teslin)
sdùx stove (Carcross)
2. alyêxh he/she is fixing/making it
3. kùyêx whiskeyjack/camprobber
4. ìxh grease/oil (Teslin)
èxh grease/oil (Carcross)
5. gùxh slave
6. dûx sinew
7. tínx stoneberries
8. gháxh rabbit (Teslin)
gáxh rabbit (Carcross)
9. tíx fleas
10. dêxh two

1. ghâxh he/she is crying
2. kûx rice
3. du ùxh his/her tooth/teeth

4. ûxjà wind
5. íxde down river/south
6. íh dirty/yuck!
7. du shátxh her older sister (Teslin)
- du shétxh her older sister (Carcross)
8. wùnèxh it healed -- he/she is better/well
9. tlàxh mold

Dictation: (k) and (kh):

1. du wàkh his/her eye
2. sîk belt
3. sùkh moss
4. dâkh back/behind/inland
5. îkh down towards the shore, bank (Teslin)
- êxh down towards the shore, bank (Carcross)
6. du nákh away from him/her
7. a shâk head of a river/head waters
8. dè yík in the trail/road
9. kûkh pit
10. dúkh cottonwood/poplar

After the break we did the glottalized sounds then we worked on the handout: "Tlingit Language Lessons Level 1". (See page 17.)

Thursday:VOWELS

a	(mama)
e	(nescafe)
i	(Fifi)
u	(Lulu)

CONSONANTS

Stops

Plain	d	dl	dz	j	g	gh
Aspirated	t	tl	ts	ch	k	kh
	t'	tl'	ts'	ch'	k'	kh'
Fricatives		ɬ	s	sh	x	xh
		ɬ	s'		x'	xh'
	m	n	l	y	w	

Possessed Form

hít	house	axh hídi
kètl	dog	axh kèdlí
xûts	grizzly bear	axh xûdzi
ghùch	wolf	axh ghùjí
sîk	belt	axh sîgi
ghàkh	lynx	axh ghàghí

Rule:

If the first vowel has a high tone the second one doesn't.

Aspirated stops become plain stops before vowels like - i

tl'átk	land	axh tl'átgi (Teslin)
tl'étk	land	axh tl'étki (Carcross)

Rounded Sounds:

yàkw	boat	axh yàgú
tlêkhw	berry	axh tlêghu
gàw	drum/time	axh gàwú

Nasal Sounds:

gàw	drum/time	axh gawu
ǵêw	sand	axh ǵêwu
nùw	fort	axh nùwú
tây	garden	axh tâyi
tây	fat	axh tàyi
xhày	beaver lodge	s'igèdí xhàyi
dliy	meat (beaver)	s'igèdí dliyi
tîy	patch	axh tîyi
ǵî	blanket (for potlatch)	axh ǵîyi

Nasal Sounds in the middle of a word:

axh gatí	pick it up
axh gaytí	you guys pick it up (Teslin)
axh geyití	you guys pick it up (Carcross)

wudixwétl	he/she is tired
xhat wudixwétl	I am tired
imdixwétl	you are tired (Teslin)
iwdixwétl	you are tired (Carcross)

xhat wusitìn	he saw me
amsitìn	he saw her (Teslin)
awsitìn	he saw her (Carcross)

System of marking the vowels:

	low tone	high tone
short	a	á
long	à	â

Old System

Revised System

haat has uwa.át	hàt has uwa.át	they came here
át has woo.aat	át has wù.àt	they are walking around

Old SystemRevised System

aadé has guga.áat
aadé has guga.at yé

àdé has gugha.ât they'll go there
àdé has gugha.at yé the place that they
will go to

haat uwagút

hât uwagút he/she came here

át woogoot

át wùgùt he/she is walking
around

aadé gugagóot

àdé gughagût he/she will go there

aade gugagut yé

àdé gughagut yé the place where
he/she will go

Yanyeidí

Yanyèdí

Clan name

Yanyeidée

Yanyèdî

Clan name

COMPOUND NOUNS:

The stem of a noun may be shortened when it occurs in a compound or incorporated into a verb.

héen sháak

hîn shâk

head of river

héen shak.áayi

hîn shak.âyi

lake at the head
of a river

haa shagóon

hà shagûn

our background/
heritage

yê áwé hà
shagunkàwahâ

that's our heritage
/culture

Dictation:

- | | | |
|-----|----------|--------------------------|
| 1. | du xhìyí | pack sack |
| 2. | xhìy | pack |
| 3. | du nâwu | his booze |
| 4. | nâw | booze |
| 5. | a kàyí | its measurement |
| 6. | kày | mile |
| 7. | detûwu | a reader (Carcross) |
| | datîwu | a reader (Teslin) |
| 8. | detûw | he is reading (Carcross) |
| | datîw | he is reading (Teslin) |
| 9. | a t'àwú | its feather |
| 10. | t'àw | feather |

Dictation:

- | | | |
|-----|----------|----------------------------------|
| 1. | t'á | king salmon |
| 2. | dèxh | two |
| 3. | t'àw | feather |
| 4. | t'èxh | hook |
| 5. | a dùgú | its fur/skin |
| 6. | du t'ùgú | his/her baby pack/cradle |
| 7. | at'ácht | he/she is slapping it (Teslin) |
| | at'écht | he/she is slapping it (Carcross) |
| 8. | dânà | money |
| 9. | t'âká | on the floor |
| 10. | t'ùch' | black/charcoal |

Dictation:

- | | | |
|----|----------------|---------------------------|
| 1. | du dlàk' | his sister |
| 2. | du t'ekh | his/her finger (Carcross) |
| | du t'ìkh | his/her finger (Teslin) |
| 3. | t'l'átk | land (Teslin) |
| | t'l'étk | land (Carcross) |
| 4. | dlèt khâ | white person |
| 5. | t'l'ètákhw khâ | good virtuous person |
| 6. | watsíx dliyí | caribou meat |
| 7. | a t'l'êh | fish milt |
| 8. | dlêgu | lullabye |

Dictation

- | | | |
|----|-----------|---------------|
| 1. | ts'ùtát | morning |
| 2. | dzèt | ladder/bridge |
| 3. | ts'atsí | bird |
| 4. | ts'axwèt | small crow |
| 5. | dzàs | string |
| 6. | ts'ìghîni | magpie |

Dictation:

- | | | |
|-----|----------|-------------------------------|
| 1. | jâji | snowshoes |
| 2. | a ch'âdu | black epidermis of moose hide |
| 3. | ch'âkw | long ago |
| 4. | jighwênà | towel |
| 5. | ch'în | ribbon |
| 6. | ch'âk' | eagle |
| 7. | junkhú | in a dream |
| 8. | ch'ù | more/still |
| 9. | ch'ìt | diving bird |
| 10. | jík'à | baby pack |

VOWELS

short		long	
low	high	low	high
a	á	à	â
e	é	è	ê
i	í	ì	î
u	ú	ù	û

Dictation

- | | | |
|-----|----------|-----------------------------|
| 1. | k'ûx | marten |
| 2. | gùxh | slave |
| 3. | gwêł | bag |
| 4. | k'ìłjâ | south wind |
| 5. | gán | firewood (Teslin) |
| | gén | firewood (Carcross) |
| 6. | k'wát' | eggs |
| 7. | gishù | pig |
| 8. | k'inashú | sharp pain |
| 9. | k'ínk' | fermented/aged salmon heads |
| 10. | k'wáłxh | ferns |

Dictation

- | | | |
|-----|------------|---------------|
| 1. | ghayês' | iron |
| 2. | kh'íshà | baseball bat |
| 3. | ghèwú | fish net |
| 4. | kh'anâxhán | fence |
| 5. | ghagàn | sun |
| 6. | ghítghà | spruce needle |
| 7. | kh'èkaxwên | flower |
| 8. | ghàt | silver salmon |
| 9. | kh'áliyêł | liar |
| 10. | ghàtâ | trap |

FridayPractice

adaxh	after that
át	thing
àt	paternal aunt
â	lake

de	already
té	rock
dè	road
dê	how about ...

ihí	don't
shé	song
yê yatì	it is so
sî	doll

tsu	again
shú	end
ch'ù	more/still
wû	father-in-law

Vowel Markings

no mark on vowel means --low and short

(') means high and short

(`) means low and long

(^) means high and long

Dictation - (tl) and (ʔ)

- | | | |
|----|-----------|------------------------|
| 1. | tl'átk | earth/world (Teslin) |
| | tl'étk | earth/world (Carcross) |
| 2. | ʔák | dress |
| 3. | du ʔít | his tail |
| 4. | du tl'íkh | his finger (Teslin) |
| | du tl'èkh | his finger (Carcross) |
| 5. | du ʔût' | his tongue |

