

Verb Modes

Tlél tsu kut aa xwagéex' tle a saax'óo teen.
— *Kooxíhx'*

I didn't lose any of the names.
— Alex Andrews, Kaagwaantaan¹

Introduction

The information presented here is collected from Keri Eggleston's *575 Tlingit Verbs: a Study of Tlingit Verb Paradigms* and James Crippen's *Tlingit Verbal Structure Handbook* and *Tlingitology Seminar*. These tables and explanations are intended to be a brief overview of the verb forms. See Crippen and Eggleston for more examples and detailed explanations.

To start with, let's take a look at **verb types** in Tlingit. Every verb belongs to one of the following types:

TYPE	DESCRIPTION	SPECIAL CHARACTERISTICS
<i>act</i>	for someone to do something	
<i>event</i>	for something to happen	no primary imperfective (use progressive imperfective);
<i>state</i>	for something to be a certain way	often uses object pronouns; rarely uses subject pronouns
<i>motion</i>	for something to move	no primary imperfective (use progressive imperfective); conjugation prefix changes based on type of motion
<i>positional</i>	for something to be positioned	only occurs in imperfective

¹ Dauenhauer, Nora, Richard Dauenhauer, and Lydia Black. "The Battle at Indian River." *Anóoshi Lingít Aaní Ká: Russians in Tlingit America*. trans. Nora Dauenhauer, et al. (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 2008), 329.

When you think about what the verb is describing, then you can usually figure out the verb type in Tlingit. There are a couple of verbs that might surprise you, but most of them line up with the type of activity the verb describes. Verb type is one characteristic that you need to understand in order to use Tlingit verbs. Once you know the verb type, then you can predict components of the verb and how they might change in different conjugations.

We have looked at how to conjugate verbs by **person**, so we will begin conjugating them by what they are doing, and this is called **mode**. In English, we might think of mode as past tense, present tense, and future tense. That is a start, but then we have to keep in mind that Tlingit has a different sense of time in the language. Tlingit verbs often focus on whether the verb has been completed or not, instead of when it may have happened. When an action is completed, it is referred to as **perfective** form, and while this often aligns with English past tense (yéi jixwaanei – I worked), there are Tlingit verbs that are perfective but are used to describe a present tense action (ixwsiteen — I see you; I saw you).

In our discussions of verb mode, much of the information presented here comes from the following texts: *Dictionary of Tlingit & 575+ Tlingit Verbs*² by Keri Eggleston and *Tlingit Verbal Structure & Tlingitology Seminar*³ by James Crippen. These texts were developed in partnership with patient and knowledgeable elders, and build upon the immaculate work of Nora Dauenhauer & Richard Dauenhauer, Jeff Leer, and Constance Naish & Gillian Story.

We will look at eighteen different verb modes. There are several more modes, but these are the most common. To see how these verbs work, we will be using the verbs in the following table as examples. These will be conjugated using third person objects and subjects. Changing the pronouns can affect conjugation and contraction, which can also be figured out with time and practice. In the future, watch for verb modes while reading translated Tlingit and listening to fluent speakers, and try to put these together yourself.

2 Eggleston, Keri. *575 Tlingit Verbs: a Study of Tlingit Verb Paradigms*, — “575+ Tlingit Verbs.” *Goldbelt Heritage Foundation*. <http://www.goldbeltheritage.org/verbs/>

3 <http://tingit.info/resources/verbal-structure-handbook.pdf>
<http://tingit.info/resources/Tlingitology-Seminar.pdf>

Verb Forms

ACT		
∅	O-(ga)-S-l-sháat~	for S to hold, retain O in one's grasp; for S to capture, hold O captive
ka-	O-ka-(∅)-S-sh-√xeet~	for S to write, draw, or paint a picture of O; for S to print O by hand; for S to photograph, take pictures, X-rays of O
tu-	(yéi) sh + tu-(na)-S-∅+d-√nook~ ³	for S to feel (that way) (esp. physical sensation)
ji-	yéi + ji-(na)-S-∅-√nei~ ²	for S to work; for S to do
STATE		
∅	O-(ga)-∅-√k'éi	for O to be good, fine, pretty
ka-	O-ka-(ga)-(u)-l-√jée ²	for O to be awful, terrible, eerie (in appearance), unattractive
tu-	O-tu-(ga)-∅-√aan ²	for O to be kind, gentle
ji-	— [no verb found for this combination]	—
EVENT		
∅	O-(∅)-S-∅-√aax~ ¹	for S to hear O
ka-	ka-(∅)-∅+d-√gaan~	for something to shine, produce light by burning
tu-	(yéi) + tu-(na)-S-∅+d-√taan~ ⁵	for (singular) S to decide, make up one's mind (that way)
ji-	ji-(na)-s-√taan~ ⁴	for the ocean to be rough
MOTION		
∅	N-dé + (na)-S-∅-√goot~ ¹	for (singular) S to walk, go (by walking or as general term) toward N
ka-	N-t~ + ka-(∅)-∅-xeex~	for something (usually a round object) to fall, drop into N
tu-	— [no verb found for this combination]	—
ji-	N kanax + ji-ya-(∅)-s+d-√taan~ ⁴	for waves to wash over N
POSITIONAL		
∅	S-∅-√aa ¹	for (singular) S to be seated
ka-	yóo + ka-∅-√tán ⁸	for something to be bent
tu-	— [no verb found for this combination]	—
ji-	— [no verb found for this combination]	—

Future (+)

 (kei/yei) + O-ga-u-ga-S-cl_{-i}-√róot

s/he will do it; it will happen

FUTURE (+): will do it; it will happen

PREVERB	ga _{cp}	ga _{cp}	na _{cp} & Ø _{cp}
	kei	yei	—
PREFIXES	ga-conj	irrealis	ga-mode
	ga-	u-	ga-
CONJUGATION PREFIX	— (eliminated by ga-conj)		
CLASSIFIER	-i	Ø-, da-, sa-, s-, la-, l-, sha-, sh-	
STEM VARIATION	open — cvv		c'v'v
	fading — cvv ^h		c'v'v
	closed low — cvvc		c'v'vc
	closed high — c'v'vc		c'v'vc
	glottalized — cvvc'		c'v'vc'
SUFFIXES	—		

PREFIX COMBINATIONS (NO THEMATIC PREFIX)

	Ø	s	L	SH
1S	kuk _a - / kk _w a-	kuk _a sa- / kk _w asa-	kuk _a la- / kk _w ala-	kuk _a sha- / kk _w asha-
1P	gax _t oo-	gax _t tusa-	gax _t tula-	gax _t tusha-
2S	gag _e ee- / kge _e -	gag _i sa- / kg _i sa-	gag _i la- / kg _i la-	gag _i sha- / kg _i sha-
2P	gax _y i-	gax _y isa-	gax _y ila-	gax _y isha-
3	gug _a - / kg _w a-	gux _s a-	gux _l a-	gux _s ha-
3-3	akg _w a-	agux _s a-	agux _l a-	agux _s ha-
INDH	gax _d u-	gax _d us-	gax _d ul-	gax _d ush-

PREFIX COMBINATIONS (NO THEMATIC PREFIX)

	Ø+D	S+D	L+D	SH+D
1S	kuk _a da- / kk _w ada-	kuk _a s- / kk _w as-	kuk _a l- / kk _w al-	kuk _a sh- / kk _w ash-
1P	gax _t uda-	gax _t oos-	gax _t ool-	gax _t oosh-

Verb Forms

PREFIX COMBINATIONS (NO THEMATIC PREFIX)				
	Ø+D	S+D	L+D	SH+D
2S	gagida- / kgida-	gagees- / kgees-	gageel- / kgeel-	gageesh- / kgeesh-
2P	gaxyida-	gaxyis-	gaxyil-	gaxyish-
3	guxda-	gugas- / kgwas-	gugal- / kgwal-	gugash- / kgwash-
3-3	aguxda-	akgwas-	akgwal-	akgwash-
INDH	gaxdu-	gaxdus-	gaxdul-	gaxdush-

