

TLINGIT LITERACY SESSION

Yukon Native Language Centre
Whitehorse, Yukon

February 15-16, 2011

Guest Instructor:
Dr. Jeff Leer
Alaska Native Language Center

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Native
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SCHEDULE

	Tuesday Feb 15	Wednesday Feb 16
9:00	Opening Prayer Welcome and Introductions Miscellaneous Vocabulary Conflict Resolution, Respect Tlingit Alphabet - Vowels	Opening Prayer Tlingit Alphabet - Consonants (<i>cont</i>)
10:45	Tlingit Alphabet - Consonants	Tlingit Songs and Drumming by Gary Johnson
12:00	<i>lunch</i>	<i>lunch</i>
1:00	Tlingit Alphabet - Consonants (<i>cont</i>)	Teslin Posters - Greetings
2:45	Tlingit Alphabet - Consonants (<i>cont</i>)	YNLC Curriculum Guide - January Wrap-up and Gifts Closing Prayer

TLINGIT INTERIOR ALPHABET

Consonants

		<i>Labial</i>	<i>Alveolar</i>	<i>Lateral</i>	<i>Sibilant</i>	<i>Shibilant</i>	<i>Velar</i>	<i>Rounded Velar</i>	<i>Uvular</i>	<i>Rounded Uvular</i>	<i>Glottal</i>	<i>Rounded Glottal</i>
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'	k'w	kh'	kh'w		
Fricatives	plain			ɬ	s	sh	x	xw	xh	xhw	h	hw
	glottalized			ɬ'	s'		x'	x'w	xh'	xh'w		
Sonorants	plain	w		l		y						
	nasal	m	n									

Vowels and Tone

Short Vowels with low tone		Short Vowels with high tone		Long Vowels with low tone		Long Vowels with high tone	
i	u	í	ú	ì	ù	î	û
e	—	é	ó	è	ò	ê	ô
a		á		à		â	

TLINGIT INTERIOR CONSONANT CHART WITH WORDS SUITABLE FOR USE AS NAMES OF THE CONSONANTS

		<i>Labial</i>	<i>Alveolar</i>	<i>Lateral</i>	<i>Sibilant</i>	<i>Shibilant</i>	<i>Velar</i>	<i>Rounded Velar</i>	<i>Uvular</i>	<i>Rounded Uvular</i>	<i>Glottal</i>	<i>Rounded Glottal</i>
Stops	<i>plain</i>		dâ <i>weasel</i>	dlèt <i>snow</i>	dzèt <i>ladder, bridge</i>	jâji <i>snowshoes</i>	gán <i>firewood</i>	gwél <i>bag</i>	ghùch <i>wolf</i>	ghwât' <i>door draught stopper</i>	nay.á <i>(you folks) go!</i>	ana.wèch <i>(usually) wears it</i>
	<i>aspirated</i>		té <i>rock</i>	tlêkhw <i>berry</i>	tsà <i>hair seal</i>	châs' <i>pink salmon</i>	kît <i>killer whale</i>	kwêy <i>sign, marker</i>	khâ <i>man</i>	khwân <i>people from</i>		
	<i>glottalized</i>		t'á <i>king salmon</i>	tl'átk <i>ground</i>	ts'ats'î <i>bird</i>	ch'âk' <i>eagle</i>	k'ínk' <i>fermented fish heads</i>	k'wát' <i>egg (bird)</i>	kh'atèt <i>pitcher</i>	kh'wátl <i>pot</i>		
Fricatives	<i>plain</i>			ɬɬ <i>fireweed</i>	sîk <i>belt</i>	shà <i>mountain</i>	xûts <i>grizzly bear</i>	xwàsâ <i>canvas</i>	xhât <i>fish</i>	xhwàgùt <i>I went</i>	hàw <i>branch</i>	yà-nahwên <i>is swimming</i>
	<i>glottalized</i>			ɬ'ák <i>dress</i>	s'îk <i>black bear</i>		x'âx' <i>apple</i>	x'wán <i>long johns</i>	xh'ák <i>canyon</i>	xh'wât' <i>Dolly Varden</i>		
Sonorants	<i>plain</i>	wàkh <i>eye</i>		lîdiyò <i>radio</i>		yây <i>whale</i>						<i>found only in certain dialects</i>
	<i>nasal</i>	mâ sá <i>how?</i>	nùw <i>island</i>	dalèyí <i>trout</i>								

Note on Speakers

Speakers are sometimes identified as dialect variations are noted.

