Haa Léelk’w Has Aaní

Learning Tlingit Through Placenames

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Tlingit Parts Of Speech

- **noun**
  name of something

- **case suffix**
  suffix that attaches to a noun

- **adjective**
  modifies a noun • prenominal appears before verb and postnominal appears after verb

- **body part**
  needs a possessor • is marked when disconnected

- **land part**
  specific to land and rarely appears on its own

- **plant part**
  specific to plants and usually does not appear on its own

- **independent base**
  relates to a fixed point in the Tlingit universe • can take a suffix

- **relational noun**
  needs a possessor • cannot take a suffix

- **relational base**
  needs a possessor • can take a suffix

- **relational suffix**
  attaches to a noun • cannot attach to pronouns

- **verb**
  act, event, state, motion, or position

- **adverb**
  modifies a verb • appears immediately before the verb it modifies
Common Nouns In Tlingit Placenames

- **aan ¹ (noun)**
  land; town; village; settlement; inhabited or owned land

- **dei (noun)**
  path; trail; road; street

- **–góon (land part)**
  portage across –; passage across –; isthmus: –’s isthmus

- **gíl’ (land part)**
  cliff

- **geey / geiy (land part)**
  bay ("in the folds of")

- **hít (noun)**
  house; building

- **héen (noun)**
  (1) water • (2) river; stream; creek

- **kú (land part)**
  cove; bight; bay: small bay

- **nax (land part)**
  bay: small bay; valley
More Common Nouns In Tlingit Placenames

- **sít’** (noun)
  glacier

- **séet** (land part)
  channel; draw; gully; canyon: box canyon

- **shaa** (noun)
  mountain

- **té** (noun)
  rock; stone

- **x’aa** (land part)
  point (of land)

- **x’áat’** (land part)
  island

- **x’aak** (land part)
  canyon; ravine; gorge
Common Body Parts In Tlingit Placenames

- **–díx’** *(body part)*
  - back: –’s back

- **–dook** *(body part)*
  - skin: –’s skin; complexion: –’s complexion

- **–lú** *(body part)*
  - (1) nose; beak • (2) (land part) point

- **–jín** *(body part)*
  - hand: –’s hand; paw: –’s paw

- **–kích** *(body part)*
  - wing: –’s wing • variants: –kíji

- **–keey** *(body part)*
  - knee: –’s knee

- **–shá** *(body part)*
  - head: –’s head

- **–téix’** *(body part)*
  - heart: –’s heart

- **–tl’eik / tl’eek** *(body part)*
  - finger: –’s finger

- **–waak** *(body part)*
  - eye: –’s eye

- **–x’é** *(body part)*
  - (1) mouth: –’s mouth •
  - (2) (relational base) opening: –’s opening

- **–x’oos** *(body part)*
  - foot: –’s foot; leg: –’s leg
Common Independent Bases In Tlingit Placenames

- **daak** *(independent base)*
  out to sea; out into the open; falling from sky

- **daak** *(independent base)*
  up in the woods; inland from shore; back from open; off of fire; away from the water’s edge

- **deikée** *(independent base)*
  out to sea; out to the open

- **dikínde** *(independent base)*
  upwards | kín-de → upwards.towards • variants: kinde

- **diyínde** *(independent base)*
  upwards | yín-de → downwards.towards • variants: yinde

- **gáan ¹** *(independent base)*
  outdoors; outside (from inside)

- **ixkée** *(independent base)*
  downstream; south; lower 48 states (locally: down south)

- **naakée** *(independent base)*
  upstream; north

- **neil / yee** *(independent base)*
  inside a home or building

- **neech / ée** *(independent base)*
  shoreline; beach

- **yán** *(independent base)*
  ashore (from the sea)
Common Relational Bases In Tlingit Placenames

suffix combinations and tone and vowel length

- **–ká** *(relational base)*
  - on –; horizontal: –’s horizontal surface; on top of –; in – (oft. shallow container)

- **–kaadáx / –kaax [ká+-dáx]**
  - from the top of –

- **–kaadé [ká+-dé]**
  - over –; towards the top of –; along the top of –

- **–kaanáx / –kanax [ká+-náx]**
  - through the top of –; along the top of –

- **–kát [ká+-t]**
  - arriving on –; on –

- **–káwu [ká+-wu]**
  - located on –

- **–káx’ / –káa [ká+-x’]**
  - residing on –; located on –

- **–káx [ká+-x]**
  - moving along on; repeatedly on –
Common Relational Bases In Tlingit Placenames

suffix combinations and tone and vowel length

- **–tú** *(relational base)*
  from the inside of –

- **–toodáx / –tóotx [tú+-dáx]**
  from the top of –

- **–tóode [tú+-dé]**
  towards the inside of –

- **–tóonáx [tú+-náx]**
  through the inside of –

- **–tóot [tú+-t]**
  arriving at the inside of –; at the inside of –

- **–tóowu [tú+-wu]**
  located inside of –

- **–tóox’ [tú+-x’]**
  residing on inside of –; located inside of –

- **–tóox [tú+-x]**
  moving along on the inside of –; repeatedly inside of –
Common Relational Bases In Tlingit Placenames

