



AHTNA NOUN DICTIONARY

and Pronunciation Guide (2nd Edition)

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“John Smelcer ‘ats’ enii tsin’ aen koht’ aene kenaege’
ghanii niła’ sghidaetl’ yilyes.” [“We say thanks to John Smelcer
for bringing us together to save the Ahtna language.”]

--Ahtna Chief Harry Johns, 1999
Kluuti Kaah Community Hall,
Copper Center, Alaska

“We thank [John Smelcer] for his continued dedication to documenting
the Ahtna language.” --Ahtna Heritage Foundation, September 2010

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PREFACE

I never imagined writing a preface such as this to accompany this dictionary, but recent circumstances have warranted it. This dictionary of common nouns of the Ahtna language with their pronunciation came into existence because the Ahtna People themselves willed it into existence. In December 1995, I was unanimously appointed executive director of the Ahtna Heritage Foundation. At our first board meeting in Glennallen a month later, the board approved a multiyear strategic plan, a list of priorities for me and the Foundation to achieve. The list came from conversations with Ahtna tribal members (called shareholders). Number one on the list was to develop and produce an accessible dictionary of our endangered language. It is true that Dr. James Kari, a linguist at the University of Alaska Fairbanks' Alaska Native Language Center, had spent a decade working with Ahtna elders, many my relatives, to develop an orthography (a writing system) for our language, and had painstakingly and meticulously compiled and published his 702 page *Ahtna Dictionary*. However, the Ahtna people themselves were unable to use this highly technical academic dictionary. Elders who tried to teach Ahtna wouldn't even use his dictionary because they couldn't figure it out. The Ahtna people wanted something more useful to them. With unanimous approval (and funding) from the Board of Directors of the Ahtna Heritage Foundation and Ahtna, Inc., I began working with a committee of Ahtna elders to produce a dictionary *by and for* the people. We decided to arrange the book by categories (animals, birds, fish, plants, places, etc.) instead of alphabetically. After all, if you don't know the Ahtna word for something, how would you know where to look it up in the dictionary?

That very spring, Dr. Kari drove down from Fairbanks to visit me at my office in Glennallen and to congratulate me on getting the job. (We had known each other for years, and of course, he knew my Native family). I told him of the Foundation's plans to create a phonetic pronunciation dictionary and of our plans to collect the surviving myths of our tribe (the book on this subject, *In the Shadows of Mountains*, being published in the summer of 1997; including Dr. Kari's backcover blurb). Dr. Kari expressed his admiration for our initiative, his only request that the new dictionary include his name as associate editor. He mentioned that he had embarked on a separate project of assembling a dictionary of Ahtna place names. He told me that he had retired from the university and that he was glad to see that an Ahtna shareholder, an *insider*, was continuing the effort to preserve and teach Ahtna language and culture.

The committee of elders held meetings twice a month for two and a half years. The work was slow. At a typical meeting in Glennallen, we'd work on a short list of words all day. For example, consider the word for caribou. We'd first agree on the Ahtna spelling as established by Dr. Kari. In this case, the word for caribou is *udzih*. We'd vote on the spelling, agreeing to adopt it as our official spelling for our project. Then we'd go around the table, each elder saying the word clearly and loudly for all to hear. We'd listen for even the most subtle difference. We'd discuss any differences, determining often that most variations were dialectal variations (Ahtna

having four distinct dialects). Again, after unanimous agreement, we adopted a phonetic representation of how to say the word in Ahtna. In this case, the word for caribou in our Central and Mentasta dialect is pronounced you-jee. But the conversation often included discussions about how the word fit into broader Ahtna culture, its origins and relatedness to other words in our language. Sometimes a place in Ahtna country has in its Ahtna name the word we were working on. Such discussions were important. (This same process was used during the almost five years I worked with Chenega Bay elders to compile a dictionary of their endangered Alutiiq dialect). After the dictionary was completed (with Dr. Kari listed as associate editor as he had requested), Ahtna, Inc. paid to have it printed. We gave the dictionaries away—over 1,000 of them—at the May 1998 Annual Ahtna Shareholder’s Meeting in Copper Center. At the meeting, all of the participating elders stood up to be recognized by fellow tribal and village members. The *Ahtna Noun Dictionary and Pronunciation Guide* had been a successful tribal initiative. As members of the tribe, we were all very proud of our achievement. The book was so popular that Ahtna Development Corporation (my uncle Herbert Smelcer was president) donated the funds to reprint it in 1999, just in time to give them away at the 1999 Annual Ahtna Shareholder’s Meeting.

Ten years later, in June of 2009, I called Dr. Kari from upstate New York to say that I was nominating him for the Alaska Governor’s Award for the Humanities for his contributions to Alaska Native languages (I had been nominated in 1999). He was genuinely pleased to hear from me. He said that he always hoped someone would nominate him for the prestigious award, and he offered to send me his curriculum vitae (résumé) to help write my letter. Several months later, it was announced that Dr. Kari had received the well-earned recognition. I was proud of my small role.

That was, I thought, the end of the story.

In March of 2010, twelve years after our dictionary had been published and only a year after I had nominated him for the Governor’s Award, Dr. Kari sent me a very unpleasant letter essentially suggesting that because he had “invented” how to write in our language, he owned it and all copyrights. He seemed to have forgotten that over a hundred Ahtna elders worked with him to develop our written language and contributed substantively to his dictionary. Our language did not belong to him, no more than it did to any single individual he worked with. A person can’t own a language. Neither Webster nor Oxford owns the English language. Dr. Kari tried very hard to have the dictionary we produced removed from existence. In the end, after a series of communications, we agreed to resolve the matter as long as I continued to list his name as associate editor. Once again, I thought the issue settled.

Four years later, in June of 2014, Dr. Kari sent me an email alleging the same things as he had in 2010 (i.e., that he somehow owned the rights to the written form of the Ahtna language and that the 1998 dictionary I compiled with Ahtna elders was a violation of his copyrights). He again demanded that it be removed from existence, including on the Internet. To intimidate me,

he sent the hostile email to a dozen academic folks nationwide, including Noam Chomsky. In the letter, he called the dictionary we tribal members had created “quaint,” as if it were primitive, unimportant, and beneath his contempt, an attitude I found offensive. We Ahtna had created our dictionary to help us preserve and perpetuate our beloved language. It was made for us, not for a handful of academic linguists. It was as if Dr. Kari had forgotten our 2010 agreement, in which he agreed that there had been no copyright violation and gave his express permission for the dictionary to be published in any and all media formats, so long as his name appeared as associate editor on the title page. Dr. Kari’s actions in this matter are a perfect example of why indigenous peoples worldwide are suspicious of university scholars who proclaim their zeal to help, only later to appropriate cultural materials and artifacts as if they belonged to them.