PREFIX COMBINATIONS (CV- THEMATIC PREFIX)				
	Ø	S	L	SH
1S	CVk <u>k</u> wa-	CVk <u>k</u> was-	CVk <u>k</u> wala-	CVk <u>k</u> washa-
1P	CVgax <u>t</u> oo-	CVgax <u>t</u> usa-	CVgax <u>t</u> tula-	CVgax <u>t</u> tusha-
2S	CVk <u>g</u> ee-	CVk <u>g</u> isa-	CVk <u>g</u> ila-	CVk <u>g</u> isha-
2P	CVgax <u>y</u> ee-	CVgax <u>y</u> isa-	CVgax <u>y</u> ila-	CVgax <u>y</u> isha-
3	CVk <u>g</u> wa-	CVgux <u>s</u> a-	CVgux <u>l</u> a-	CVgux <u>s</u> ha-
3-3	aCVk <u>g</u> wa-	aCVgux <u>s</u> a-	aCVgux <u>l</u> a-	aCVgux <u>s</u> ha-
INDH	CVgax <u>d</u> u-	CVgax <u>d</u> us-	CVgax <u>d</u> ul-	CVgax <u>d</u> ush-

PREFIX COMBINATIONS (CV- THEMATIC PREFIX)				
	Ø+D	S+D	L+D	SH+D
1S	CVk <u>k</u> wada-	CVk <u>k</u> was-	CVk <u>k</u> wal-	CVk <u>k</u> wash-
1P	CVgax <u>t</u> uda-	CVgax <u>t</u> oos-	CVgax <u>t</u> ool-	CVgax <u>t</u> oosh-
2S	CVk <u>g</u> ida-	CVk <u>g</u> ees-	CVk <u>g</u> eel-	CVk <u>g</u> eesh-
2P	CVgax <u>y</u> ida-	CVgax <u>y</u> ees-	CVgax <u>y</u> eel-	CVgax <u>y</u> eesh-
3	CVgux <u>d</u> a-	CVk <u>g</u> was-	CVk <u>g</u> wal-	CVk <u>g</u> wash-
3-3	aCVgux <u>d</u> a-	aCVk <u>g</u> was-	aCVk <u>g</u> wal-	aCVk <u>g</u> wash-
INDH	CVgax <u>d</u> u-	CVgax <u>d</u> us-	CVgax <u>d</u> ul-	CVgax <u>d</u> ush-

Understanding Tlingit Verbs

FUTURE (+): will do it; it will happen

ACT		
∅	yei aguxlasháat yei a-ga-u-ga-∅-la-√sháat	s/he will hold it
ka-	akaguxshaxéet a-ka-ga-u-ga-sha-√xéet	s/he will write it
tu-	(yéi) sh tuguxdanóok (yéi) sh tu-ga-u-ga-∅-da-√nóok	s/he will feel that way
ji-	yéi jikgwanéi yéi ji-ga-u-ga-∅-√néi	s/he will work
STATE		
∅	kei kgwak'éi kei ∅-ga-u-ga-∅-√k'éi	he/she/it will be good; he/she/it will get better
ka-	kei kaguxlajée kei ∅-ka-ga-u-ga-la-√jée	it will look terrible
tu-	kei tuguxla.aan kei ∅-tu-ga-u-ga-la-√.aan	s/he will be kind
ji-	—	—
EVENT		
∅	akgwa.áax a-ga-u-ga-∅-√.áax	s/he will hear it
ka-	kaguxdagáan ka-ga-u-ga-da-√gáan	it will be bright
tu-	(yéi) tuguxdatáan (yéi) tu-ga-u-ga-∅-da-√táan	s/he will think (that way)
ji-	kei jiguxsatáan kei ji-ga-u-ga-sa-√táan	it will get rough
MOTION		
∅	aadé kgwagóot aa-dé ga-u-ga-∅-√góot	s/he will go there
ka-	aadé kagwaxéex aa-dé ka-ga-u-ga-∅-√xéex	it will hit it
tu-	—	—
ji-	a kanax jiyaguxsatáan a ká-náx ji-ya-ga-u-ga-sa-√táan	waves will wash over it

Future (-)

tlél + (kei/yei) + O-ga-u-ga-S-cl_{-i}-√root

s/he won't do it; s/he is not going to do it; it won't happen

FUTURE (-): won't do it; it won't happen			
PREVERB 1	negative tlél ~ tlél ~ hél ~ lél ~ tíl		
PREVERB 2	ga _{cp} kei	ga _{cp} yei	na _{cp} & ∅ _{cp} —
PREFIXES	ga-conj ga-	irrealis u-	ga-mode ga-
CONJUGATION PREFIX	— (eliminated by ga-conj)		
CLASSIFIER	-i ∅-, da-, sa-, s-, la-, l-, sha-, sh-		
STEM VARIATION	open — cvv		cvv
	fading — cvv ^h		cvv
	closed low — cvvc		cvvc
	closed high — cúvc		cúvc
	glottalized — cvvc'		cúvc'
SUFFIXES	—		

PREFIX COMBINATIONS

same as future (+)

FUTURE (-): won't do it; it won't happen

ACT		
∅	tlél yei aguxlasháat tlél yei a-ga-u-ga-∅-la-√sháat	s/he won't hold it
ka-	tlél akaguxshaxeet tlél a-ka-ga-u-ga-sha-√xeet	s/he won't write it
tu-	tlél (yéi) sh tuguxdanook tlél (yéi) sh tu-ga-u-ga-∅-da-√nook	s/he won't feel that way
ji-	tlél yéi jikgwanei tlél yéi ji-ga-u-ga-∅-∅-√nei	s/he won't work

STATE

Understanding Tlingit Verbs

FUTURE (-): won't do it; it won't happen

∅	tlél kei kgwak'éi	he/she/it won't be good; he/she/it won't get better
	tlél kei ∅-ga-u-ga-∅-√k'éi	
ka-	tlél kei kaguxlajée	it won't look terrible
	tlél kei ∅-ka-ga-u-ga-la-√jée	
tu-	tlél kei tuguxla.aan	s/he won't be kind
	tlél kei ∅-tu-ga-u-ga-la-√.aan	
ji-	—	—
EVENT		
∅	tlél akgwa.aax	s/he won't hear it
	tlél a-ga-u-ga-∅-∅-√.aax	
ka-	tlél kaguxdagáan	it won't be bright
	tlél ka-ga-u-ga-da-√gáan	
tu-	tlél yéi tuguxdataan	s/he won't think (that way)
	tlél yéi tu-ga-u-ga-∅-da-√taan	
ji-	tlél kei jiguxsataan	it won't get rough
	tlél kei ji-ga-u-ga-sa-√taan	
MOTION		
∅	tlél aadé kgwagoot	s/he won't go there
	ga-u-ga-∅-∅-√góot	
ka-	tlél aadé kakgwaxeex	it won't hit it
	tlél aa-dé ka-ga-u-ga-∅-√xeex	
tu-	—	—
ji-	tlél a kanax jiyaguxsataan	waves won't wash over it
	a ká-náx ji-ya-ga-u-ga-sa-√táan	

Perfective (+)

O-ÿu-S-cl_{+i}-√root

s/he did it

PERFECTIVE (+): did it			
PREVERB	—		
PREFIXES	perfective	ÿu-	
CONJUGATION PREFIX	—		
CLASSIFIER	+i	ÿa, di, si, dzi, li, dli, shi, ji	
STEM VARIATION	open cvv	∅ _{cp} na _{cp} , ga _{cp'} , ga _{cp}	c'v̄v cvv
	fading cvv ^h	∅ _{cp} na _{cp} , ga _{cp'} , ga _{cp}	c'v̄v cvv
	closed low cvvc	∅ _{cp} na _{cp} , ga _{cp'} , ga _{cp}	cvvc cvvc
		closed high c'v̄vc	∅ _{cp} na _{cp} , ga _{cp'} , ga _{cp}
	glottalized cvvc'	∅ _{cp} na _{cp} , ga _{cp'} , ga _{cp}	c'v̄vc' c'v̄vc'
		—	
SUFFIXES	—		