- | | | |
|-----|----------------|--------------------------|
| 6. | du t'l'ikhtlèn | middle finger (Teslin) |
| | du t'l'ekhtlèn | middle finger (Carcross) |
| 7. | l'èx | aluminum |
| 8. | l'èxh | dance |
| 9. | tl'âk' | wet |
| 10. | l'êw | sand |

a dà yas.êxh he/she is examining it

ìxh	oil	(Teslin)
èxh	oil	(Carcross)

du ùxh	his tooth/teeth
ûxjà	wind

ìkh	copper (Teslin)
èkh	copper (Carcross)
adèkh	he's challenging
îkh	down toward the shore/coast (Teslin)
êkh	down toward the shore/coast (Carcross)

In the new writing system you never find two vowels together. If you do you must separate them by a period (.). You can have two consonants together.

Differences in Dialect

Teslin

datîw

dahûn

da.â

tlèdahîn

dakhân

át

hín wát

xhát

Carcross

detûw

dehûn

de.â

tlèdehîn

dekhân

ét

hîn wát

xhát

he/she is reading

he/she is selling

he/she is sitting

once

quarrelling

thing

mouth of a river

me

Dictation: (ts) and (s')

- | | | |
|-----|----------|------------------|
| 1. | sìk | black bear |
| 2. | s'ikh | smoke (Teslin) |
| | s'èkh | smoke (Carcross) |
| 3. | ts'ùtât | morning |
| 4. | s'íksh | false hellibore |
| 5. | ts'atsî | bird (Teslin) |
| | ts'ets'î | bird (Carcross) |
| 6. | s'àkh | bone |
| 7. | s'ùw | green/blue |
| 8. | s'ì | eyebrow |
| 9. | ts'axwèt | small crow |
| 10. | du s'àtí | his boss |

Dictation: (k') and (x')

- | | | |
|-----|-----------|------------------------------------|
| 1. | x'úx' | book/paper |
| 2. | k'ínk' | fermented salmon head |
| 3. | x'ûw | blanket |
| 4. | x'ât' | island |
| 5. | k'idên | good; well; carefully (Teslin) |
| | k'edên | good; well; carefully (Carcross) |
| 6. | x'ádà | file |
| 7. | k'ùdás' | shirt (Teslin) |
| | k'ùdés' | shirt (Carcross) |
| 8. | x'úkjà | steam/fog |
| 9. | x'ân | anger |
| 10. | a k'áts'i | sharp edge (of a knife) (Teslin) |
| | e k'éts'i | sharp edge (of a knife) (Carcross) |

Dictation: (kh') and (xh')

- | | | |
|----|------------|----------|
| 1. | xh'àn | fire/red |
| 2. | kh'anâxhán | fence |
| 3. | xh'ahât | door |

- | | | |
|-----|--------------|---------------|
| 4. | xh'ùn | diaper moss |
| 5. | kh'îch' | scar |
| 6. | du xh'é | his/her mouth |
| 7. | xh'wât' | rainbow trout |
| 8. | kh'anashgidê | poor |
| 9. | kh'èkaxwên | flower |
| 10. | xh'îx'wáí' | safety pin |

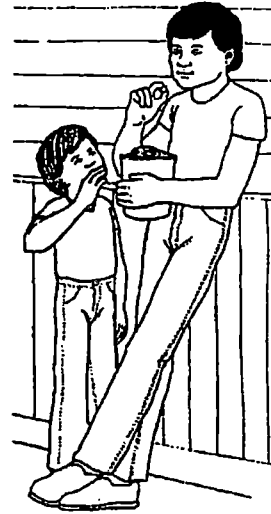
Dictation: Tone Exercise (1)

- | | | |
|-----|-------|-------------------|
| 1. | xhát | me |
| 2. | xhât | fish |
| 3. | xhàt | root |
| 4. | shá | head |
| 5. | shà | mountain |
| 6. | shâ | women |
| 7. | tîł | shoe |
| 8. | tîł | scar |
| 9. | ìkh | copper |
| 10. | îkh | down to the shore |
| 11. | gháxh | rabbit |
| 12. | ghâxh | he/she is crying |

Dictation: Tone Exercise (2)

