

TLINGIT LITERACY IN-SERVICE

Yukon Native Language Centre
Whitehorse, Yukon

November 16-17, 2010

Guest Instructor:
Dr. Jeff Leer
Alaska Native Language Center

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Native
Language
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2010

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SCHEDULE

	Tuesday Nov 16	Wednesday Nov 17
9:00	Opening Prayer Welcome and Introductions Tlingit Alphabet - Consonants	Opening Prayer Comparison of Alphabets Listening Exercise Word Lists: dz, ts and ts' gh, kh and kh'
10:45	Word Origins - Chinook Trading Jargon	Song by Pete Sidney
12:00	<i>lunch</i>	<i>lunch</i>
1:00	Tlingit Alphabet - Vowels Comparison of Different Tlingit Writing Systems	Gary Johnson's Drum Hank Williams Song by Sam Johnston
2:45	Listening Exercise Word Lists: d, t and t' g, k and k'	Listening Exercise Word List: x, xh, x' and xh' Comments Wrap-up and Gifts Closing Prayer

TLINGIT INTERIOR ALPHABET

Consonants

Stops

plain		d	dl	dz	j	g	gw	gh	ghw	.	.w
aspirated		t	tl	ts	ch	k	kw	kh	khw		
glottalized		t'	tl'	ts'	ch'	k'	kw'	kh'	kh'w		

Fricatives

plain			ʃ	s	sh	x	xw	xh	xhw	h	hw
glottalized			ʃ'	s'		x'	xw'	xh'	xh'w		

Sonorants

non-nasal	w		l		y
nasal	m	n			

Vowels and Tone

Short Vowels with low tone

i	u
e	—
a	

Short Vowels with high tone

í	ú
é	ó
á	

Long Vowels with low tone

ì	ù
è	ò
à	

Long Vowels with high tone

î	û
ê	ô
â	

EXAMPLE SENTENCES AND VOCABULARY

1. àwa.ù *s/he bought it*
2. ch'ùt ùna.wèjí (Atlin - Mary) *before s/he bought it*
ch'ùt una.èjí (Teslin - Sam)
3. wùhù *s/hē waded (in water)*
4. yà nahwên *s/he is wading along*
5. ghîn *silverberries (that grows on red
"willows" in the Taku area)*

LANGUAGE COMPARISONS AND DERIVATIONS

Chinook was a trading jargon of the West Coast

1. rum (English) *rum*
lām (Chinook Jargon)
láam (Haida)
nâw (Tlingit)
2. le prêtre (French) *priest, preacher*
lablêt (Chinook Jargon)
nakwnêt (Tlingit)
3. molasses (English) *molasses*
gunâshish (Tlingit)
4. beans (English) *beans*
gwêns (Tlingit)
5. la table (French) *table*
ladâp (Chinook Jargon)
nadâkw (Tlingit)
6. Xutsnùwú *Angoon*
(*Xutsnùwú is the original name of Angoon Village and other places, including an island in Marsh Lake*)
Hoochinoo (Chinook Jargon)
the drink associated with Angoon
Hooch (English) *any strong alcoholic drink*

Language Comparisons (cont)

7. Krest (Russian) *cross*
Kanêst (Tlingit)
8. chashka (Russian) *cup, chalice*
châshgà (Coastal Tlingit)
9. dixh'kâyakhijèt (18th century Tlingit) *horse (literally "the thing you sit on the back of")*
gamdân (Modern Tlingit) *horse (from Chinook Jargon)*
10. khà yuka.ût'i *buttons (literally "octopus suckers on the belly", referring to coat buttons fastened on the belly of Russian sailors)*
11. kawût (Tlingit) *bead*
gawíit (Haida)
gúyêt (N. Tutchone)
12. Kloochman (Chinook Jargon) *woman*

VOWELS

Short		Long	
low tone	high tone	low tone	high tone
a	á	à	â
e	é	è	ê
i	í	ì	î
u	ú	ù	û
	ó (rare)		ô (rare)

Examples of Tone and Vowel Length Changes

1. axhá *s/he is eating it*
2. axha át *the thing s/he is eating*
3. axhâ nich *s/he always eats it*
4. akghwaxhâ *s/he will eat it*
5. tlét akghwaxhà *s/he will not eat it*

Examples of Tone and Vowel Length Changes (cont)

