

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 gégaa	in vain; for nothing; without success "the one that just swings back"	√geik (swing)
ch'a koogéiyi	any old way (carelessly); however (thoughtlessly); carelessly	
ch'a neechx	for nothing; in vain; without success "just along the beach"	
ch'a yák'w, / ch'a yáak'w / ch'a yóok'	suddenly; immediately; right away	
ch'áakw	(1) long ago; back then; in the old days (2) time: for a long time · variants: ch'ákw	ch'áagudáx might be long ago ... and ch'áagudé might be for a long time
de xwaa	finally	Teslin dialect
desgwách	already (happened)	
dziyáagin	after a while; later on	
dziyáak	just now; a while ago; earlier	
eeshandéin	poorly; suffering: while suffering	√eesháan (suffering; pitiful)
kaldaagéináx	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»
kaagéináx	quietly; silently	
kudzidéin	amazingly; wonderfully; tremendously	
k'átl'geenáx	quietly	√k'átl' (quiet self)
k'idéin	well; carefully	√k'éi (good; fine)

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

ADVERBS

Tlingit	English	notes
ᵿateeyí	it's a wonder; no one knows how; despite the odds	
ᵿultuyáᵿ	incorrectly; wrongly	may mean "deliberately incorrectly"
ᵿúnáᵿ	very; actually; really	
ᵿúdáᵿ / ᵿútᵿ	too much; excessively	
ᵿushtuyáᵿ	matter: doesn't matter; doesn't matter	often occurs in a string of verbs, like: ᵿushtuyáᵿ [verb 1] [verb 2] ... "it doesn't matter that [verb 1], [verb 2] anyways" ...
ᵿux dak'óol'een	backwards	k'óol' (tailbone)
ᵿúyáᵿ	horizontally; proper (according to space)	
lagaawdéin	loudly	
shux'áanáᵿ / shux'wáanáᵿ / shux'wáan	first: (at) first; originally	
shóogunáᵿ	originally; beginning: in the beginning; first: (at) first	
tlax	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	

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

PRENOMINAL ADJECTIVES

Tlingit	English	notes
ch'áagu-	old; ancient	

PRENOMINAL ADJECTIVES

Tlingit	English	notes
guwáatl'– / kuwáach'–	(too) short	
kasiyéiyi–	strange	
kas'úlkxu–	toasted; fried	
kindaatóogin–	upside down	“butt up”
kuwáat'	long	
kaa–	male	
kustín–	giant; monstrous	kudziteeyí át (a giant)
kúdáx– / kútx–	too much; excessive	
kúnáx–	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	

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

POSTNOMINAL ADJECTIVES

Tlingit	English	notes
-kalé	fine; beautiful	
-k'átsk'u / -k'wátsk'u	(1) adolescent (2) smaller	
-k'wát'	round; egg-shaped	

POSTNOMINAL ADJECTIVES

Tlingit	English	notes
-k'áatl'	thin and flat	
-létl'k	soft (of a solid mass); pliable	
-sákw	future; to be; for	
-shaan	old; elderly	
-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	