PREFIX COMBINATIONS (NO THEMATIC PREFIX)

	∅	S	L	SH
1S	xwaa-	xwasi-	xwali-	xwashi-
1P	wutuwa-	wutusi-	wutuli-	wutushi-
2S	yee- / iya-	yisi-	yili-	yishi-
2P	yey-	yeyysi-	yeyyli-	yeyyshi-
3	woo- / uwa-	wusi-	wuli-	wushi-
3-3	aawa-	aws-i-	awli-	awshi-
INDH	wuduwa-	wududzi-	wududli-	wuduji-

PREFIX COMBINATIONS (NO THEMATIC PREFIX)

	∅+D	S+D	L+D	SH+D
1S	xwadi-	xwadzi-	xwadli-	xwaji-
1P	wutudi-	wutudzi-	wutudli-	wutuji-
2S	yidi-	yidzi-	yidli-	yiji-

Understanding Tlingit Verbs

PREFIX COMBINATIONS (NO THEMATIC PREFIX)

	∅+D	S+D	L+D	SH+D
2P	yeyydi-	yeyydzi-	yeyydli-	yeyyji-
3	wudi-	wudzi-	wudli-	wuji-
3-3	awdi-	awdzi-	awdli-	awji-
INDH	wuduwa-	wududzi-	wududli-	wuduji-

PREFIX COMBINATIONS (Ca- THEMATIC PREFIX)

	∅	S	L	SH
1S	Caxwaa-	Caxwsi-	Caxwli-	Caxwshi-
1P	Cawtuwa-	Cawtusi-	Cawtuli-	Cawtushi-
2S	Ceeya-	Caysi-	Cayli-	Cayshi-
2P	Cayeey-	Cayeeysi-	Cayeeyli-	Cayeeyshi-
3	Caawa-	Cawsi-	Cawli-	Cawshi-
3-3	aCaawa-	aCawsi-	aCawli-	aCawshi-
INDH	Cawduwa-	Cawdudzi-	Cawdudli-	Cawduji-

PREFIX COMBINATIONS (Ca- THEMATIC PREFIX)

	∅+D	S+D	L+D	SH+D
1S	Caxwdi-	Caxwdzi-	Caxwdli-	Caxwji-
1P	Cawtudi-	Cawtudzi-	Cawtudli-	Cawtuji-
2S	Caydi-	Caydzi-	Caydli-	Cayji-
2P	Cayeeydi-	Cayeeydzi-	Cayeeydli-	Cayeeyji-
3	Cawdi-	Cawdzi-	Cawdli-	Cawji-
3-3	aCawdi-	aCawdzi-	aCawdli-	aCawji-
INDH	Cawduwa-	Cawdudzi-	Cawdudli-	Cawduji-

PREFIX COMBINATIONS (Ci- THEMATIC PREFIX)

	∅	S	L	SH
1S	Cixwaa-	Cixwsi-	Cixwli-	Cixwshi-
1P	Ciwtuwa-	Ciwtusi-	Ciwtuli-	Ciwtushi-
2S	Ceeya-	Ciysi-	Ciyli-	Ciyshi-
2P	Ciyeey-	Ciyeeysi-	Ciyeeyli-	Ciyeeyshi-
3	Ceeya-	Ciws-	Ciwli-	Ciwshi-
3-3	aCeeya-	aCiws-	aCiwli-	aCiwshi-
INDH	Ciwduwa-	Ciwuduzi-	Ciwuduli-	Ciwduji-

Verb Forms

PREFIX COMBINATIONS (Ci- THEMATIC PREFIX)

	∅+D	S+D	L+D	SH+D
1S	Cixw̄di-	Cixw̄dzi-	Cixw̄dli-	Cixw̄ji-
1P	Ciw̄tudi-	Ciw̄tudzi-	Ciw̄tudli-	Ciw̄tuji-
2S	Ciȳdi-	Ciȳdzi-	Ciȳdli-	Ciȳji-
2P	Ciȳeeydi-	Ciȳeeydzi-	Ciȳeeydli-	Ciȳeeyji-
3	Ciw̄di-	Ciw̄dzi-	Ciw̄dli-	Ciw̄ji-
3-3	aCiw̄di-	aCiw̄dzi-	aCiw̄dli-	aCiw̄ji-
INDH	Ciw̄duwa-	Ciw̄dudzi-	Ciw̄dudli-	Ciw̄duji-

PREFIX COMBINATIONS (Cu- THEMATIC PREFIX)

	∅	S	L	SH
1S	Cuxw̄aa-	Cuxw̄si-	Cuxw̄li-	Cuxw̄shi-
1P	Cuw̄tuwa-	Cuw̄tusi-	Cuw̄tuli-	Cuw̄tushi-
2S	Ceȳya-	Cuȳsi-	Cuȳli-	Cuȳshi-
2P	Cuȳeey-	Cuȳeeysi-	Cuȳeeyli-	Cuȳeeyshi-
3	Cooya-	Cuws̄i-	Cuw̄li-	Cuw̄shi-
3-3	aCooya-	aCuws̄i-	aCuw̄li-	aCuw̄shi-
INDH	Cuw̄duwa-	Cuw̄dudzi-	Cuw̄dudli-	Cuw̄duji-

PREFIX COMBINATIONS (Cu- THEMATIC PREFIX)

	∅+D	S+D	L+D	SH+D
1S	Cuxw̄di-	Cuxw̄dzi-	Cuxw̄dli-	Cuxw̄ji-
1P	Cuw̄tudi-	Cuiwtudzi-	Cuw̄tudli-	Cuw̄tuji-
2S	Cuȳdi-	Cuȳdzi-	Cuȳdli-	Cuȳji-
2P	Cuȳeeydi-	Cuȳeeydzi-	Cuȳeeydli-	Cuȳeeyji-
3	Cuw̄di-	Cuw̄dzi-	Cuw̄dli-	Cuw̄ji-
3-3	aCuw̄di-	aCuw̄dzi-	aCuw̄dli-	aCuw̄ji-
INDH	Cuw̄duwa-	Cuw̄dudzi-	Cuw̄dudli-	Cuw̄duji-

PERFECTIVE (+): did it

ACT

∅	awlisháat a-ÿu-∅-li-√sháat	s/he held him/her/it
ka-	akawshixít a-ka-ÿu-∅-shi-√xít	s/he wrote it

Understanding Tlingit Verbs

PERFECTIVE (+): did it		
tu-	(yéi) sh tuwdinook (yéi) sh tu-ÿu-Ø-di-√nook	s/he felt that way
ji-	yéi jeewanéi yéi ji-ÿu-Ø-ÿa-√néi	s/he worked
STATE		
Ø	wook'éi Ø-ÿu-ÿa-√k'éi	he/she/it was good; he/she/it got better
ka-	kawlijée Ø-ka-ÿu-li-√jée	it looked terrible
tu-	[does not occur]	—
ji-	—	—
EVENT		
Ø	aawa.áx a-ÿu-Ø-ÿa-√áx	s/he heard it
ka-	kawdigán ka-ÿu-di-√gán	it's bright; it was bright
tu-	(yéi) tuwditaan (yéi) tu-ÿu-Ø-di-√taan	s/he thought (that way)
ji-	jiwsitaan ji-ÿu-si-√taan	it's rough; it was rough
MOTION		
Ø	aadé woogoot aa-dé ÿu-Ø-ÿa-√goot	s/he went there
Ø	át uwagút aa-t u-Ø-ÿa-√gút	s/he arrived there
ka-	át kaawaxíx aa-t ka-ÿu-ÿa-√xíx	it hit it; it fell on it
tu-	—	—
ji-	a kanax jiyawsítán a ká-náx ji-ÿa-ÿu-si-√tán	waves washed over it