I was curious to know why Dr. Kari was bringing up this issue once again. The answer, I suspect, was in his email. He said that a new edition of his 700-page dictionary was forthcoming from the University of Alaska Press. It was to be very expensive while ours was free. He clearly wanted to eliminate any competition. Not a single copy of our dictionary was ever sold. No one has ever earned a dime from it. Dr. Kari wanted himself and his publisher to profit from the sale of his dictionary, a dictionary created with the help of the Ahtna people who agreed to work with him only because they thought it would help preserve our language. Dr. Kari’s recent actions are a violation of their trust. Most of the elders he and I worked with are now deceased, including my grandmother, great aunt, and my uncle. For the sake of my forebears and for the sake of future generations of Ahtna, it is important that this dictionary remain freely available.

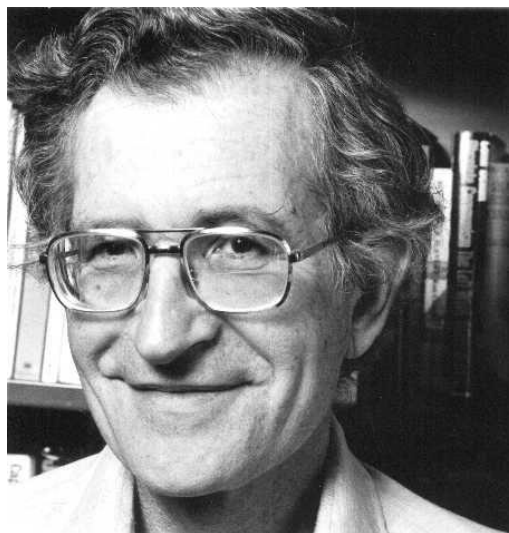
—Dr. John Smelcer, July 2014

FOREWORDS

“One of the touching, delicate poems that John Smelcer has collected in *The Complete Ahtna Poems* asks “Can you understand my language,” and goes on: “Almost no one does, almost no one remembers, I am sick and lonely, and weak from crying.” Another relates that “Happiness for the robin and for the wolf is to exist,” but “For Indians, it is to know existence and to marvel in it.” The anthology that Smelcer has collected, and careful linguistic work on Ahtna, will reveal that someone remembers, and will allow others too “to know existence and to marvel in it.”

Rescuing a language that faces oblivion is always a remarkable achievement. As Smelcer’s work beautifully illustrates, the language that is rescued is a repository of cultural wealth, wisdom, and insight. It captures historical tradition and binds communities together. The loss of languages of North America – and not only there – diminishes humanity. It is a special loss for those who hope to understand the nature of the uniquely human language capacity and the cognitive systems in which it is embedded.

To collect the record of literature and thought, and produce a dictionary and grammar, is a great service to the Ahtna people, and conceivably – it has sometimes happened – might contribute to a revival of their cultures and community, consoling those who are weak from crying at the terrible loss. It is also a great service to everyone who hopes to understand and appreciate the rich potential of human life and capacity. We can only hope that such achievements will inspire others to follow in the same path.



Noam Chomsky, Ph.D.
Emeritus and Institutional Professor, M. I. T.

Why should people care about endangered languages? For linguistics and the sciences of mind and brain that encompass it, linguistic diversity shows us the scope and limits of the language instinct. Just think of the distorted picture we would have if only English were available for study! For anthropology and human evolutionary biology, languages trace the history and geography of the species, and the extinction of a language can be like the burning of a library of historical documents or the extinction of the last species in a phylum.

But the reasons for caring about endangered languages are not just scientific. As the linguist Michael Krauss has written, “any language is a supreme achievement of a uniquely human collective genius, as divine and endless a mystery as a living organism.” We are not merely the sum of our present parts. Included in the sum is the history of who we are and who we were. Smelcer’s bilingual poems and his two dictionaries of endangered Alaska Native languages are a priceless gift to posterity, and every student of language and human nature should be grateful to John Smelcer and the speakers of Ahtna and Alutiiq for compiling them.



Steven Pinker, Ph.D.
Johnstone Family Professor of Psychology
Harvard University

“In all my years of teaching and studying languages, I have never met anyone with so much determination and tenacity to do everything possible to save a language, and thereby, a unique worldview. John Smelcer’s effort to preserve the Ahtna language is nothing short of miraculous.”

Kenneth Hale, Ph.D.

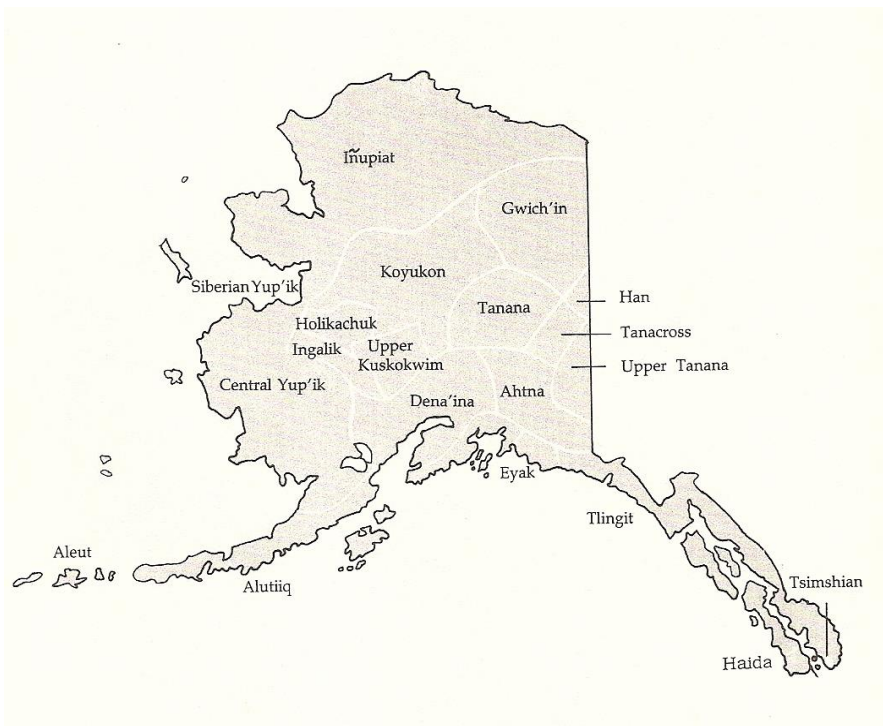
Professor of Linguistics, M.I.T.

“What if tomorrow you learned that within a decade or two you might be the very last person on earth to speak your language? What would you do? What responsibility would you bear? How much would you sacrifice? Perhaps you’d do what John Smelcer has done. Perhaps.”

James Welch, author of *Fool’s Crow*, *The Death of James Loney*,
and *The Indian Lawyer*

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE DICTIONARY

From December 1995 until mid-May 1998, I was the tribally appointed executive director of the Ahtna Heritage Foundation, the nonprofit arm of Ahtna Native Corporation whose mission is to document, preserve, and perpetuate the Ahtna language and culture. Ahtna is one of eleven Athabaskan languages of Alaska. It is a member of a broader language family called Diné, of which Navajo, almost two thousand miles to the southeast, is a relative. All Athabaskan languages are endangered. Several, such as Han, have fewer than five speakers. One neighboring language, Eyak, recently became extinct when Marie Smith the last living Native speaker, died in January 2008 at the age of 89. I had met with Marie often in Anchorage to discuss Eyak, and I attended her funeral service. In the early 90s, I used to drive down to Soldotna to visit Peter Kalifornsky at his trailer in Nikiski. Peter was the last speaker of his Kenaitze Indian dialect of Tainana (also spelled Dena'ina).