NJ - Norman James, Carcross

BC - Bessie Cooley, Carcross

SJ - Sam Johnston, Teslin

EN - the late Elizabeth Nyman, Taku River

C - Carcross Dialect

T - Teslin Dialect

A - Atlin Dialect

VOWELS REVIEW

Tone	Length	Accent
------	--------	--------

low	short	none	a	e	i		u
-----	-------	------	---	---	---	--	---

high	short	acute	á	é	í	ó ¹	ú
------	-------	-------	---	---	---	----------------	---

low	long	grave	à	è	ì	ò ²	ù
-----	------	-------	---	---	---	----------------	---

high	long	circumflex	â	ê	î	ô ³	û
------	------	------------	---	---	---	----------------	---

Note: letter o is rare in Tlingit. In fact o with no accent does not occur.

Example words:

1) *Hóhó* (deep gratitude)

2) *Lîdiyò* (radio - ò is found only in English loan words)

3) *Ahô dê* (never mind)

CONVERSION FROM COASTAL TLINGIT TO INTERIOR TLINGIT

Vowels

long low vowels		long high vowels	
Coastal	Interior	Coastal	Interior
aa	à	áa	â
ei	è	éi	ê
ee	ì	ée	î
oo	ù	óo	ô
(ou	ò)	(óu	ô)

Consonants

uvular consonants		laterals	
Coastal	Interior	Coastal	Interior
<u>g</u>	gh	l	ł
<u>k</u>	kh	l	l
<u>x</u>	xh		

PSEUDO-DIPHTHONGS

Ending in -w

-aw, -ew, -iw, -uw

Ending in -y

-ay, -ey, -iy

Dr. Leer suggests using a tilde ~ above the final -y or -w to indicate the nasal sound in Teslin Tlingit instead of the ̣ under the vowel, as in these examples.

examples ending with y

yây	tây	tày	xhày	(NJ - C, A)
yây	tây	tày	xhây	(SJ - T)
yâỹ	tâỹ	tâỹ	xhâỹ	(SJ - T)
<i>whale</i>	<i>garden</i>	<i>fat</i>	<i>beaver lodge</i>	

Xhày Hít *Beaver Lodge clan house*
Xhây Hít
Xhâỹ Hít

examples ending with w

hàw	gàw	(NJ - C, A)
hàw	gàw	(SJ - T)
hàw̃	gàw̃	(SJ - T)
<i>bough</i>	<i>drum, clock</i>	

In Teslin Tlingit, all syllable-final y and w are nasalized, so it is probably not necessary to use the nasal indication ̣ or ~.

CLASSROOM EXPRESSIONS - LORRAINE DEWHURST

Greetings

1. Mâ sá iyatì ? *How are you? (greeting)*
2. Mâ sá iyatì yá ts'ùtát ? *How are you this morning ? (greeting)*
Good morning.
3. Yak'êyi ts'ùtát áyá. *It's a nice morning. (statement)*
4. Mâ sá iyatì yá yagì ? *How are you today ? (greeting)*
Good day. Hello.
5. Mâ sá iyatì yá xânà ? *How are you this evening ? (greeting)*
Good evening.
6. Ch'a ghà gí iyatì ? *Are you OK? (concerned question, actually wanting to know)*
7. A, xhat yak'ê. *Yes, I am fine.*
Ã, xhat yak'ê.
8. Wa.é dê ? *And you? How about you?*
9. Xhát tsú xhat yak'ê. *Me too, I am fine.*

Emotions

1. Xhat yanîkw. *I am sick.*
2. Axh shá yanîkw. *I have a headache.*
3. Axh tùwú yak'ê. *I am happy.*
4. Xhat wudixwétl. (T, A) *I am tired.*
Xhat yudixwétl. (C)
5. Axh ît yatàwahâ. *I am sleepy.*
6. X'ânt xhwànúk. *I am angry.*
7. Axh tùwú yanûk. (T, C) *I am sad.*
Axh tùwú yanîkw. (T, A)
8. Xhat wuḷitìsh. (T, A) *I am lonely.*
Xhat yuḷitìsh. (C)