- | | | |
|-----|---------|---------------------|
| 1. | gàn | outside |
| 2. | gán | firewood (Teslin) |
| | gén | firewood (Carcross) |
| 3. | gàn ká | smoke hole |
| 4. | du nàwú | his corpse |
| 5. | du nâwu | his booze |
| 6. | du tàyí | his/her sleep/fat |
| 7. | du tâyí | his garden |
| 8. | du tayì | under him |
| 9. | yat'à | it is warm |
| 10. | yât'à | this one |
| 11. | du àyí | his own |
| 12. | du âyi | his lake |

September Lessons



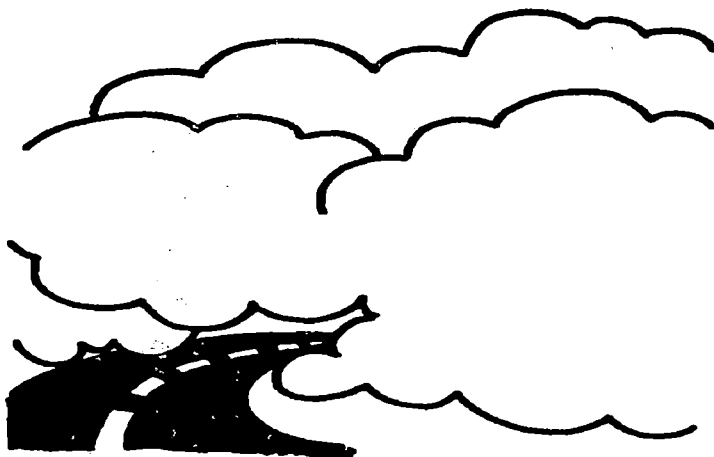
Greetings

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1. How are you? | Mâ sá iyatì? |
| 2. I am fine. | Xhat yak'ê. |
| 3. How about you? | Wa.é dê? |
| 4. Me too, I'm fine. | Xhat tsu, xhat yak'ê |
| 5. How is he/she? | Mâ sá yatì? |
| 6. He/she is fine. | Yak'ê. |
| 7. How about _____? | _____ dê ? |
| 8. How is he/she? | Mâ sá yatì? |
| 9. He/she is fine. | Hú tsú yak'ê. |

September Lessons

Weather

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| 1. How is it outside? | Mâ sá khuyatì? |
| 2. It is sunny. | Khumdìgàn. |
| 3. It is sunny and hot. | Khumdit'áxh'. |
| 4. It is cloudy. | Khułigûs'. |
| 5. It is raining. | Sìm dak wusitán. |
| 6. It is windy. | Wuduwanúk. |



September Lessons

People

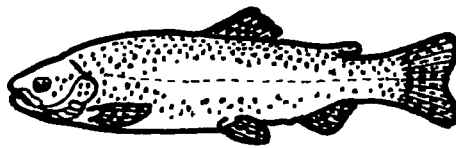
- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Who is this? | À sáyá or adu sáyá. |
| 2. Who is that? | À sáwé or àdû sawé. |
| 3. This is a man. | Khâ áyá. |
| 4. This is a woman. | Shàwát áyá. |
| 5. This is a teenage boy. | Yadák'w áyá. |
| 6. This is a teenage girl. | Shàtk' áyá. |
| 7. This is a boy. | Atk'iyátsk'u áyá. |
| 8. This is a girl. | Shàtk'iyátsk'u áyá. |
| 9. This is a baby. | T'ukanêyi áyá. |



September Lessons

Fish

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------|
| 1. What is this? | Dà sàyá? |
| 2. This is a fish. | Khàt áyá. |
| 3. This is a king salmon. | T'á áyá. |
| 4. This is a grayling. | T'ási áyá. |



Berries

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| 1. What is this? | Dà sáyá? |
| 2. This is a berry. | Tlêkhw áyá. |
| 3. This is a high-bush cranberry. | Kaxwêxh áyá. |
| 4. This a lowbush cranberry. | Ìt'l'át áyá. |
| 5. This is a stoneberry. | Tínx áyá. |

September Lessons

Activities

- | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. What are you doing? | Dà sá yê dà.íné? |
| 2. I am fishing. | Axhast'èxh. |
| 3. I am picking berries. | Khuxhak'ît'. |
| 4. What is the boy doing? | Dà sà yê adàné wé yadák'w? |
| 5. The boy is fishing. | Ast'èxh wé yadák'w. |
| 6. What is the woman doing? | Dà sá yê adàné wé shàwát? |
| 7. The woman is picking berries. | Khuk'ît' wé shàwát. |