Map of Alaska Native Languages

Throughout my years as director, I held over 100 language workshops with elders from all eight Ahtna villages, even at -50F or -60F degrees below zero! As much as was possible, every elder who spoke any degree of Ahtna participated. While some elders were fluent or fairly fluent, others remembered only a few words, mostly place names. None could read or write in the language. The end result was that—instructed as I was by so many living speakers of Ahtna—I became a living repository of our language, one of the most endangered languages on earth. In our workshops, elders often smiled and laughingly said, “You speak better than us now, Johnny.” During those marvelously productive years, I also published a series of language posters and language curriculum, as well as a comprehensive book of all our existing myths. Pulitzer Prize winner Gary Snyder graciously provided a foreword to the collection. Consider the good fortune of a tribe having within its own membership a young person educated and trained in linguistics, anthropology and archaeology, mythology, and oral history. Imagine how many languages worldwide have perished for lack of an *insider* who recognized the inevitable loss, the absolute significance of such an irreparable loss, and had the training and the wherewithal to do something about it.

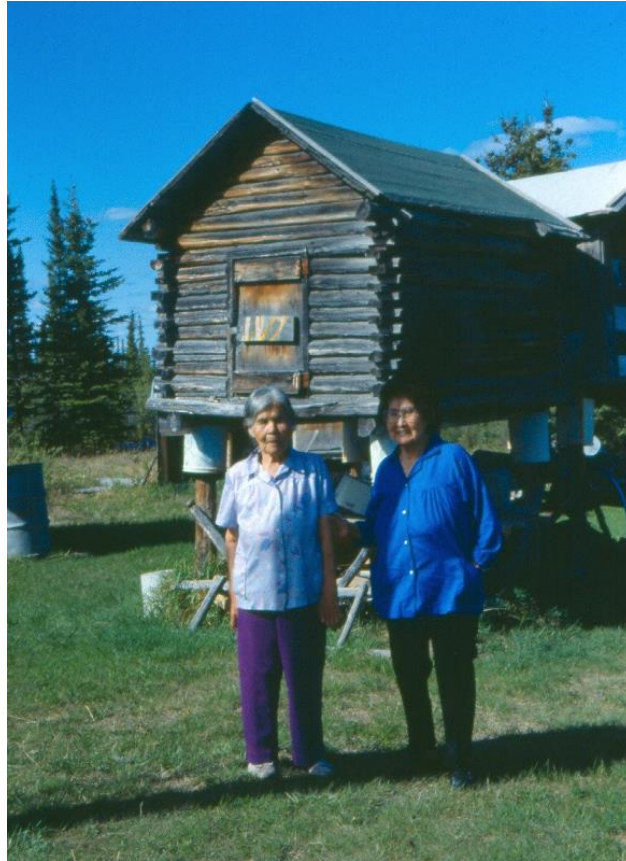


Frank Stickwan (left; who is 96 years old in this photo; today he is 107 years old!), Chief Harry Johns, and Markle Pete (right) at 1996 summer Ahtna language workshop

In early 1999, in recognition of my efforts and of my unique place in Ahtna history, Chief Harry Johns held a special ceremony at Kluuti Kaah Community Hall in Copper Center to designate me a Traditional Ahtna Culture Bearer—a term usually reserved for elders with considerable knowledge of language and customs. My beloved uncle, Herbert Smelcer; my grandmother, Mary Walya Smelcer-Wood; and my great aunt, Morrie Secondchief, participated, as did Ruth Johns and others, including my daughter, who was at the time eleven years old. Some of the elders I had worked with also attended. At the ceremony, Chief Johns presented me with the chieftain bead necklaces of the late Chief Jim McKinley, who passed away a decade earlier. For almost two decades, my uncle and I used to share our moose meat and caribou meat with Harry and Ruth. That same year, Chief Johns, my uncle Herb, and other leaders and educators from across Alaska nominated me for the Governor’s Award for the Humanities for my enduring efforts to preserve Alaska Native languages and cultures. Chief Johns passed away in 2003 at the age of 94. My grandmother’s relative, Ben Neeley, became the next traditional Ahtna Chief. Indeed, my grandmother was related to the last three Ahtna chiefs.



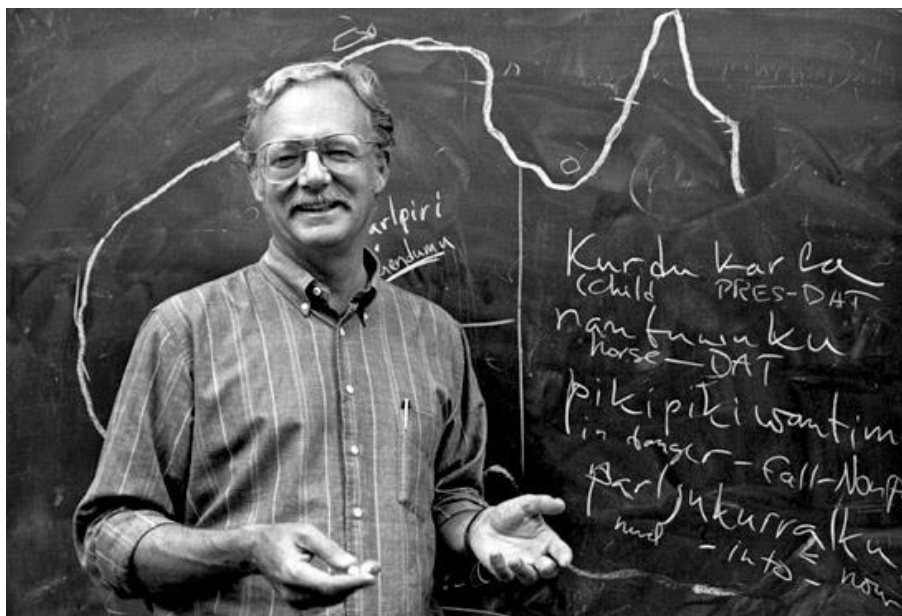
Ruth Johns (L), Chief Harry Johns (C), and Morrie Secondchief (R) at John Smelcer’s Traditional Ahtna Culture Bearer honoring ceremony in 1999. Editor-compiler John Smelcer wearing bead necklaces of Chief Jim McKinley.