FROM YNLC CURRICULUM GUIDE

Possessed Body Parts

1. Dà sáyá ? *What is this?*
2. Axx shá áyá. *This is my head.*
3. I shá áyá. *This is your head.*
4. Du shá áyá. *This is his/her head.*
5. Axx xhìk áyá. *These are my shoulders.*
6. Axx wàkh áyá. *These are my eyes.*
7. Axx łu áyá. *This is my nose.*
8. Axx gúk áyá. *These are my ears.*
9. Axx kìy áyá. *These are my knees.*
Axx kìy áyá. (T)
Axx kìy áyá. (T)
10. Axx xh'ustl'èkh áyá. (NJ) *These are my toes.*
Axx xh'ustl'ìkh áyá. (T)
11. Axx jín áyá. *These are my hands.*
12. Axx xh'ùs áyá. *These are my feet.*

Conversation

1. Gùt'á sá â khiya.û ? *Where do you live?*
2. Kwânlín â khuxhà.û. *I live in Whitehorse.*
 Ànx' khuxhà.û. *I live in town.*
 Àn xh'ayì khuxhà.û. *I live downtown. (in the centre)*
 At gutú xhà.û. *I live in the bush.*
3. Khúdáxh khusi.ât'. *It's too cold.*
4. Mâ sá khuwatì ? *a) How is the weather?*
b) How is everyone? How are people?
 Mâ sá khuwatì gân ? *How is it outside? How is the weather?*
5. Dlèt dàk wusitán. *It's snowing.*
 Dlèt dàk yusitán. (C)
6. Amdigàn. (T) *It's sunny.*
 Awdigàn. (C, A)
7. Khuḷigûs'. *It's cloudy.*
8. Ayamditì. (T) *It's windy.*
 Ayawditì. (C, A)
9. Dlèt kadlàn. *Deep snow.*
10. Dlèt yan kàwadlàn. *There's some fresh snow.*

INCIDENTAL WORDS

1. Wùsh yâ ayaduwané. *People respect one another.*
2. Wùsh yâ has awudanêyin. *They used to respect one another.*
Wùsh yâ ayadunêyin. *People used to respect one another.*
3. wùsh yâ awudané *mutual respect*
at yâ awùnέ *respect for all things*
4. Hà yíxh has wù.àt. *They went with us (in a boat, car, etc).*
Literally, "they got aboard us and went"
5. Hà shukát has wù.àt. *They went before us.*
6. dakhkàxh *from inland, from the interior*
dâkh kàxh
7. Shî amdziyèkh. *S/he pulled a muscle, got hurt from over-exertion.*
8. khà sàx'ú *people's names, personal names*
khà sàyí *a person's name, a personal name*
9. Ghunanà *Athapaskan, people from a different nation*
10. Ghuna.àn *people from another village,*
Tlingit people from other places

11. Axx dà kè yakhushunasgên. *I'm starting to understand.*
12. Du kanaxh at wùtì. *S/he is all in, exhausted. Literally, "things have gotten over him/her"*
13. Kasiyê. *It is uncommon, strange, striking.*
14. Tlêl kùshyé. *It is common, ordinary, familiar.*
15. Ahô dê. *Oh, never mind.*
16. À ásgí. *Oh, I get it. Oh, I see what is happening.*
17. X'êghà kuxha.àkhw. *I'm really trying.*
18. X'êghà kakkhwa.àkhw. *I will try really hard.*
19. Ch'a kuna.àkhw. *Just try! Just try it! (to one person)*
20. Kuna.àkhw. *Try (it). (to one person)*
21. Kuna.àkhw dê. *Go ahead and try (it)!*
22. Kuna.àkhw s'é. (A, T) *Try (it) first!*
Kuna.àkhw s'ê. (C)
23. Kuna.àkhw x'wán. *Try (it)! Don't forget to try! (polite but firm, even stern)*

24. Dá kuna.àkhw. *Do try it. Do give it a try.
(pleading, or quietly but firmly
begging a person not to do the
wrong thing)*
25. Dá axhtùłsà dê. *Do let's take a break now. (pleading)
Let's take a break now, please!*
26. khuwakàn *1) deer
2) peace deer, hostage*
27. Axh yát xh'amdliwû.
Axh yát xh'amdliyû. *She adopted me.*
28. châsh *bush house, brush shelter, hunting
blind
boughs used for a specific purpose*
29. Châsh t'ét â. *S/he is sitting in his/her hunting blind.*
30. Àwachásh. *S/he brushed it up.*
31. hàw *bough*
32. ṭaum (*Bishop Innocent, Sitka 1800s*) *feather*
t'àw ~ t'àw ~ t'aŵ (*modern Teslin*)
33. âť *xh'ahâdi (SJ) door draft stopper*
cold (air) entrance-block/cover
34. gwátà *butter*