Perfective (-)

tlél + O-u-ÿu-S-cl_{-i}-√root

s/he didn't do it

PERFECTIVE (-): didn't do it			
PREVERB	negative	tlél ~ tlél ~ hél ~ lél ~ tíl	
PREFIXES	perfective	ÿu-	
CONJUGATION PREFIX	—		
CLASSIFIER	-i	∅-, da-, sa-, s-, la-, l-, sha-, sh-	
STEM VARIATION	open cvv	∅ _{cp} na _{cp} , ga _{cp'} , ga _{cp}	c'v cvv
	fading cvv ^h	∅ _{cp} na _{cp} , ga _{cp'} , ga _{cp}	c'v cvv
	closed low cvvc	∅ _{cp} na _{cp} , ga _{cp'} , ga _{cp}	cvvc cvvc
		∅ _{cp} na _{cp} , ga _{cp'} , ga _{cp}	c'vvc c'vvc
	closed high c'vvc	∅ _{cp} na _{cp} , ga _{cp'} , ga _{cp}	c'vvc c'vvc
	glottalized cvvc'	∅ _{cp} na _{cp} , ga _{cp'} , ga _{cp}	c'vvc' c'vvc'
SUFFIXES	—		

PERFECTIVE (-): didn't do it		
ACT		
∅	tlél awulsháat tlél a-u-ÿu-la-√sháat	s/he didn't hold him/her/it
ka-	tlél akawushxeet tlél a-ka-u-ÿu-sha-√xeet	s/he didn't write it
tu-	tlél (yéi) sh tuwdanook tlél (yéi) sh tu-u-ÿu-∅-da-√nook	s/he didn't feet that way
ji-	tlél yéi jiwunei tlél yéi ji-u-ÿu-∅-∅-√nei	s/he didn't work
STATE		
∅	tlél wuk'éi tlél ∅-u-ÿu-∅-√k'éi	he/she/it wasn't good; he/she/it didn't get better
ka-	tlél kawuljée tlél ∅-ka-u-ÿu-la-√jee	it didn't look terrible

Understanding Tlingit Verbs

PERFECTIVE (-): didn't do it

tu-	[does not occur]	—
ji-	—	—
EVENT		
∅	tlél awu.aax tlél a-u-ÿu-∅-∅-√.aax	s/he didn't hear it
ka-	tlél kawdagáan tlél ka-u-ÿu-da-√gáan	it isn't bright
tu-	tlél (yéi) tuwdataan tlél (yéi) tu-u-ÿu-∅-da-√taan	s/he didn't think (that way)
ji-	tlél jiwustaan tlél ji-u-ÿu-sa-√taan	it isn't rough; it wasn't rough
MOTION		
∅	tlél aadé wugoot tlél aa-dé u-ÿu-∅-∅-√goot	s/he didn't go there
ka-	tlél át kawuxeex tlél aa-t ka-u-ÿu-∅-√xeex	it didn't hit it
tu-	—	—
ji-	tlél a kanax jiyawstaan tlél a ká-náx ji-ya-u-ÿu-sa-√tán	waves didn't wash over it

*Imperfective (+)**O-S-cl-√root*

s/he is doing it; s/he does it

IMPERFECTIVE (+): doing it; does it		
PREVERB	—	
PREFIXES	—	
CONJUGATION PREFIX	—	
CLASSIFIER	act	-i Ø-, da-, sa-, s-, la-, l-, sha-, sh-
	state	+i ÿa, di, si, dzi, li, dli, shi, ji
STEM VARIATION	unpredictable	
SUFFIXES	—	

IMPERFECTIVE (+): doing it; does it		
ACT		
Ø	alshát a-Ø-l-√shát	s/he is holding it
ka-	akshaxeet a-ka-Ø-sha-√xeet	s/he writes it; s/he is writing it
tu-	(yéi) sh tudinook (yéi) sh Ø-tu-di-√nook	s/he feels that way
ji-	yéi jiné yéi ji-Ø-Ø-√né	s/he works; s/he is working
STATE		
Ø	yak'éi Ø-ÿa-√k'éi	he/she/it is good
ka-	kalijée / kulijée Ø-ka-li-√jée	it looks terrible
tu-	tuli.aan Ø-tu-li-√aan	s/he is kind
ji-	—	—
EVENT		
Ø	[no imperfective for event verbs]	—
ka-	[no imperfective for event verbs]	—
tu-	[no imperfective for event verbs]	—
ji-	[no imperfective for event verbs]	—

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IMPERFECTIVE (+): doing it; does it

MOTION		
∅	[no imperfective for motion verbs]	—
ka-	[no imperfective for motion verbs]	—
tu-	[no imperfective for motion verbs]	—
ji-	[no imperfective for motion verbs]	—
POSITIONAL		
∅	.áa ∅-∅-√.áa	s/he sits; s/he is sitting
ka-	yóo katán yóo ka-∅-√tán	it's bent
tu-	—	—
ji-	—	—

Imperfective (-)

tlél + O-u-S-cl_{-i}-√root

s/he is not doing it; s/he does not do it

IMPERFECTIVE (-): not doing it; does not do it		
PREVERB	negative	tlél ~ tlél ~ hél ~ lél ~ tíl
PREFIXES	irrealis	u-
CONJUGATION PREFIX	—	
CLASSIFIER	-i	∅-, da-, sa-, s-, la-, l-, sha-, sh-
STEM VARIATION	unpredictable	
SUFFIXES	—	

IMPERFECTIVE (-): not doing it; does not do it

ACT		
∅	tlél oolshát tlél a-u-∅-la-√shát	s/he isn't holding him/her/it
ka-	tlél akooshxeet tlél a-ka-u-∅-sha-√xeet	s/he doesn't write it; s/he's not writing it
tu-	tlél (yéi) sh toodanook tlél (yéi) sh tu-u-∅-da-√nook	s/he doesn't feel that way
ji-	tlél yéi jeené tlél yéi ji-u-∅-∅-√né	s/he doesn't work; s/he isn't working
STATE		
∅	tlél uk'é tlél ∅-u-∅-√k'é	he/she/it is not good
ka-	tlél kooljée tlél ∅-ka-u-la-√jée	it doesn't look terrible
tu-	tlél tool.aan tlél ∅-tu-u-la-√aan	s/he isn't kind
ji-	—	—
EVENT		
∅	[no imperfective for event verbs]	—
ka-	[no imperfective for event verbs]	—
tu-	[no imperfective for event verbs]	—
ji-	[no imperfective for event verbs]	—

Understanding Tlingit Verbs

IMPERFECTIVE (-): not doing it; does not do it

MOTION		
∅	[no imperfective for motion verbs]	—
ka-	[no imperfective for motion verbs]	—
tu-	[no imperfective for motion verbs]	—
ji-	[no imperfective for motion verbs]	—
POSITIONAL		
∅	tlél u.aa tlél u-∅-∅-√.aa	s/he doesn't sit; s/he isn't sitting
ka-	tlél yóo kootán tlél yóo ka-u-√tán	it isn't bent
tu-	—	—
ji-	—	—