1. hàt uwa**gút** *s/he came here*
2. tlét hàt wu**gút** *s/he didn't come here*
3. yà na**gút** *s/he is walking along*
4. wé yà na**gut** khâ *the man who's walking along*
5. hàndé kghwa**gût** *s/he will come*

Note contrast between Coastal Tlingit underscored k and Interior Tlingit **kh**

Interior Tlingit	Coastal Tlingit	English
kh udzitì	<u>k</u> udzitee	<i>it exists</i>
tlét kh ùstí	tlét <u>k</u> oostí	<i>it doesn't exist</i>
kh ustîyin	<u>k</u> ustéeyin	<i>it used to exist</i>
kh ustí	<u>k</u> ustí	<i>life, way of life</i>
hà kh ustìyí	haa <u>k</u> usteeyi	<i>our way of of life, our culture</i>

LISTENING EXERCISE WORD LISTS

Alveolar Series Exercises - d, t, t'

1. **d**è road
2. **t**é rock
3. **t'**á king salmon
4. **d**âná money
5. **t'**â ká floor
6. **t**awê mountain sheep
7. **t'**úk ! shoot it! (with bow and arrow)
8. **t**âx'à mosquito
9. kù**t'**âx'à marble (a round glass marble)
10. **d**ís moon, month

Velar Series Exercises - g, k, k'

1. **g**àw drum, dock
2. **k'**é goodness

- | | | |
|-----|-----------------|---------------------|
| 3. | k ayàní | <i>leaves</i> |
| 4. | g âs' | <i>frost</i> |
| 5. | k' ìljâ | <i>south wind</i> |
| 6. | k âst | <i>barrel</i> |
| 7. | k' isâni | <i>boys</i> |
| 8. | g án | <i>firewood</i> |
| 9. | k' idên | <i>well, good</i> |
| 10. | k ît | <i>killer whale</i> |

Sibilant Series Exercises - dz, ts, ts'

- | | | |
|----|------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. | ts u | <i>again</i> |
| 2. | dz èt | <i>ladder, stairs</i> |
| 3. | ts âx' | <i>mitten</i> |
| 4. | ts' ats'î | <i>songbird</i> |
| 5. | dz ísk'w | <i>moose</i> |

- | | | |
|-----|---------|---------------------------------------|
| 6. | łits'â | <i>it smells good, it is fragrant</i> |
| 7. | dzàs | <i>babiche, thonging</i> |
| 8. | tsín | <i>muskrat</i> |
| 9. | ts'ùtât | <i>morning</i> |
| 10. | łidzî | <i>it is hard, difficult</i> |

Uvular Series Exercises - gh, kh, kh'

- | | | |
|----|-----------|--------------------|
| 1. | ghàtâ | <i>trap</i> |
| 2. | kh'atèł | <i>pitcher</i> |
| 3. | khù.ù | <i>people</i> |
| 4. | ghàt | <i>coho salmon</i> |
| 5. | khîdu | <i>beaver dam</i> |
| 6. | kh'aliyêł | <i>is a liar</i> |
| 7. | ghîn | <i>silverberry</i> |
| 8. | khâs' | <i>match</i> |

9. **ghítghà** *pine needle, spruce needle*
10. sh wudi**kh'**ék'w *s/he cut herself/himself*

Uvular Fricative Series Exercises - x, x', xh, xh'

1. **xh**àná's' *raft*
2. **x'**âs *waterfall*
3. **xh'**àn *fire*
4. **xh**ikshá *shoulder*
5. **x'**âx' *apple*
6. **xh'**adà *lips, around the mouth*
7. **x'**êghà *truly*
8. **x**êdu *comb*
9. **x'**ìshâ *pail, bucket*
10. **x**ânà *evening*

HISTORICAL WRITTEN TLINGIT

Early Russian Documentation of Tlingit (1800s)

Rezanov wrote a large multi-language vocabulary.

Bishop Veniaminov (St. Innocent) wrote a Tlingit vocabulary.

Radloff and "Constantine" (a Tlingit from Chilkat) - spent a year in St. Petersburg documenting Tlingit.

These used the Cyrillic alphabet.

American Documentation of Tlingit

John R. Swanton wrote *Tlingit Myths and Texts* (1909) and other works.

Franz Boas, an anthropologist and linguist, worked with Louis Shotridge, a Klukwan Tlingit. Boas compiled the *Handbook of American Indian Languages* (1911) and wrote many other works.