35. tl'ikhtsâx' (NJ) *glove (with fingers)*
36. lîsans (T - SJ) *raisins*
37. lîdiyò (T - SJ) *radio*
38. Yàkw áxh kè nashíxh. (Coastal)
Yàkw áxh kè nakhúxh. (T)
*A boat is "running up" over there.
A boat is coming up over there.*
39. Yà xh'ayanadâxh (T) *(something heavy) is going along
with considerable momentum*
40. Yà nakhúxh. *It (one boat) is going along, sailing.
S/he is going along by boat.
(in some dialects, also
S/he is going along by car.)*
41. Yà akanaltákh. *S/he is poling (it) along.*
42. yât'à *this one*
43. khu.à *on the other hand*
44. yât'à dê *this one now*
45. yât'à dês *this one next*
46. Ch'a yà xh'ayanadâxh. *It is moving (over water) by
(progressive) its own momentum. It is coasting.
(especially of a large boat)*

47. Ch'a xh'ayàwadâxh. *It moved under its own momentum.*
(perfective) *It coasted.*

48. Gunałchîsh hà ìn yù xh'ìla.átgi. (C, T, A)
Thank you for talking to us.
(to one person)

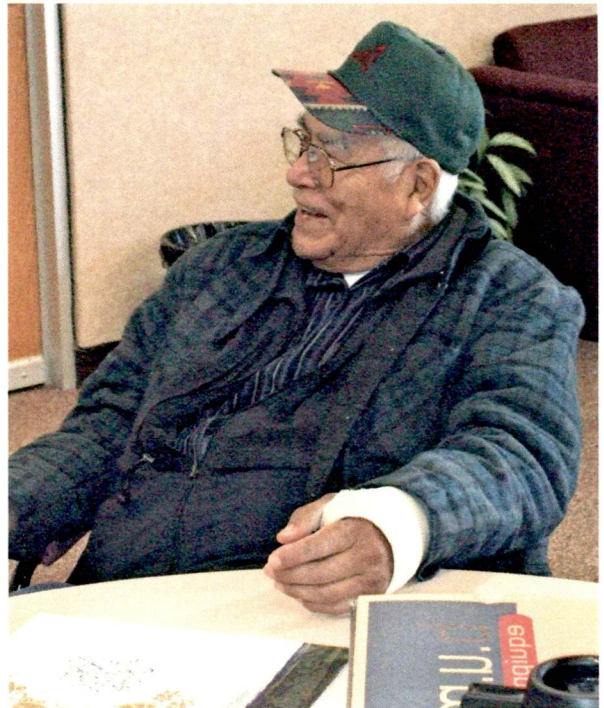
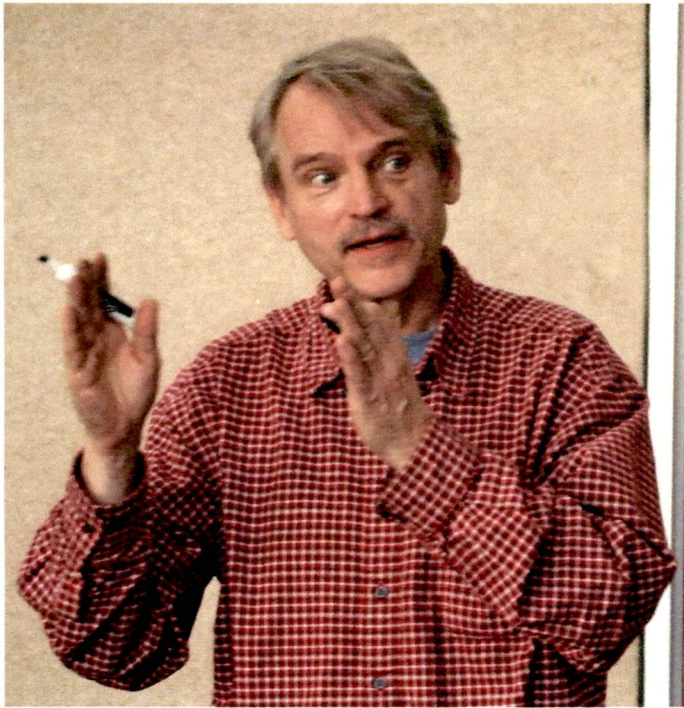
49. Gunałchîsh hà ìn yù xh'eyla.átgi. (T only)
Thank you for talking to us.
(to several people)