Progressive Imperfective (+)yaa/kei/yei + O-na-S-cl_{-i}-√root-(n)

s/he is in the process of doing it

PROGRESSIVE IMPERFECTIVE (+): in the process of doing it			
PREVERB	∅ _{cp} & na _{cp}	ga _{cp}	ga _{cp}
	yaa	kei	yei
PREFIXES	na-conj	na-	
CONJUGATION PREFIX	— (eliminated by na-conj)		
CLASSIFIER	-i	∅-, da-, sa-, s-, la-, l-, sha-, sh-	
STEM VARIATION	open cvv	∅ _{cp}	c'vvn (aa/oo~ei)
		na _{cp} , ga _{cp} , ga _{cp}	c'vc
	fading cvv ^h	∅ _{cp}	c'vvn (aa/oo~ei)
		na _{cp} , ga _{cp} , ga _{cp}	c'vc
	closed low cvvc	∅ _{cp}	cvvc
		na _{cp} , ga _{cp} , ga _{cp}	c'vc
	closed high c'vc	∅ _{cp}	c'vc
		na _{cp} , ga _{cp} , ga _{cp}	c'vc
	glottalized cvvc'	∅ _{cp}	c'vc'
		na _{cp} , ga _{cp} , ga _{cp}	c'vc'
SUFFIXES	—		

PROGRESSIVE IMPERFECTIVE (+): in the process of doing it

ACT		
∅	[does not occur]	—
ka-	[does not occur]	—
tu-	(yéi) yaa sh tundanúk (yéi) yaa sh tu-na-∅-da-√núk	s/he is beginning to feel that way
ji-	[does not occur]	—
STATE		
∅	kei nak'éin kei ∅-na-∅-√k'éi-n	s/he/it is getting better
ka-	[does not occur]	—
tu-	[does not occur]	—

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PROGRESSIVE IMPERFECTIVE (+): in the process of doing it		
ji-	—	—
EVENT		
∅	[does not occur]	—
ka-	[does not occur]	—
tu-	[does not occur]	—
ji-	yaa jinastán yaa ji-na-sa-√tán	it's getting rough
MOTION		
∅	aadé yaa nagút aa-dé yaa na-∅-∅-√gút	s/he is going there
ka-	[does not occur]	—
tu-	—	—
ji-	a kanax yaa jyanastán a ká-náx yaa ji-ya-na-sa-√tán	waves are washing over it

*Imperative*CP-(S)-cl_{-i}-√root

do it!

IMPERATIVE: do it!		
PREVERB	—	
PREFIXES	—	
CONJUGATION PREFIX	yes	∅ _{cp} , na _{cp} , ga _{cp} , ga _{cp}
CLASSIFIER	-i	∅-, da-, sa-, s-, la-, l-, sha-, sh-
STEM VARIATION	open cvv	∅ _{cp} cv́ *
		na _{cp} , ga _{cp} , ga _{cp} cv́
	fading cvv ^h	∅ _{cp} cv́ *
		na _{cp} , ga _{cp} , ga _{cp} cv́
	closed low cvvc	∅ _{cp} cv́c *
		na _{cp} , ga _{cp} , ga _{cp} cvvc
closed high c'vvc	∅ _{cp} c'v́c *	
	na _{cp} , ga _{cp} , ga _{cp} c'vvc	
glottalized cvvc'	∅ _{cp} c'v́c' *	
	na _{cp} , ga _{cp} , ga _{cp} c'vvc'	
SUFFIXES	—	

* there are rare exceptions (long and low)

IMPERATIVE: do it!		
ACT		
∅	gaylsháat! ga-la-√sháat	hold it!
ka-	kashaxít! ka-∅-sha-√xít	write it!
tu-	[does not occur]	—
ji-	yéi jinané! yéi ji-na-∅-√né	work!
STATE		
∅	igak'éi! i-ga-∅-√k'éi	be good!
ka-	[does not occur]	—

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IMPERATIVE: do it!

tu-	tukla.aan! tu-ga-la-√.aan	be kind!
ji-	—	—
EVENT		
∅	.áx! ∅-√.áx	hear it!
ka-	[does not occur]	—
tu-	[does not occur]	—
ji-	[does not occur]	—
MOTION		
∅	aadé nagú! aa-dé na-√gú	go towards there!
	át gú! aa-t ∅-√gú	go (arrive) there!
ka-	[does not occur]	—
tu-	—	—
ji-	[does not occur]	—

Perfective Habitual (+)*O-ÿu-CP-S-cl_{-i}-√root-ch*

s/he does it (every time)

PERFECTIVE HABITUAL (+): does it (every time)			
PREVERB	—		
PREFIXES	∅ _{cp}	irrealis	-u
CONJUGATION PREFIX	yes	∅ _{cp} , na _{cp} , ga _{cp} , ga _{cp}	
CLASSIFIER	-i	∅-, da-, sa-, s-, la-, l-, sha-, sh-	
STEM VARIATION	open cvv	∅ _{cp}	c'vvy
		na _{cp} , ga _{cp} , ga _{cp}	c'vv (aa/oo~ei)
	fading cvv ^h	∅ _{cp}	c'vvy
		na _{cp} , ga _{cp} , ga _{cp}	cvv (aa/oo~ei)
	closed low cvvc	∅ _{cp}	unpredictable
		na _{cp} , ga _{cp} , ga _{cp}	c'vc
closed high c'vvc	∅ _{cp}	unpredictable	
	na _{cp} , ga _{cp} , ga _{cp}	c'vc	
glottalized cvvc'	∅ _{cp}	unpredictable	
	na _{cp} , ga _{cp} , ga _{cp}	c'vc'	
SUFFIXES	repetitive	-ch	

PERFECTIVE HABITUAL (+): does it (every time)

ACT		
∅	axlashátch a-ÿu-ga-∅-la-√shát-ch	s/he holds him/her/it (every time)
ka-	akooshxítch a-ka-ÿu-∅-∅-sha-√xít-ch	s/he writes it (every time)
tu-	(yéi) sh tundanúkch (yéi) sh tu-ÿa-na-∅-da-√núk-ch	s/he feels that way (every time)
ji-	yéi jinaneich yéi ji-ÿu-na-∅-∅-√nei-ch	s/he works (every time)
STATE		
∅	gak'éich ∅-ÿu-ga-∅-√k'éi-ch	he/she/it gets better (every time)
ka-	[does not occur]	—

Understanding Tlingit Verbs

PERFECTIVE HABITUAL (+): does it (every time)

tu-	[does not occur]	—
ji-	—	—
EVENT		
∅	oo.aaxch a-yu-∅-∅-√.aax-ch	s/he hears it (every time)
ka-	koodagánch ka-yu-∅-da-√gán-ch	it gets bright (every time)
tu-	(yéi) tundatánch (yéi) tu-yu-na-da-√tán-ch	s/he thinks (that way) (every time)
ji-	jinastánch ji-na-sa-√tán-ch	it gets rough (every time)
MOTION		
∅	aadé nagútch aa-dé yu-na-∅-√gút-ch	s/he goes there (every time)
	át ugútch aa-t -yu-∅-∅-√gút-ch	s/he arrives there (every time)
ka-	át kooxeexch aa-t ka-yu-∅-∅-√xeex-ch	it hits it (every time)
tu-	—	—
ji-	a kanax jiyanaastánch a ká-náx ji-ya-ya-na-sa-√tán-ch	waves wash over it (every time)

Perfective Habitual (-)tlél + O-u-ÿu-CP-S-cl_{-i}-√root-ch

s/he hasn't done it yet

PERFECTIVE HABITUAL (-): hasn't done it yet			
PREVERB	negative	tlél ~ tlél ~ hél ~ lél ~ tíl	
PREFIXES	irrealis	-u	
CONJUGATION PREFIX	yes	∅ _{cp} , na _{cp} , ga _{cp} , ga _{cp}	
CLASSIFIER	-i	∅-, da-, sa-, s-, la-, l-, sha-, sh-	
STEM VARIATION	open cvv	∅ _{cp}	c'vy
		na _{cp} , ga _{cp} , ga _{cp}	c'v (aa/oo~ei)
	fading cvv ^h	∅ _{cp}	c'vy
		na _{cp} , ga _{cp} , ga _{cp}	cvv (aa/oo~ei)
	closed low cvvc	∅ _{cp}	unpredictable
		na _{cp} , ga _{cp} , ga _{cp}	c'vc
closed high c'vc	∅ _{cp}	unpredictable	
	na _{cp} , ga _{cp} , ga _{cp}	c'vc	
glottalized cvvc'	∅ _{cp}	unpredictable	
	na _{cp} , ga _{cp} , ga _{cp}	c'vc'	
SUFFIXES	habitual	-ch	