John Smelcer's grandmother, Mary Smelcer-Wood (right)
and her older sister, John's great aunt, Morry Secondchief (c. 1995)

Long before I began compiling this dictionary, Ahtna elders had been teaching me the various dialects of Ahtna. My studies began in the mid 1980s, while I was cultural anthropology major at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. My coursework included linguistics. From about 1984, until I became executive director of the Ahtna Heritage Foundation, I met irregularly with my grandmother, my great aunt and uncle, Morrie and Joe Secondchief (who spoke our Western dialect; see photo on page 17), Ruth Johns of Copper Center (who spoke our Central dialect), and Katie John of Mentasta (who spoke our Upper dialect). Even after publishing *The Ahtna Noun Dictionary and Pronunciation Guide* (1998, 1999), I continued to meet with the same elders as well as Jake Tansy in Cantwell, Fred John in Mentasta, Johnny Shaginoff in Sutton, Frank Billum in Chitina, and my grandmother, Mary Wayla Smelcer-Wood to continue the work. Sadly, they are all gone now. At the rate of loss, there is little doubt but that one day in the near future, I may be the last speaker of Ahtna. Indeed, it is estimated that the world loses one of its 7,000 languages every 14 days (*National Geographic*, Dec. 2010, p. 22). That's 25 languages a year; over 250 in a decade! Sadly and admittedly, being so far from home for so many years, I realize that I am beginning to forget.

People frequently ask me why it matters if a language is lost. One of the answers I always give is that language is a primary identifier of culture. For example, if I ask a German what makes him German, he will most assuredly answer first, “Because I speak German.” Other identifiers include such things as geography; because Germans live in a geographical region in Europe known as Germany. He may even reply, “because I eat German foods.” Loss of language is a major part of the irreversible loss of cultural identity—they are inseparably bound to one another. The way in which individuals define and view the world around them is affected by the language that they have learned to use to interpret their world. This notion, called the Sapir-Whorf Hypothesis, postulates that the relationship between the environment, the culture, and the language of a people is self-reinforcing. The environment causes the people to have a particular worldview, the worldview is encoded in the language, and the language forces the people to speak and think about the world in a way that expresses that same worldview. Indeed, my late mentor, the legendary M.I.T. linguist, Ken Hale, who could speak over 50 languages, including Hopi and Navajo, once wrote: “The loss of local languages and of the cultural systems which they express, has meant irretrievable loss of diverse and interesting intellectual wealth. Only with diversity can it be guaranteed that all avenues of human intellectual progress will be traveled.” Professor Hale was a marvelously generous scholar, who advocated that Amerindians (American Indians) needed to be trained in linguistics to help preserve and teach their own languages. Historically, it was Western European non-Native linguists who did this kind of work. But Ken believed that *Insiders* should fully participate. During the entire time I directed the Ahtna Foundation and worked on this dictionary, Professor Hale informally directed my studies in linguistics, assigning me articles and books to read. He even wrote letters of support for several grants. He died in October of 2001 at the age of 67.



Linguist Ken Hale lecturing at M.I.T.

The purpose of this dictionary is to make the beautiful and complex Ahtna language accessible to our people and to those interested in it. Whereas archaeologists can unearth artifacts and eventually reconstruct basic premises about past civilizations and cultures, language only survives from the successive transmission from one generation to the next. In this respect, it is a living, breathing thing. Recognizing this, and recognizing our tribal need to preserve and reclaim our traditions, our identity, and our language, this resource approaches the problem of language acquisition knowing that very few tribal members speak the tongue, while almost all members can speak and read English at a grade school level. This dictionary accomplishes two things: it provides almost 3,000 Ahtna nouns and their English translations. The orthography (written system) of these 3,000 Ahtna words is extremely accurate (95-100% accuracy). Many have undergone revisions over the past decade, toward a kind of standardization.

The second accomplishment of this dictionary is its pronunciation guide. After more than 100 workshops and interviews with diverse Ahtna-speaking elders, the pronunciations are presented using basic phonetic rules known to most English speakers. Whereas academic dictionaries show pronunciations using a complex standardized system, I wanted to use a very basic system. For example, in the *Merriam-Webster Dictionary*, the pronunciation of the word *Pleistocene* is expressed as /'plīs-tə-,sēn/. Contemporary on-line dictionaries such as Dictionary.com expresses the same word phonetically as [ply-stuh-seen]. Since most Ahtna shareholders (tribal members) can read English at or near an eighth grade level, the phonetic system is better suited to the purpose of this dictionary. The result is that seemingly complex Ahtna words such as *gguux k'neltsiini* (rice) can be fairly accurately pronounced using primary school English grammar standards. In this case, the Ahtna word for *rice* is pronounced [goo ken-ell-chee-nee], which literally (lit.) means “looks like worms/maggots.” As is the standard practice in linguistics, pronunciations are set inside brackets to the right of the Ahtna word.

Because of dialectical differences, and because people sometimes say the same word differently, the accuracy of these pronunciations is more like 90%, perhaps less. Here's an example of this problem: the English word *tear* can be pronounced {terr} as in “tear the paper” or {teer} as in “she cried a tear.” Another example of regional influences is in the pronunciation of the English word *creek*. Many southerners say {krik} while others say {kreek}. The same problems exist in compiling Ahtna pronunciations.

This is not the definitive dictionary. It is incomplete, as any dictionary of any language is always incomplete, and must necessarily be so—such is the dynamic and negotiated nature of language, always giving and taking, adding and subtracting. Almost weekly (it seems), I revise and expand this dictionary, adding words from my many field notes on aging, yellow legal pads, which I collected from the past interviews and workshops. Sometimes, I awake in the middle of the night having dreamt of a fifteen or twenty-year-old conversation I once had with an elder, remembering precisely the context and how a word was spoken. Sometimes, I swear I can even smell the inside of their cabin. For now, though, this resource offers an opportunity for parents and grandparents to teach children our language, for them to teach themselves, each other, and

for teenagers and grade school-aged children to even teach themselves, so that our long-lived and vital language will survive another generation.

No individual, community, corporation, fraternity, organization, institution, university, government, or generation owns a language. With that in mind, this dictionary is made available freely to the world, and especially to the Ahtna People.

John E. Smelcer, Ph.D.

Executive Director, Ahtna Heritage Foundation (1995-1998)

Traditional Ahtna Culture Bearer (designated by Chief Johns)

Ahtna, Inc. shareholder

Native Village of Tazlina & Tsisyu Clan member



John Smelcer cutting king salmon at Tazlina fish camp (1996)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This dictionary is not the product of a single individual's labor. Indeed, no project of this nature or scope ever owes its existence to one person alone. This dictionary is the culmination of more than thirty years of careful research involving many, many individuals—most of whom are no longer with us.

A debt of gratitude is owed to anthropologists Frederica De Laguna and Catherine McClellan, for their early research in Ahtna language and history throughout the 1950s. In the mid 1970's, language researcher Dr. James Kari, who had previously worked with Navajo, joined the then newly-established Alaska Native Language Center (ANLC) and began working with Ahtna speakers of the four distinct dialects. Because Ahtna villages are situated along or near Alaskan highways, many elders were able to participate. The culmination of the many interviews and meetings resulted in the establishment of an orthography, or writing system, of Ahtna and publication of the *Ahtna Noun Dictionary* in 1975. Only 300 copies were printed, explaining why so very few Ahtna households have copies on their bookshelves. Most Ahtna descendants are entirely unaware of its existence. This practical dictionary would not exist without Dr. Kari's contributions to our language.

