

Dynamic Language through Adjectives & Adverbs

One thing we see in Tlingit oratory is dynamic and powerful language. When engaging in Tlingit oratory, as either a listener or speaker, it is good to become familiar with some of the ways to alter verbs and nouns. You are already committing to memory many verbs and nouns, so the study of adjectives and adverbs will help you become more dynamic in your references to nouns and verbs.

ADVERBS

Tlingit	English	notes
ch'a gé _g aa	in vain; for nothing; without success "the one that just swings back"	√ _g ei _k (swing)
ch'a koogéiyi	any old way (carelessly); however (thoughtlessly); carelessly	
ch'a neech _x	for nothing; in vain; without success "just along the beach"	
ch'áakw	(1) long ago; back then; in the old days (2) time: for a long time · variants: ch'ákw	ch'áagudá _x might be long ago ... and ch'áagudé might be for a long time
de x _w aa	finally	Teslin dialect
desgwá _h	already (happened)	
dziyáagin	after a while; later on	
dziyáak	just now; a while ago; earlier	
eeshandéin	poorly; suffering: while suffering	√ _e esháan (suffering; pitiful)
kaldaagéiná _x	slowly	
kasiyeyidéin	strangely	
-kayís / -kagéiyi yís	for – (often a day, week, a dish, event)	often used in a verbal phrase to specify what the verb is being done for, which would be the noun that precedes «-kayís»
kaagéiná _x	quietly; silently	
kudzidéin	amazingly; wonderfully; tremendously	
k'átl'geená _x	quiety	√ _k 'átl' (quiet self)
k'idéin	well; carefully	√ _k 'éi (good; fine)
kultuyá _x	incorrectly; wrongly	may mean "deliberately incorrectly"
kúná _x	very; actually; really	

A D J E C T I V E S & A D V E R B S

ADJECTIVES

Tlingit	English	notes
<u>kúdáx</u> / <u>kút̥x</u>	too much; excessively	
<u>kushtuyáx</u>	matter: doesn't matter; doesn't matter	often occurs in a string of verbs, like: <u>kushtuyáx</u> [verb 1] [verb 2] ... "it doesn't matter that [verb 1], [verb 2] anyways" ...
<u>kux</u> dak'óol'een	backwards	k'óol' (tailbone)
<u>kúyáx</u>	horizontally; proper (according to space)	
shux'áanáx / shux'wáanáx / shux'wáan	first: (at) first; originally	
shóogunáx	originally; beginning: in the beginning; first: (at) first	
<u>tlax</u>	very	
tláakw	fast	
wáa nanée sáwé	at some point	
wáa yateeyi yéix'	sometimes	
wáanganeens	sometimes	
x'éigaa-	(1) truly; true (2) really	
yéi / yóo	thus; specifically	
yeedát	now	

PRENOMINAL ADJECTIVES

Tlingit	English	notes
aak'é-	good; well	√k'éi
aatlein-	much; lots of	
ch'áagu-	old; ancient	
guwáatl'- / kuwáach'-	(too) short	
kasiyéiyi-	strange	
kas'úkxu-	toasted; fried	
kindaatóogin-	upside down	"butt up"

A D J E C T I V E S & A D V E R B S

PRENOMINAL ADJECTIVES

Tlingit	English	notes
kuwáat'	long	
k̄aa-	male	
k̄ustín-	giant; monstrous	k̄udziteeyí át (a giant)
k̄údáx- / k̄út̄x-	too much; excessive	
k̄únáx-	very; actual; real	
lingít-	Tlingit; traditional	
sh kahaadí-	crazy; insane; disturbed; mentally unbalanced	
sheech-	female	
shóogu-	first; initial	
tatgéiyi-	of yesterday	
té-	stone: made of stone; rock: made of rock	
tlagu-	(1) ancient (2) forever	
tl'eitákw-	pure	"removed trashiness"
x'éigaa-	(1) truly; true (2) really	
yaadachóon-	straight; directly; plainly; honestly	
yées-	new; young	

POSTNOMINAL ADJECTIVES

Tlingit	English	notes
-kalé	fine; beautiful	
-k'átsk'u / -k'wátsk'u	(1) adolescent (2) smaller	
-k'wát'	round; egg-shaped	
-k̄áatl'	thin and flat	
-létl'k	soft (of a solid mass); pliable	
-sákw	future; to be; for	
-shaan	old; elderly	

A D J E C T I V E S & A D V E R B S

POSTNOMINAL ADJECTIVES

Tlingit	English	notes
-shís'k	(1) raw (flesh) (2) green (wood)	
-téitl'	fat (of animal)	
-tooch	fresh (of fish)	
-t'éex'	hard (substance)	
-tlénx'	large (plural); big (plural)	
-tlein	large; big	
-uwaa	similar; looks like; fake	
-xook	dry; dried	
-yádi	small; little; childlike	
-yéis'	dark; dusky; discolored; immature	
-yéeyi	past; former; ex-	

PRE/POST? ADJECTIVES

Tlingit	English	notes
kusakaak	thick	
kutlá	stout	