PERFECTIVE HABITUAL (-): hasn't done it yet

ACT		
∅	tlél oogalsháth tlél a-u-ÿu-ga-∅-la-√shát-ch	s/he hasn't held it yet
ka-	tlél akooshxítch tlél a-ka-u-ÿu-∅-∅-sha-√xít-ch	s/he hasn't written it yet
tu-	tlél (yéi) sh tundanúkch tlél (yéi) sh tu-u-ÿu-na-∅-da-√núk-ch	s/he doesn't feel that way yet
ji-	tlél yéi jinaneich tlél yéi ji-u-ÿu-na-∅-∅-√nei-ch	s/he hasn't worked yet
STATE		
∅	tlél gak'éich tlél ∅-ga-u-ÿu-∅-√k'éi-ch	he/she/it hasn't gotten better yet

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PERFECTIVE HABITUAL (-): hasn't done it yet		
ka-	[does not occur]	—
tu-	[does not occur]	—
ji-	—	—
EVENT		
∅	tlél oo.aaxch	s/he hasn't heard it yet
	tlél a-u-ÿu-∅-∅-√.aaxch	
ka-	tlél koodagáanch	it hasn't gotten bright yet
	tlél ka-u-ÿu-∅-da-√gánch	
tu-	tlél (yéi) tundatáanch	s/he hasn't thought that way yet
	tlél (yéi) tu-u-ÿu-na-da-√tánch	
ji-	tlél jeenastáanch	it hasn't gotten rough yet
	tlél ji-na-u-ÿu-sa-√tánch	
MOTION		
∅	tlél aadé nagútch	s/he has not gone there yet
	tlél aa-dé u-ÿu-na-∅-√gútch	
	tlél át ugútch	s/he has not arrived there yet
tlél aa-t -u-ÿu-∅-∅-√gútch		
ka-	tlél át kooxeexch	it has not hit it yet
	tlél aa-t ka-u-ÿu-∅-∅-√xeexch	
tu-	—	—
ji-	tlél a kanax jeeyanastáanch	waves have not washed over it yet
	tlél a ka-náx	
	ji-ya-u-ÿu-na-sa-√tánch	

Hortative

O-CP-ga-S-cl_{-i}-√root(-yi/-i; -wu/-u)

let her/him do it; let us do it (1st & 3rd person subjects only)

HORTATIVE: let her/him do it; let us do it	
PREVERB	—
PREFIXES	<u>ga</u> -mode <u>ga</u> -
	— (eliminated by na-conj)
CONJUGATION PREFIX	yes ∅ _{cp} , na _{cp} , ga _{cp} , <u>ga</u> _{cp}
CLASSIFIER	-i ∅-, da-, sa-, s-, la-, l-, sha-, sh-
STEM VARIATION	open — cvv cvv *
	fading — cvv ^h cvv *
	closed low — cvvc cvvc **
	closed high — c'vvc c'vvc **
	glottalized — cvvc' c'vvc' **
SUFFIXES	(-yi/-i; -wu/-u) — speaker preference

* there are rare exceptions (long and high)

** there are rare exceptions (short and low)

HORTATIVE: let her/him do it; let us do it		
ACT		
∅	<u>agaax</u> lasháat a- <u>ga</u> -ga-∅-la-√sháat	let him/her hold it
ka-	<u>akax</u> shaxít a-ka-∅- <u>ga</u> -∅-sha-√xít	let him/her write it
tu-	(yéi) sh <u>tunax</u> danook (yéi) sh tu-na- <u>ga</u> -∅-da-√nook	let him/her feel that way
ji-	yéi <u>jingane</u> i yéi ji-na- <u>ga</u> -∅-∅-√nei	let him/her work
STATE		
∅	<u>gagak'</u> éi ∅-ga- <u>ga</u> -∅-√k'éi	let him/her/it be good
ka-	[does not occur]	—
tu-	<u>tugax</u> la.aan ∅-tu- <u>ga</u> -ga-la-√.aan	let him/her be kind
ji-	—	—

Understanding Tlingit Verbs

HORTATIVE: let her/him do it; let us do it

EVENT		
∅	aga.aax a-∅-ga-∅-∅-√.aax	let her/him hear it
ka-	kaxdagáan ka-∅-ga-da-√gáan	let it be bright
tu-	(yéi) tunaxdataan (yéi) tu-na-ga-∅-da-√taan	let him/her think (that way)
ji-	[does not occur]	—
MOTION		
∅	aadé ngagoot aa-dé na-ga-∅-∅-√goot	let her/him go there
	át gagoot aa-t ∅-ga-∅-∅-√goot	let him/her arrive there
ka-	(ch'a) át kagaxeex (dé) (ch'a) aa-t ka-∅-ga-∅-√xeex (dé)	(just) let it hit it (now)
tu-	—	—
ji-	[does not occur]	—

Repetitive Imperfective

(yoo/kei/yei) + O-S-cl_{-i}-√root(-x/-k/-ch)

s/he does it (regularly)

REPETITIVE IMPERFECTIVE: s/he does it (regularly)				
PREVERB	∅ _{cp} na _{cp} *	ga _{cp}	na _{cp}	ga _{cp}
	—	kei	yoo ~ yóo	yei
PREFIXES	—			
CONJUGATION PREFIX	—			
CLASSIFIER	-i	∅-, da-, sa-, s-, la-, l-, sha-, sh-		
STEM VARIATION	open — cvv			c'v
	fading — cvv ^h			cvv
	closed low — cvvc			c'c
	closed high — c'vc			c'c
	glottalized — cvvc'			c'c'
SUFFIXES	repetitive	∅ _{cp} na _{cp} *	na _{cp}	ga _{cp} ga _{cp}
		-x	-k	-ch

REPETITIVE IMPERFECTIVE: s/he does it (regularly)

ACT		
∅	yéi alshátch yei a-∅-la-√shát-ch	s/he holds it (regularly)
ka-	akshaxítx a-ka-∅-sha-√xít-x	s/he writes it (regularly)
tu-	[does not occur]	—
ji-	yéi yoo jiyaneik yéi yoo ji-∅-ya-√nei-k	s/he works (regularly)
STATE		
∅	kei k'éich kei ∅-∅-√k'ei-ch	he/she/it gets better (regularly)
ka-	[does not occur]	—
tu-	kei tula.aanch kei ∅-tu-la-√.aan-ch	s/he is kind (regularly)
ji-	—	—

Understanding Tlingit Verbs

REPETITIVE IMPERFECTIVE: s/he does it (regularly)

EVENT		
∅	a.áx a-∅-∅-√.áx	s/he's hearing it (strange sounds, e.g.)
ka-	kadagánx ka-da-vgán-x	it brightens (regularly)
tu-	[does not occur]	—
ji-	kei jisatánch kei ji-sa-√tán-ch	it gets rough (regularly)
MOTION		
∅	aadé yoo yagútk aa-dé yoo ∅-ya-√gút-k	s/he goes there (regularly)
∅	áx goot aa-x ∅-∅-√goot	s/he goes there (regularly)
ka-	áx kaxeex aa-x ka-∅-√xeex	it hits it (regularly)
tu-	—	—
ji-	a kanax kei jisatánch a ka-náx kei ji-sa-√tán-ch	waves wash over it (regularly)

Prohibitive

líl + *O-u-S-cl-√root-k* ~ *ik* ~ *uk*

don't do it!