During the following fifteen years or so, Dr. Kari continued his efforts with elders to increase the written vocabulary of our language. In 1990, the Alaska Native Language Center at the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF) published the 702 page *Ahtna Athabaskan Dictionary*, an astonishing scholarly record of a language which had no written form whatsoever less than a generation earlier. A complaint that I received often was that elders could not use the *Ahtna Athabaskan Dictionary*; such is its ultra-scholarly format, requiring a graduate degree in linguistics to decipher. I don't mean to degrade the scholarship. On the contrary, I respect it immeasurably. Professor Kari devoted most of his professional career to the task. The dictionary is certainly useful to linguists, but it was not as useful to the living people who helped create it. I remember particularly how discouraged were elders like Markle Pete and Ruth Johns, who tried to teach workshops through the University of Alaska Rural Extension, but were unable to use the dictionary as a teaching tool. For example, the dictionary entry for something as simple as "I sneezed" is: -nin'di xe#O+d+n+l+n+n, *ziic* (page 300). All those letters are linguistic symbols informing linguists (with graduate degrees) how the word is formed based on its position and usage in a sentence. Even I have no idea how to interpret them, though I have a small notion of the general purpose. The Ahtna word for "I sneezed" is simply *xestnelnen*, pronounced [hest-nelth-nen]. Similarly, the entry in the dictionary for the word "wring," as in "wring out a dishcloth" appears as: O+G+Ø+ggets' (suc), twist O (page 196). The word in Ahtna is simply *gget's* (similar to mittens: *gets*). Consider the Ahtna word for "to have a rash." Again, the dictionary is confusing, presenting the word as: ka#u+ko+n+gh+Ø+let (*u:gh or n mom*). The word is *ka'uknginilet*. All the linguistic symbols confused elders, who resorted to trying to teach

Ahtna with no resource whatsoever to guide them. Some individuals resorted to inventing inaccurate phonetic spellings, totally disregarding previous work at orthographic standardization and the painstaking labors of all those many dozens of elders from across Ahtna Country who worked tirelessly on the project for decades.

As before, too few copies of the dictionary were printed and distributed, and again, many Ahtna households were without copies. Today, only a handful of copies exist. It is out-of-print. You can't even find a used copy on the internet. I couldn't even convince the ANLC staff to photocopy one for me, even at my own expense! How can our language be saved when the institution who produced the resource hordes that resource? (Professor Kari recently informed me that the situation is soon to be remedied.) Regularly, I receive letters from Ahtna shareholders expressing their gratitude for making this dictionary freely available. This new *Ahtna Noun Dictionary and Pronunciation Guide* is a compilation and expansion of both of these previous works. Ahtna descendants and shareholders wanted a new kind of reference. They wanted a dictionary largely devoid of scholarly asides and tinkering which *clearly* illustrated how to spell and say our words. They didn't want the esoteric and cryptic linguistic symbols. They asked for something they could use! This dictionary was so popular that it was reprinted within one year of its initial 1998 publication.

When I began to compile this dictionary in late 1995, some 70-80 elders still spoke the language fluently (today, only about 20 elders speak Ahtna). None could write in it (recall, it had no written form up until roughly 1975, and most elders were educated almost a half a century earlier). Indeed, many Ahtna descendants born before the 1950s were educated at Bureau of Indian Affairs boarding schools, which prohibited speaking Native languages. Subsequently, many do not speak Ahtna but can read and write in English. Therefore, the challenge of this dictionary was to create an Ahtna language resource accessible to speakers, readers, and writers of English. It is not a perfect solution. Nothing substitutes for daily native use. People often ask me if public schools in Alaska offer studies in regional Native languages. The answer is yes and no. Some do. Some don't. In the fall of 1996, at the behest of Ahtna, Inc., I met with the superintendent of the local school district to discuss the option of offering a one-hour-a-week class in Ahtna, to be instructed by volunteering elders. His reply (and I quote): "We don't need that Indian *gobbledygook* in our schools." What chance does Ahtna have of surviving?

For thousands of years, our language has been transmitted from generation to generation by the simple act of speaking it, day in and day out, at the dinner table, in the steam bath, or in the fields while hunting or fishing. Our language is no longer spoken to our children on a daily basis. In fact, only a handful of elders speak it at all. We recognize this, and we mourn the loss. This dictionary, imperfect as it is, is only one step we are making in our effort to reclaim our traditional way of speaking so that our children and their children will recognize the beauty and magnificence that is the complex language of the Copper River Indians of Alaska.



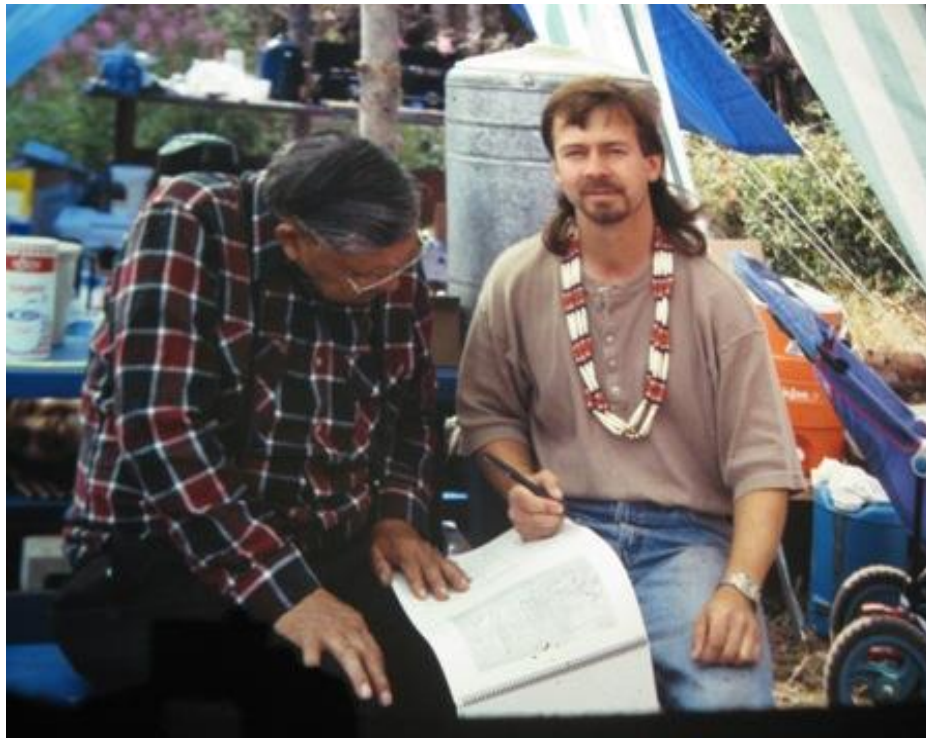
Editor John Smelcer with his Ahtna great aunt and great uncle,
Morrie and Joe Secondchief, at their cabin in Mendeltna (c. 1990).

Both taught John how to speak the Western dialect of Ahtna.