Shotridge - an Americanized pronunciation of łshàtxhíchxh
from tlét shàduxhíchxh *they don't hit them over the head*

Louis Shotridge's Tlingit name was Stùwukhâ
from sitûwu khâ *person with a lot of knowledge*

Kelly & Willard wrote a prayer book (1905) using their own orthography.

Naish & Story wrote a dictionary (1973) and other works.

Frederica de Laguna was an anthropologist who wrote *Under Mount Saint Elias: The History and Culture of the Yakutat Tlingit* (1972).

Catherine McClennan wrote *My Old People Say* (1975) and other works.

Nora and Richard Daunhauer wrote the 3-volume *Classics of Tlingit Oral Literature* (1987-1994) and other works.

Example of written Tlingit by Swanton

from *Tlingit Myths and Texts*, published 1909

Scan of Excerpt from *Tlingit Myths and Texts*, p 291

Āk!uq!ayu'	yē yatī'	qā	akadē'	wugu't	ga'ngā.	A'yaxde
At Auk	stopping	a man	out on	got	for firewood.	Around it
yanagudī'ayu	aosītī'n	cāwA't	yū'adīgīgā	cwū'ḷīxāc.	Dūcaxāwu'	
going was	he saw	woman	one	floating.	Her hair	
yeklu'ḷiyāt!.	Telāk ^u	āltī'nī	a'ya	aosītī'n	yē'k ^u tsīgā'yī	a. At ya'tq!ḷ
was long.	Some time	looking	he saw her	her little ones	were.	Children

1. Llê 'nAxxī'dAq (Swanton)
tl'anaxīdakhw (modern Tlingit)

2. Āk!uq!ayu' yē yatī' qā akadē'
Āk'wx' áyú yē yatī khâ â kàdê
At Auk bay he is staying man onto lake

wugu't ga'ngā. (Swanton)

wùgùt gánghà. (modern Tlingit)
he went for firewood

A man at Auk Lake went out on the lake after firewood. (Swanton)

3. A'yaxde yanagudī'ayu aosītī'n cāwA't
Ā yàxhdé yà nagúdi áyú awsitìn shàwát
to the lake shore as he was going he saw woman
yū'adīgīgā cwū'ḷīxāc. (Swanton)
yū â digiygê sh wudihàsh. (modern Tlingit)
the lake middle she was floating

On the way round it he saw a woman floating about. (Swanton)

Example of written Tlingit by Naish and Story

Scan of Excerpt from The Brass Serpent and Other Stories, p. 3

Three Old Testament stories in Tlingit, by Constance Naish and Gillian L. Story, Wycliffe Bible Translators, 1963.

Tléil oonuléi dax'ón jinkàt tákw yah shoo-
guxéex, Israel tóonux gogwastée antkeenée
kulgukóot hus wooligás'. Agáh uyúh adéi yah
konuhéin, agáh uh káh dak hus woodlitsoowoo yéi
uyúh, yúh hus ukgwaheín tl'útk. Yúh tl'útk hus
doo òen uyawsikàh Dikée Ankáwoo-ch, uh káh
yeis goxsudák.

from *The Brass Serpent*, Numbers 20:14-21, 21:4-9

final phrase above:

uh káh yeis goxsadák (Naish & Story)
a káa yei s guxsadáak (Modern Coastal)
a kâ yè s guxhsadâkh (Modern Interior)

They will move onto it (the land).

CONSONANT WRITING COMPARISONS

Swanton	Boas	Modern Coastal	Modern Interior
g	g	g	g
ḡ	ḡ	ḡ	gh
k	k	k	k
q	q	ḱ	kh
ḵ	x	x	x
x	ḵ	ḵ	xh
g ^o , g ^u , gw	g ^u , gw	gw	gw
x ^o , x ^u , xw	x ^u , xw	xw	xw

VOWEL WRITING COMPARISONS

Short vowels

Kelly & Willard (1904)	Naish & Story (1960–1970 approx)		Coastal (1972 approx)		Interior (1970s approx)	
	<i>low tone</i>	<i>high tone</i>	<i>low tone</i>	<i>high tone</i>	<i>low tone</i>	<i>high tone</i>
ũ	u	ú	a	á	a	á
ě	e	é	e	é	e	é
ĩ	i	í	i	í	i	í
ōō	o	ó	u	ú	u	ú
				ó (rare)		ó (rare)