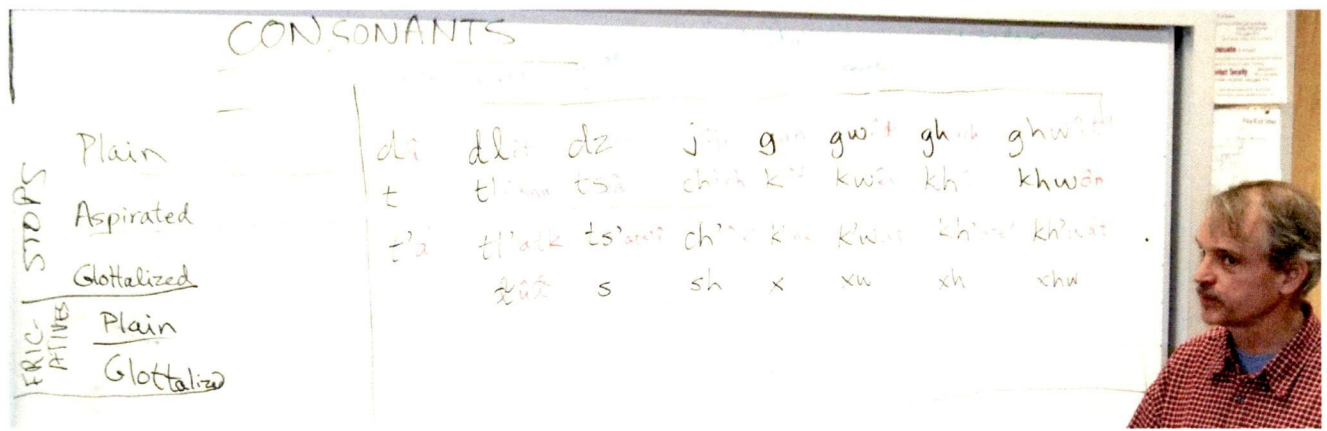
50. Shî. *Give it. (with cupped hands out)*
Shā'. (S. Tutchone)

51. Shî dê. *Give it. Give it up now!*

52. Shî dê, du jìt áxh ! *Give him the "blanket". (when*
someone asks to borrow money)
Go ahead, give it to him.

Shî	dê,	du	jìt	áxh !
<i>give it</i>	<i>now</i>	<i>him/her</i>	<i>cupped-hand-to</i>	<i>blanket, fur, etc.</i>







Photograph Identifications

Page

19. *top left:* Dr. Jeff Leer
top right: Norman James
bottom left: Marlene Smith, Julie Smith
bottom right: Barb Hobbis, Louise Parker
20. *top:* Dr. Jeff Leer showing a Tlingit consonant chart
centre left: Connie Jules, Barb Hobbis, Louise Parker, Sarah Johnston (Julie Smith in background)
centre right: Gary Johnson, Norman James
bottom (clockwise from back): Connie Jules, Barb Hobbis, Louise Parker, Gary Johnson, Marlene Smith, Norman James, Sam Johnston
21. *top left:* Sam Johnston
top right: Lorraine Dewhurst
bottom left: Linda Harvey, Sarah Johnston
bottom right: Louise Parker
22. *bottom left:* Connie Jules
bottom right: Linda Harvey





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Box 2799
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May 4, 2011

Ms. Gayle Bedard
First Nations programs & Partnership
1000 Lewes Blvd.
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Dear Gayle:

We are pleased to send you this report from the Tlingit Literacy Session held in November 2011, attended by Native Language teachers, trainees, and elders from Teslin, Carcross and Whitehorse. Our collaborator in Tlingit studies, Dr. Jeff Leer of the University of Alaska Fairbanks, once again served as guest instructor.

This session reviewed in depth the sounds used in the Tlingit language. Participants also studied the correct forms of addressing and referring to relatives; the Tlingit clan system; and basic classroom vocabulary. In addition they practiced a number of listening exercises written by fluent Elder Bessie Cooley.

This report will be a useful tool for Tlingit language learning and instruction. For further material in the Tlingit language, including a list of available publications, we invite you to visit our website at www.ynlc.ca.

We hope you enjoy this publication.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read 'John T. Ritter', followed by a long horizontal flourish line.

John T. Ritter
Director