The following is a list of those individuals without whose help and encouragement this and previous dictionaries could not exist (any omissions are unintentional): Andy Brown, Mary Bell, Maggie Eskilida, Markle Ewan Sr., Martha Jackson, Katie John, Fred John Sr., Jim McKinley, Henry Peters, Fannie Shtienfield, Bob John, Bell Joe, Maggie Joe, Adam Sanford, Dick Secondchief, Joe Secondchief, Morrie Secondchief, Alfred Bell, Virginia Pete, Howard Sanford, Betty Tyrone, Nick Tyrone, Fred Ewan, Harding Ewan, Eileen Ewan, Oscar Ewan, Jim Tyone, Walter Charley, Mamie Charley, Rena Jacomet, Molly Billum, John Billum, Frank Billum, Frank Stickwan, Elsie Stickwan, Mary Walya Smelcer-Wood, Herb Smelcer, Walya Hobson, Ena Nickolai, Ruth Johns, Harry Johns Sr., Tenas Jack, Pete Ewan, Markle Pete, Sophie Lincoln, Ina Lincoln, Andrew Stickwan, Ruby Johns, Ruby Sinyon, Lillian Boston, Annie Ewan, Corky Ewan, Stella Ewan, Molly Galbreath, Alice Gene, Buster Gene, Bascille George, Nancy George, Jack John Justin, Cecilia Larson, Jeannie Maxim, Louise Mayo, Ben Neeley, Jane Nicholas, Stewart Nickolai, Jennie Peters, Frank Sanford, Huston Sanford, Kate Sanford, Johnny Shaginoff, Mary Shaginoff, Lilly Tansy, Jake Tansy, Andy Tyone, Annie Tyone, Betty Tyone,

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John E. Smelcer, Ph.D.



John Smelcer and Ahtna elder, Fred Ewan, at Culture Camp (c. July 1996)

AHTNA ORTHOGRAPHIC (WRITTEN) & PHONOLOGICAL (SOUND) SYSTEM

1. Ahtna consonants

Most of the sounds in Ahtna are also found in the English language. Most of the consonants in Ahtna have similar pronunciations in English, but there are a few exceptions. The following section illustrates how to pronounce basic Ahtna consonants and consonant combinations (digraphs). In the spring of 2011, with the help of linguist Daniel Puthawala, I incorporated the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) symbols so that linguists worldwide might be better able to pronounce our language. To learn more about IPA, I recommend browsing wikipedia's web entry on the topic. Any errors are entirely mine.

The symbol b represents a plain bilabial stop produced by interrupting the flow of breath with the lips. This is the same formation process used in English. Examples include *ben* (lake) [pron. ben] and *besiini* (owl) [pron. bess-see-nee]. Note: in some instances in Mentasta dialect, the b is replaced by an m (ex. *ben* becomes *men*). Its IPA symbol is /b/.

The symbol d represents a voiceless alveolar stop, produced by interrupting the flow of breath with the tip of the tongue touching above the upper front teeth. It sounds similar to the d in English. Some examples include *del* (red and also blood) [pron. dell], *dats'eni* (duck) [pron. dot-sen-ee], and *deniigi* (moose) [pron. den-nee-gee]. Its IPA symbol is /d/.

The consonant dl is a digraph, a symbol made up of two individual consonants which represent one sound. The sound represents a plain lateral affricative, in which the breath is interrupted with the tip of the tongue touching above the front teeth; air is then expelled out the sides of the tongue. There is no exact equivalent in the English language. Examples include *dluuni* (mouse) [pron. dloo-nee], *dlii* (ice) [pron. dlee], and *dligi* (squirrel) [pron. dlee-gee]. Its IPA symbol is /dl/.

The symbol dz is another digraph representing a plain alveopalatal affricative, produced by interrupting the breath with the blade of the tongue against the ridge above the upper teeth and then releasing the air. Traditionally, the d and z are distinctly heard, but recently the sound is merging into one similar to the English "j" sound, such as John or Jack. It almost sounds like a cross between the final sound in the English words *adds* and *badge*. Ahtna examples include *dzen* (muskrat) [pron. jen] and *dzaen* (day) [pron. jan]. Its IPA symbol is /dʒ/.

The consonant symbol g represents a plain velar stop, a short sound produced by interrupting the flow of the breath with the back part of the hard palate. Historically, it sounds

like an English k (as in *kite*), but because of recent merging between languages, it sounds like a cross between an English g and k. Examples include *giligak* (book or paper) [pron. gill-ee-gak] and *gabiin* (stove) [pron. ga-bean]. Its IPA symbol is /g/. Indeed, /g/ and /k/ are a voiced/voiceless pair and thus closely phonetically related.

The digraph gg has no English equivalent. It is somewhat similar to the Ahtna g sound, but it is pronounced further back in the throat and is sustained longer. Linguistics express this longer duration with a diacritic [:]. The tongue remains loose, touching nothing. The correct glottural sound is produced in the back of the throat around the Adam's apple. Examples include *ggax* (rabbit) [pron. gok], *ggaec* (shirt) [pron. gike], and *ggaay* (little) [pron. guy]. Its IPA symbol is /G:/.

The consonant t represents a voiceless aspirated alveolar stop much like the English “t” sound. Ahtna examples include *taa'i* (three) [pron. taw-kee], *ten* (ice) [pron. ten], and *tandzaey* (island) [pron. tan-jie]. Its IPA symbol is /t^h/.

The digraph tl represents an aspirated lateral affricative. Because of recent language merging, it has become a cross between a tl sound and the English kl sound as in *class*. There is no true English equivalent. Some Ahtna examples include *tl'ogh* (green) [pron. tloe or kloe] and *tlagh* (lard) [pron. tlaw]. Consider, too, the word for Copper Center, *Tl'aticae'e* (lit. “Mouth of Klutina River”) [pron. Kloo-tee-kaw]. The word *Tlingit* from the neighboring coastal language/culture is another example, pronounced with an initial /k/ sound, instead of a /t/ sound. Its IPA symbol is /tl/.

The digraphic symbol ts is a common Ahtna consonant representing a voiceless aspirated alveopalatal affricative. It is produced when the blade of the tongue touches the roof of the mouth followed by a release of air. It is a cross between the final sound in the English words *cats* and *patch* or the initial sound in *church* or *change*. Again, recent linguistic merging is causing the ch sound to become the most commonly accepted use of the digraph. IPA uses the symbol [tʃ] to denote the ch sound, but Ahtna is maintaining the use of the ts digraph, mostly out of a historic sense. Ahtna examples include *tsa'* (beaver) [pron. chaw], *tsin'aen* (thanks) [pron. chin-nen], *tseles* (ground squirrel) [pron. chell-ess], *tsaey* (tea) [pron. chie], and *Tsisyu* (Paint Clan) [pron. shish-you]. However, in many cases, the ts digraph sounds very different if the /ts/ is intermediate, that is, appearing in the middle of the word, as in the place name *Taltsogh Na'* (Tulsona Creek) [pron. Tal-so-na]. In such a case, the IPA symbol is /ts/. It is my opinion that the pronunciation has shifted since around the 1950s to sound like the current usage of the ch sound because it is more familiar-sounding to speakers raised only in the English language. Generally, especially if occurring in the initial position, its IPA symbol is /tʃ/.