Long vowels

Kelly & Willard (1904)	Naish & Story (1960–1970 approx)		Coastal (1972 approx)		Interior (1970s approx)	
	<i>low tone</i>	<i>high tone</i>	<i>low tone</i>	<i>high tone</i>	<i>low tone</i>	<i>high tone</i>
ä	a	á	aa	áa	à	â
ā	ei	éi	ei	éi	è	ê
ē	ee	ée	ee	ée	ì	î
ōō	oo	óo	oo	óo	ù	û
				óu (rare)		ô (rare)

SONG BY PETE SIDNEY (1992) FROM CARCROSS

Recorded by Pat Moore

1. Dà sá kwshê gí
what could it be?
2. Ách ujàkhch gí hêdi ch'it
that kills that ch'it
3. Łingit'àní kát naxhlahàsh-á
let him soar / float over Tlingit land
4. Khachu yêl dàyatûch ách ujàkhch
actually, it's thinking about Raven that is killing him
5. Tsu ya du t'è àni aya, ani aya
(vocables)

Free Translation

*What could it be that is killing that Ch'it
so that he soars over Tlingit land?
It turns out that it is the thought of Raven
that is killing him.*

Note: Ch'it "murrelet" is a Yanyèdí crest. It metaphorically represents the mental anguish of the Yanyèdí as he searches the earth looking for his lost Raven.

SAM'S SONG

From *Take These Chains from my Heart* sung by Hank Williams,
composed by Fred Rose and Hy Heath, translated into Tlingit by Sam Johnston.

Wé chên̄s axh tēxh' dàdāxh yē nasn̄í
the chains my heart from around (you) take away

I tùwú axh niyàdé mdzi.át'
your feelings, thoughts towards me they have cooled off

Àghā tsā tlét̄ tsu dē axh dāt sh tuk̄ishtí
and then no longer about me you don't care

Łdakát i dàtùwú de kamdik'ít'
all the thoughts of you now they are all gone

Wé tēxh' tun̄kw khú gí yē yanaxhdudzikhà
the heart ache however is there anything to be said

Wé chên̄s axh tēxh' dàdāxh yē nasn̄í
the chains my heart from around (you) take away

Take these chains from my heart and set me free

You're grow cold and no longer care for me

All my faith in you is gone

But the heartaches linger on

Take these chains from my heart and set me free

SANTA CLAUS IS COMING TO TOWN

Tlingit translation attributed to Nora Dauenhauer.

Dlínkwát sh ìltín, † kìdaghàxhíkh

Ł sh kh'ayil.ûshikh, yisikû gí,

Sândi Tlâs yá àndé kghwagût.

Sàx'w akshaxìt, a dà yakghwas.â,

À sá † ushk'èyí kha k'èyí

Sândi Tlâs yá àndé kghwagût

Askwèxh àghâ ìtèxhí,

Askwèxh àghâ † ìtèxhí,

A sa † ushk'èyí kha k'èyí

Dâ k'idên khighìstí dê !

Dlínkwát sh ìltín, † kìdaghàxhíkh

Ł sh kh'ayil.ûshikh, yisikû gí,

Sândi Tlâs yá àndé kghwagût.

Santa Claus Is Coming to Town

Written by J. Fred Coots and Haven Gillespie, 1934

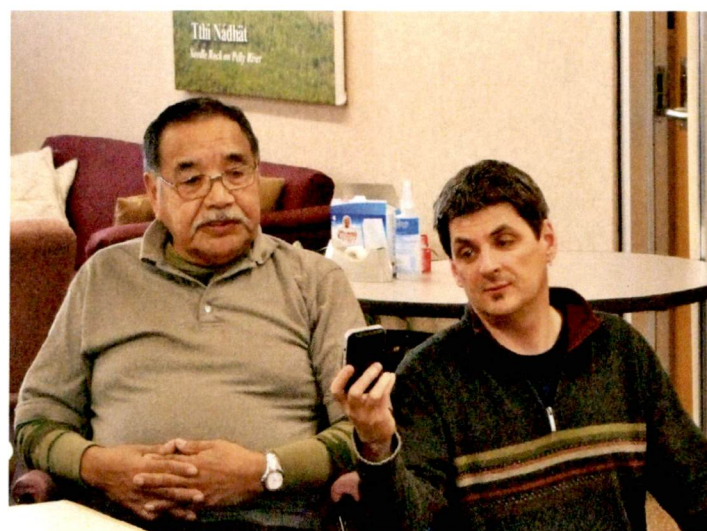
*You better watch out, you better not cry
You better not pout, I'm telling you why
Santa Claus is coming to town*