- **–daa** ¹ (relational base)
  around –; about –; concerning –

- **–daaká** (relational suffix)
  around outside of –

- **–gé** (relational base)
  against –; opposing –

- **–gú** (relational base)
  base of –; butt of –

- **–gei** (relational base)
  enclosed within (the folds of) –; between the folds of –; between the covers of –; between the walls of –

- **–een** (relational base)
  (along) with; by means of; as soon as | it is unclear whether the form of this word is determined by grammatical rules, dialect preference, or personal preference • variants: tin, tín, teen, téen, -n

- **–eetí** (relational base)
  in place of –; place where – was; imprint: –‘s imprint; aftermath: –‘s aftermath

- **–jee** (relational base)
  possession: –‘s possession

- **–k’í** (body part)
  rump: –‘s rump; hips: the flesh around –‘s hips • ² (relational base) base of – (a standing object); foot of – (a standing object)
Common Relational Bases In Tlingit Placenames

- **-niyaa** (relational base)
  1. direction of –; facing – • variants: –yinaa
  2. in –’s way; keeping – away; protecting from –;
     shielding from –; screening from –; blocking –

- **-shakée** (relational base)
  top of – (something with a rounded top, as a
  mountain); above –; over: (elevated) over – | shá-
  kée → head.above

- **-shuyee** (relational base)
  foot of: at the foot of a slope; down from the
  crest of; back from the crest of | shu-ÿee → end.below
  • (KE) • variants: –shuwee

- **-shú** (relational base)
  end of –

- **-shoowú** (relational base)
  part of –; half of – l "is at the end of –" l shú-wú
  → end.is/are-at

- **-tayee** (relational base)
  underneath –; beneath –; below –

- **-táak** (relational base)
  1. bottom of – (a cavity) l (KE) l
     (submerged) in – (a body of water)
Common Relational Bases In Tlingit Placenames

- **–t’aak** *(relational base)*
  - beside –; side: at –‘s side

- **–t’áak** *(relational base)*
  - back inland from –; behind – (when looking from the sea); landward: on the landward side of – (something on the water)

- **–t’éik** *(relational base)*
  - behind –

- **–t’iká** *(relational base)*
  - beside –; out past –; out away from –; outskirts: (on) the outskirts of – (town)

- **–wakshiyee** *(relational base)*
  - before –‘s eyes; see: where – can see (it); eye: before –‘s eyes | waak-shiyee → eye.before

- **–tú** *(relational base)*
  - inside of – (closed or deep container, abstract object)

- **–yík** *(relational base)*
  - inside of – (shallow container, something open to the above)

- **–wán** *(relational base)*
  - edge of –; side: (to the) side of –; bank of (body of water)
Common Relational Nouns In Tlingit Placenames

- **–daat** *(relational noun)*
  - about –; concerning –

- **–kayaa** *(relational noun)*
  - like: something sort of like –; measuring up: something not measuring up to –; where one expects – to be | resembling |
  - facsimile: –'s facsimile; copy: –'s copy

- **–kwáan** *(relational noun)*
  - people of –; person of –

- **–nák** *(relational noun)*
  - away from –; leaving – behind

- **–seiyí** *(relational noun)*
  - shelter: the shelter of –; lee: the lee of –; area: the (beach) area below – (a mountain, hill, etc.)

- **–wát** *(relational noun)*
  - mouth of – (a body of water) | classification: body of water
Common Relational Suffixes In Tlingit Placenames

closed monosyllable Tlingit suffixes are high tone
open monosyllable suffixes are opposite of the tone of the preceding vowel

- **-dáx** ~ **-tx** ~ **-x** (relational suffix) from; out of;
  since (that time) | contraction from -dáx to -tx is optional when the suffix attaches to an open word

- **-de** (relational suffix)
to; toward; until; in the manner of

- **-gaa** (relational suffix)
after: going after; waiting for; distributed: in the area of; about the time of

- **-náx** ¹ (relational suffix)
  through; along; via; including the time of

- **-t** (relational suffix)
  1) at: arriving at; at: moving about at; at a point ||
  2) around a point

- **-x** (relational suffix)
at: in prolonged contact at; at: moving around at;
at: repeatedly arriving at
Verb Modifiers In Tlingit Placenames

• yé (*postverb*)

1) place | used at the end of a verb—often with a peg vowel suffix attached at the end of the verb—to create: “the place where the verb occurred”
   • át woogoodi yé → the place where s/he walked around
   • Wudzidü̱ gu yé → the cottonwooded place (Geikie Inlet) (TT)

2) way | used in combination with the preverb «aadé»—often with a peg vowel suffix attached at the end of the verb—to create: “the way the verb occurred”
   • aadé át woogoodi yé → the way that s/he walked around
   • aadé haa ée at dultoowu yé → the way we were taught (CG)
kanals’áak  nadáakw
nadáakw shuká wé kanals’áak
nadāakw t’éik wé kanals’áak
nadáakw kát wé kanals’áak
nadáakw tayee wé kanals’áak
nadáakw daat wé kanals’áak
nadáakwde yaa nagút we kanals’áak
nadáakwdáx yaa nagút wé kanals’áak
nadáaw daax yaa nagút wé kanals’áak
yaa nagút
yaa nagút
yaa nagút