The symbol c is a voiceless aspirated velar stop similar to the hard English k or c as in such words as *cat*, *cut*, and *copper*. Ahtna examples of initial sounds include *ciit* (young man or boy) [pron. keeth] and *c'antel'aayi* (river slough) [pron. kan-tell-law-yee]. Other words include *decen*

(stick or wood) [pron. deh-ken]. In some cases, the c can be a ch sound as in *cots'* (feather) [pron. chotes] and *t'aaycogh* (mallard duck) [pron. tie-choe]. Note: in Alutiiq, Ahtna's neighboring language to the south, the c always represents a ch sound as in *cutaq* (ear) [pron. choo-duk] or *cisquq* (knee) [pron. chis-kuk]. The International Phonetic Alphabet represents this sound with the symbol [tʃ]. For the most part, the Ahtna /c/ and /k/ sounds could be lumped together. Its IPA symbol is /q/ though it seems to be merging with /k/.

The consonant symbol k is a voiceless aspirated back velar (or uvular) stop. It is produced by the back of the tongue touching against the soft palate. In some other Alaskan Native languages (Alutiiq for example) this sound is written as a q. Ahtna examples include *kayax* (village) [pron. kie-yok] and *konts'agi* (seven) [pron. kont-saw-gee]. Its IPA symbol is /k/.

The symbol l represents the voiced lateral approximate, similar to the /l/ sound in the English words *leap* or *log*. Examples in Ahtna include *lacbeh* (ptarmigan) [pron. lock-beh], *hwlazaan* (ten) [pron. la-zawn], and in the Mentasta dialect *lazen* (Russian) [pron. law-zen-ee]. Its IPA symbol is /l/.

The consonant z represents a voiced alveopalatal fricative. Allophones of this phoneme include the English z as in *zebra* and the z sound in *vision*. Ahtna examples include *hez* (pus) [pron. hezz] and *zes* (skin) [pron. zess]. Its IPA symbol is /z/.

The symbol y represents the voiced palatal approximate. It is pronounced with less friction than most other fricatives and is similar to the “y” sound as in the English words *yes* and *you*. Ahtna examples include *yaa* (sky) [pron. yaw] and *yasbaay* (silvertip grizzly) [pron. yass-by-ee]. Its IPA symbol is /ɣ/.

The digraph gh represents the voiceless pharyngeal fricative. It has no English equivalent and cannot easily be explained to English speakers. In some instances it is similar to the wh sound in English as in the Ahtna word *ughu'* (teeth) [pron. oo-woo]. Its IPA symbol is /ħw/.

The digraph hw represents a voiceless labiovelar glottal fricative. It is similar to the Ahtna h (see below) but with a rounding of the lips. It occurs only immediately before a consonant. It has no English equivalent and it is becoming increasingly silent. Some Ahtna examples include *hwnax* (house) [pron. who-nok; more recently abbreviated to simply: nok] and *hwyaa* (wise or wisdom) [pron. who-yaw], also in the Ahtna names of Mt. Sanford and Mt. Drum. Note: in both cases, the hw sound is barely audible to even an astute listener. Although it has no contemporary English equivalent nowadays, over a thousand years ago many words in Old English (OE) used the exact sound. Examples include *hwær* (where), *hwæt* (what), and *hwæl* (whale). Its IPA symbol is /hw/.

The symbol ł is the only non-standard symbol in the Ahtna alphabet, represented as a voiceless lateral fricative called the “Slashed L.” To produce the sound, the tip of the tongue is set softly behind the back of the upper front teeth while air is expelled out the sides. There is no

English equivalent. The closest English equivalent would be the *trigraph* (three consonants together) *thl*. Ahtna examples include *lic'ae* (dog) [pron. thlee-ka], *luk'ae* (salmon) [pron. thloo-ka], *lookasi* (the hunting nickname for a martin) [pron. thloo-ka-see], and *loodaxi* (car/automobile) [pron. thloo-da-kee]. Its IPA symbol is /x/ or possibly /ɬ/.

The symbol s is similar to the English s as in *sit* or *sister*. It is a voiceless alveopalatal fricative. Ahtna examples include *sii* (me or I) [pron. see] and *sez* (belt) [pron. sez]. Its IPA symbol is /s/.

The rare digraph yh only occurs in three Mentasta dialect words: *deyh* (spruce grouse) [pron. dee], *diinyh* (redpoll) [pron. deen], and *ts'eyh* (birch canoe) [pron. uncertain]. It has no English equivalent. It has more in common with its neighbors, Tanacross and Upper Tanana.

The consonant x represents a voiceless back velar or uvular stop (or fricative). There is no real comparable English equivalent and the sound sometimes changes because of letter position. For example, in the Ahtna word *xax* (goose; possibly an onomatopoeia; i.e. a word formation that closely imitates the sound it represents) the first x sounds like an English h, while the final x sounds like a k. Thus, the Ahtna pronunciation of goose [hok] and *hwnax* (house) [pron. nok]. This is true in most instances.

The symbol h represents a voiceless glottal fricative made in the back of the throat (as in the English h sound). It is commonly found after a consonant, but occurs rarely before a vowel. Some Ahtna examples include *udzih* (caribou) [pron. yoo-jee] and *lasgih* (chewing tobacco) [pron. loss-gee; sometimes loz-gee]. Its IPA symbol is /h/.

The symbol m is used almost entirely in Mentasta Ahtna dialect. It is a bilabial nasal made by the release of air through the nasal passage. It is similar to the m in English. One of the only Central or Lower Ahtna uses of this sound is in the word *demba* (checkers) [pron. dem-ba]. Mentasta use includes such words as *men* (lake) [pron. men] and *mentsiis* (nose) [pron. men-chees] whereas other Ahtna dialects say *ben* and *bentsiis*. Its IPA symbol is /m/.

The alveolar nasal consonant n is more common than the m. It is similar to the English n as in *can*, *fan*, *neighbor* or *night*. Ahtna examples include *nel'ii* (black bear) [pron. nell-ee] and *nadosi* (ant) [pron. naw-doe-see]. Its IPA symbol is /n/.

The digraph ng is a back velar nasal similar to the English word *ring* or *thing*. It occurs medial (in the middle of) a word or at the end; never at the beginning. Ahtna examples include *'engii* (taboo) [pron. en-gee] and *xonahang* (goodbye) [pron. hoe-naw-hong]. Its IPA symbol is [ŋ].

Note: Some consonants use glottalized stops which are produced like plain stops, except that they have a glottal release in which the air is temporarily stopped in the larynx and then released again with a “popping” effect. Glottalized stops are denoted by the use of an apostrophe

(^h) in combination with the consonant symbol. Glottalized stopped symbols include t^h, tl^h, ts^h, c^h, n^h, and k^h and are used in such words as *kon^h* (fire) [pron. kon]. There is no English equivalent. Its IPA symbol is /ʔ/.