*He's making a list and checking it twice
Gonna find out who's naughty and nice
Santa Claus is coming to town*

*He sees you when you're sleeping
He knows when you're awake
He knows if you've been bad or good
So be good for goodness sake!*

*You better watch out, you better not cry
You better not pout, I'm telling you why
Santa Claus is coming to town*

Note: The original Síndi Tlâs is replaced by Sândi Tlâs which is the Interior Tlingit pronunciation of "Santa Claus".







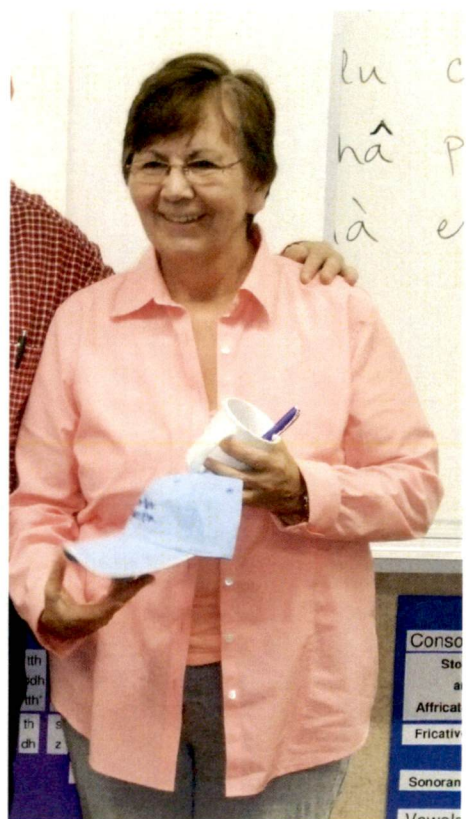
① Dlinkwát sh ıktın, † kıdaghàxhík
 † sh kh'ayik.ûshikh, yisikû gı,
Sındi Tlâs yâ ândé kghwagût.

② Sâx'w akshaxıt, a dà yakghwas.â,
 â sâ † ushk'eyı kha k'eyı,
Sındi Tlâs yâ ândé kghwagût.

③ Askwèxh àghâ ıtèxhı,
 askwèxh àghâ † ıtèxhı,
^{sâ} ^{† ush k'eyı} ^{kha k'eyı}
dâ k'idên khighıstı dē!









Photograph Identifications

Page

- 24 : *top: back:* Linda Harvey, Anne Ranigler, Jo-Anne Johnson, Connie Jules, Louise Parker, Jeff Leer, Doug Smarch
front: Martha Van Heel, Sam Johnston, Mary Anderson, Bessie Cooley, Gary Johnson (kneeling), Lorraine Dewhurst
centre: Sam Johnston, André Bourcier
bottom: Louise Parker, Mary Anderson, Jeff Leer
- 25 : *top left:* Barb Hobbis, Linda Harvey
top right: Martha Van Heel
bottom left: Anne Ranigler
bottom right: Gary Johnson, Martha Van Heel
26. *top:* Martha Van Heel, Louise Parker, Mary Anderson, Barb Hobbis
centre: Mary Ann Roy, Bessie Jim
bottom: Louise Parker, Mary Anderson

Photograph Identifications (cont)

27. *top:* Sândi Tlâs yá àndé kghwagût
centre: Sândi Tlâs yá àndé kghwagût
bottom: Martha Van Heel, Sam Johnston
- 28 : *top left:* Doug Smarch
top right: Linda Harvey, Louise Parker
bottom left: Connie Jules, Jeff Leer
bottom right: Lorraine Dewhurst
- 29 : *top left:* Bessie Cooley
top right: Linda Harvey, Martha Van Heel
bottom left: Gary Johnson, Jeff Leer
bottom right: Louise Parker
- 30: *top:* Linda Harvey, Mary Anderson, Jeff Leer
31. *bottom:* Linda Harvey, Jeff Leer