PROHIBITIVE: don't do it!	
<i>Preverb</i>	<i>líl</i> / (tlél ~ tlél ~ hél ~ lél ~ tíl)
<i>Prefixes</i>	—
<i>Conjugation Prefix</i>	based on the second person negative imperfective, perfective, or repetitive imperfective form, depending on verb.
<i>Classifier</i>	
<i>Stem Variation</i>	
<i>Suffixes</i>	prohibitive - <u>k</u> ~ - <u>ik</u> ~ - <u>uk</u>

PROHIBITIVE: don't do it!		
ACT		
∅	<i>líl ilashádík!</i> <i>líl i-la-√shát-ik</i>	don't hold it!
ka-	<i>líl eeshaxeedík!</i> <i>líl i-ka-u-i-sha-√xeet-ik</i>	don't write it!
tu-	[does not occur]	—
ji-	<i>líl yéi jinéik!</i> <i>líl yéi ji-∅-∅-√nei-k</i>	don't work!
STATE		
∅	<i>líl eek'eiyík!</i> <i>líl i-u-∅-k'ei-yík</i>	don't be good!
ka-	[does not occur]	—
tu-	[does not occur]	—
ji-	—	—
EVENT		
∅	[does not occur]	—
ka-	[does not occur]	—
tu-	[does not occur]	—
ji-	[does not occur]	—

Understanding Tlingit Verbs

PROHIBITIVE: don't do it!

MOTION

	líl aadé yigoodík! líl aa-dé yu-i-∅-√goot-ík	don't go there!
∅	líl át yigoodík! líl aa-t yu-i-∅-√goot-ík líl áx eegoodík! líl aa-x u-i-∅-√goot-ík	don't go there!
ka-	[does not occur]	—
tu-	—	—
ji-	[does not occur]	—

Potential (+) *often used with relative clause

gwál + *O-u-CP-ga-S-cl* _{+i} -√root

s/he might do it

POTENTIAL (+): s/he might do it	
PREVERB	—
PREFIXES	irrealis -u ga-mode ga-
CONJUGATION PREFIX	yes ∅ _{cp} , na _{cp} , ga _{cp} , ga _{cp}
CLASSIFIER	+i <i>ya</i> , <i>di</i> , <i>si</i> , <i>dzi</i> , <i>li</i> , <i>dli</i> , <i>shi</i> , <i>ji</i>
STEM VARIATION	open — cvv cvv
	fading — cvv ^h cvv
	closed low — cvvc cvvc
	closed high — c'vvc c'vvc
	glottalized — cvvc' c'vvc'
SUFFIXES	—

POTENTIAL (+): s/he might do it

ACT		
∅	<i>gwál</i> <i>agaaxwlisháat</i> <i>gwál</i> a-u-ga-ga-∅-li-√sháat	s/he might hold her/him/it
ka-	<i>gwál</i> <i>akooxshixít</i> <i>gwál</i> a-ka-u-∅-ga-∅-shi-√xít	s/he might write it
tu-	<i>gwál</i> (<i>yéi</i>) <i>sh toonaxdinook</i> <i>gwál</i> (<i>yéi</i>) <i>sh tu-u-na-ga-∅-di-√nook</i>	s/he might feel that way
ji-	<i>gwál</i> <i>yéi jingwaanei</i> <i>gwál</i> <i>yéi ji-u-na-ga-ya-√nei</i>	s/he might work
STATE		
∅	<i>gwál</i> <i>kgwaak'éi</i> <i>gwál</i> ∅-ga-u-ga-ya-√k'éi	s/he might be good
ka-	<i>gwál</i> <i>kugaaxlijée</i> <i>gwál</i> ∅-ka-ga-u-ga-li-√jée	s/he might look terrible
tu-	[does not occur]	—
ji-	—	—

Understanding Tlingit Verbs

POTENTIAL (+): s/he might do it

EVENT		
∅	gwál oogaa.aax gwál a-u-∅-ga-∅-ya-vaax	s/he might hear her/him/it
ka-	gwál kooxdigáan gwál ka-u-∅-ga-di-vgáan	it might get bright
tu-	gwál (yéi) toonaxditaan gwál ka-u-na-ga-di-vtaan	s/he might think that way
ji-	[does not occur]	—
MOTION		
∅	gwál aadé ngwaagoot gwál aa-dé u-na-ga-∅-ya-vgoot	s/he might go there
ka-	gwál kagwaaxeex gwál ka-u-∅-ga-ya-veex	s/he might hit her/him/it
tu-	—	—
ji-	[does not occur]	—

Potential (-) *often used with relative clause

gwál + tlél + O-u-CP-ga-S-cl_{+i} -√root

s/he might not do it

POTENTIAL (-): s/he might not do it	
PREVERB	gwál + tlél ~ tlél ~ hél ~ lél ~ tíl
PREFIXES	irrealis -u ga-mode ga-
CONJUGATION PREFIX	yes ∅ _{cp} , na _{cp} , ga _{cp} , ga _{cp}
CLASSIFIER	+i ÿa, di, si, dzi, li, dli, shi, ji
STEM VARIATION	open — cvv cvv
	fading — cvv ^h cvv
	closed low — cvvc cvvc
	closed high — c'vvc c'vvc
	glottalized — cvvc' c'vvc'
SUFFIXES	—

POTENTIAL (-): s/he might not do it

ACT		
∅	gwál tlél agaaxwlisháat gwál tlél a-u-ga-ga-∅-li-√sháat	s/he might not hold her/him/it
ka-	gwál tlél akooxshixít gwál tlél a-ka-u-∅-ga-∅-shi-√xít	s/he might not write it
tu-	gwál tlél (yéi) sh toonaxdinook gwál tlél (yéi) sh tu-u-na-ga-∅-di-√nook	s/he might not feel that way
ji-	gwál tlél yéi jingwaanei gwál tlél yéi ji-u-na-ga-ÿa-√nei	s/he might not work
STATE		
∅	gwál tlél kgwaak'éi gwál tlél ∅-ga-u-ga-ÿa-√k'éi	s/he might not be good
ka-	gwál tlél kugaaxlijée gwál tlél ∅-ka-ga-u-ga-li-√jée	s/he might not look terrible
tu-	[does not occur]	—
ji-	—	—

Understanding Tlingit Verbs

POTENTIAL (-): s/he might not do it

EVENT		
∅	gwál tlél oogaa.aax gwál tlél a-u-∅-ga-∅-ya-vaax	s/he might not hear her/him/it
ka-	gwál tlél kooxdigáan gwál tlél ka-u-∅-ga-di-vgáan	no way it can get bright
tu-	gwál tlél (yéi) toonaxditaan gwál tlél (yéi) tu-u-na-ga-di-vtaan	s/he might not think that way
ji-	[does not occur]	—
MOTION		
∅	gwál tlél aadé ngwaagoot gwál tlél aa-dé u-na-ga-∅-ya-vgoot	s/he might not go there
ka-	gwál tlél kagwaaxeex gwál tlél ka-u-∅-ga-ya-vxex	s/he might not hit her/him/it
tu-	—	—
ji-	[does not occur]	—

Potential Attributive

tlél + aadé + O-u-CP-ga-S-cl_{+i} -√root-yi/-i/-wu/-u + yé

no way s/he can do it

POTENTIAL ATTRIBUTIVE: no way s/he can do it	
PREVERB	tléil ~ tlél ~ hél ~ lél ~ tíl + aadé
PREFIXES	irrealis -u ga-mode ga-
CONJUGATION PREFIX	yes ∅ _{cp} , na _{cp} , ga _{cp} , ga _{cp}
CLASSIFIER	+i ÿa, di, si, dzi, li, dli, shi, ji
STEM VARIATION	open — cvv cvv
	fading — cvv ^h cvv
	closed low — cvvc cvvc
	closed high — c'vvc c'vvc
	glottalized — cvvc' c'vvc'
SUFFIXES	relative -yi/-i/-wu/-u
POSTVERB	way/place yé

POTENTIAL ATTRIBUTIVE: no way s/he can do it

ACT	
∅	tlél aadé agaaxwlisháadi yé tlél aa-dé a-u-ga-ga-∅-li-√sháat-i no way s/he can hold her/him/it
ka-	tlél aadé akooxshixídi yé tlél aa-dé a-ka-u-∅-ga-∅-shi-√xít-i yé no way s/he can write it
tu-	tlél aadé sh toonaxdinoogú yé tlél aa-dé sh tu-u-na-ga-∅-di-√nook-ú yé no way s/he can feel that way
ji-	tlél aadé yéi jingwaaneiyí yé tlél aa-dé yéi ji-u-na-ga-ÿa-√nei-yí yé no way s/he can work
STATE	
∅	tlél aadé kgwaak'éiyi yé tlél aa-dé ∅-ga-u-ga-ÿa-√k'ei-yi yé no way s/he can be good

Understanding Tlingit Verbs

POTENTIAL ATTRIBUTIVE: no way s/he can do it

ka-	tlél aadé kugaaxlijéeyi yé tlél aa-dé Ø-ka-ga-u-ga-li-vjée-yi yé	no way s/he can look terrible
tu-	[does not occur]	—
ji-	—	—

EVENT

Ø	tlél aadé oogaa.aaxí yé tlél aa-dé a-u-Ø-ga-Ø-ya-√aax-i yé	no way s/he can hear her/him/it
ka-	tlél aadé kooxdigáani yé tlél aa-dé ka-u-Ø-ga-di-√gáan-i yé	no way it can get bright
tu-	tlél aadé (yéi) toonaxditaaní yé tlél aa-dé (yéi) tu-u-na-ga-di-√taan-i yé	no way s/he can think that way
ji-	[does not occur]	—

MOTION

Ø	tlél aadé aadé ngwaagoodí yé tlél aa-dé aa-dé u-na-ga-Ø-ya-√goot-i yé	no way s/he can go there
ka-	tlél aadé át kagwaaxeexí yé tlél aa-dé áa-t ka-u-Ø-ga-ya-√xeex-i yé	no way s/he can hit her/him/it
tu-	—	—
ji-	[does not occur]	—

Potential Decessive* usually used as dependent clause*O-u-CP-ga-S-cl_{-i}-√root-in/un*

s/he would have done it

POTENTIAL DECESSIVE: s/he would have done it	
PREVERB	—
PREFIXES	irrealis -u ga-mode ga-
CONJUGATION PREFIX	yes ∅ _{cp} , na _{cp} , ga _{cp} , ga _{cp}
CLASSIFIER	-i ∅-, da-, sa-, s-, la-, l-, sha-, sh-
STEM VARIATION	open — cvv cvv
	fading — cvv ^h cvv
	closed low — cvvc cvvc
	closed high — c'vvc c'vvc
	glottalized — cvvc' c'vvc'
SUFFIXES	decessive -in/-un

POTENTIAL DECESSIVE: s/he would have done it

ACT	
∅	agaaxwlasháadin a-u-ga-ga-∅-la-√sháat-in s/he would have held her/him/it
ka-	akooxshaxídin a-ka-u-∅-ga-∅-sha-√xit-in s/he would have written it
tu-	yéi sh toonaxdanooǵún yéi sh tu-u-na-ga-∅-da-√nook-ún s/he would have felt that way
ji-	yéi jingwaneiyín yéi ji-u-na-ga-∅-√nei-yín s/he would have worked
STATE	
∅	gugak'éiyin ∅-ga-u-ga-∅-√k'éi-yin s/he would have been good
ka-	kugaaxlajéeyin ∅-ka-ga-u-ga-la-√jée-yin s/he would have looked terrible
tu-	[does not occur] —
ji-	— —
EVENT	
∅	ooga.aaxín a-u-∅-ga-∅-∅-√aax-in s/he would have heard her/him/it

Understanding Tlingit Verbs

POTENTIAL DECESSIVE: s/he would have done it

ka-	kooxdagáanin ka-u-∅-ga-da-√gáan-in	it would have gotten bright
tu-	(yéi) toona _x dataanín (yéi) tu-u-na-ga-da-√taan-in	s/he would have thought that way
ji-	[does not occur]	—
MOTION		
∅	aadé ngwagoodín aa-dé u-na-ga-∅-∅-√goot-in	s/he would have gone there
ka-	át kagwaxeexín áa-t ka-u-∅-ga-∅-√xeex-in	s/he would have hit her/him/it
tu-	—	—
ji-	[does not occur]	—

Perfective attributive (+) (the one who did it)

3_s wé aadé wugoodi aa
 the one who went there

Conditional* *ofted used in relative clause*

O-CP-S-cl_{-i}-√root-n+-i

if/when s/he does it

CONDITIONAL: if/when s/he does it		
PREVERB	—	
PREFIXES	—	
CONJUGATION PREFIX	yes	∅ _{cp} , na _{cp} , ga _{cp} , ga _{cp}
CLASSIFIER	-i	∅-, da-, sa-, s-, la-, l-, sha-, sh-
STEM VARIATION	open — cvv	c'vvn (aa/oo~ei)
	fading — cvv ^h	c'vvn (aa/oo~ei)
	closed low — cvvc	c'vc
	closed high — c'vc	c'vc
	glottalized — cvvc'	c'vc'
SUFFIXES	conditional + relative	-n + -i

Stem Variation

OPEN ROOTS				
	CVV		CVV ^h	
	∅	NA, GA, ǵA	∅	NA, GA, ǵA
progressive imperfectives	c'v-n	c'v-n	c'v-n	c'v-n
perfective (+)	c'v	cvv	c'v	cvv
perfective (-)	c'	cvv	c'	cv
imperative	c' / c'v	c'	c' / c'v	c'
perfective habituals	c'v-yh	c'v-ch	c'v-yh	cvv-ch
future (+)	c'v	c'v	c'v	c'v
future (-)	cvv	cvv	cvv	cvv
hortative	c'v / cvv	cvv	c'v / cvv	cvv
repetitive imperfective	c'v-x̄	c'v-{k,ch}	cvv-x̄	cvv-{k,ch}
potentials	c'v / cvv	cvv	c'v / cvv	cvv
conditional	c'v-ni	c'v-ni	c'v-ni	c'v-ni

CLOSED ROOTS						
	CVVC		c'VC		c'VC	
	∅	NA, GA, ǵA	∅	NA, GA, ǵA	∅	NA, GA, ǵA
progressive imperfectives	c'c	c'c	c'c	c'c	c'c'	c'c'
perfective (+)	c'c	cvvc	c'c	c'vc	c'c'	c'vc'
perfective (-)	cvvc	cvvc	c'vc	c'vc	c'vc'	c'vc'
imperative	c'c	cvvc	c'c	c'vc	c'c'	c'vc'
perfective habituals	c'c-ch / cvvc-ch	c'c-ch	c'c-ch / c'vc-ch	c'c-ch	c'c'-ch / c'vc'-ch	c'c'-ch
future (+)	c'vc	c'vc	c'vc	c'vc	c'vc'	c'vc'
future (-)	cvvc	cvvc	c'vc	c'vc	c'vc'	c'vc'
hortative	c'c / cvvc	cvvc	c'c / c'vc	c'vc	c'c' / c'vc'	c'vc'
repetitive imperfective	c'c-x̄	c'c- {k,ch}	c'c-x̄	c'c- {k,ch}	c'c'-x̄	c'c'- {k,ch}
potentials	c'c / cvvc	cvvc	c'c / c'vc	c'vc	c'c / c'vc	c'vc
conditional	c'c-ni	c'c-ni	c'c-ni	c'c'-ni	c'c'-ni	c'c'-ni