2. Ahtna Vowels

The Ahtna language includes ten vowels: five short vowels and five long or full vowels (two letters forming one unique and distinct sound). There are some minor pronunciation variations among Ahtna regional dialects, especially in Mentasta. Remember that vowel length is a quantitative matter, which depends on how long you hold the vowel, not on differences of where you pronounce it in the mouth as in consonants.

The vowel digraph ii represents a high front long vowel similar to the ee sound in the English words *bee*, *knee*, and *see*. Ahtna examples include *dlii* (ice) [pron. dlee], *ciisi* (fish net) [pron. kee-see] and *dliigi* (squirrel) [pron. dlee-gee]. Its IPA symbol is /i:/.

The short vowel symbol i represents a high front short vowel sound similar to the soft i in such English words as *fit* and *pit*. Ahtna examples include *lic^hae* (dog) [pron. thlik-ah] and *Tsisyu* (Paint Clan) [pron. shish-you]. As a bound allophone, in some cases when a word ends in i, the sound is similar to the ii sound previously discussed. An example is *tsuzaegi* (comb) [pron. chew-zag-ee] and *tsaani* (grizzly bear) [pron. chaw-nee]. Its IPA symbol is /I/ and /i/ respectively.

The long vowel ae represents a low front long vowel sound similar to the vowel sound in the English words *cat* and *sad*. Ahtna examples include *baet* (lake trout) [pron. bat] and *saet* (box) [pron. sath, like *math*]. Its IPA symbol is /æ/. However, in some cases, if the ae is followed by a y, the sound is similar to the English long /a/ as in *bay*. Ahtna examples include *nalbaey* (seagull) [pron. nall-bay], in which case the IPA symbol is /æ i/.

The symbol e represents a mid front short vowel, similar to the English e sound in words like *met* and *pet*. It is the most common vowel sound in the Ahtna language. Examples include *nen^h* (land) [pron. nen] and *zes* (skin) (pron. zess). Its IPA symbol is /3/.

The full or long vowel uu represents a high back rounded long vowel somewhat like the English oo as in *boot*. In some instances it is more of a cross between the English oo sound and the vowel sound in the word *you*. Ahtna examples include *k'uun* (fish eggs) [pron. koon] and

nuuni (porcupine) [pron. noo-nee] or [pron. new-nee], and *gguux* (insect) [pron. goo]. Its IPA symbol is /u:/.

The symbol u represents a high back rounded short vowel akin to the soft u sound in English *hook*, *look*, or *put*. An Ahtna example is *dunax* (fish spear-head) [pron. duh-nok]. Its IPA symbol is /ʊ/.

The digraph oo represents a mid back rounded long vowel similar to the o sound in the English word *stove*. It is increasingly merging with the oo sound previously discussed. It is not very common, occurring only in a few loanwords and rare verb prefixes. An Ahtna example is *loodaxi* (car) [pron. thlo-daw-kee] or [pron. thloo-daw-kee]. Its IPA symbol is /oo:/.

The symbol o is a short vowel represented as a mid back rounded short vowel similar to the o in English *for*. One Ahtna example is *tl'ogh* (green) [pron. tloe] or [pron. kloe]. Its IPA symbol is /oo/.

The digraph aa represents a low back long vowel similar to English *saw*, *law*, *paw*, or *cot*. Ahtna examples include *hwlaasaan* (ten) [pron. la-zawn], *'aas* (snowshoes) [pron. oss], and *tsaa* (cache) [pron. chaw]. Its IPA symbol is /a:/. However, in some cases, if a /y/ follows, the sound is similar to the English long “I”. As a bound dipthong, this usage is restricted to terminal positions (i.e. at the end of a word). Ahtna examples include *sc'enggaay* (baby) [pron. sken-guy-ee] and *naghaay* (frog) [pron. na-guy-ee]. In such cases, the IPA symbol is /ai/.

The symbol a represents the low central short vowel similar to the a in English *caught* and *cough*, but it is increasingly merged with the aa sound as in such Ahtna words as *k'a* (gun) [pron. ka] and *nadaeggi* (two) [pron. na-da-gee]. Its IPA symbol is /ʌ/.

Table 1 (on following page) displays the forty-two Ahtna sounds classified according to their places and manners of articulation (© 1990 James Kari; used with permission):

Table 1. The Ahtna Sound System

Consonants

Manner of Articulation	Place of Articulation						
	Labial	Alveolar	Lateral	Alveo- Palatal	Front Velar	Back Velar	Glottal
Stops							
plain	b	d	dl	dz	g	gg	'
aspirated	p	t	tl	ts	c	k	
glottalized		t'	tl'	ts'	c'	k'	
Fricatives							
voiced	v		l	z	y	gh	
voiceless	hw		l	s	yh	x	h
Nasals	m	n			ng		

Vowels

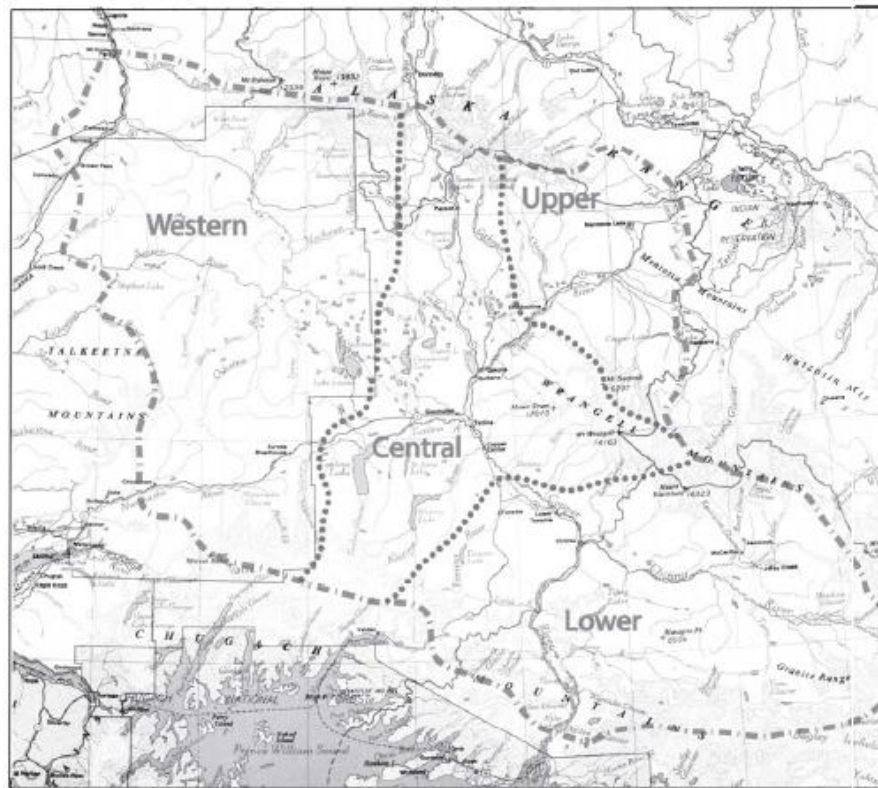
	long		short	
	front	back	front	back
high	ii	uu	i	u
mid		oo	e	o
low	ae	aa	a	

3. The Range of Ahtna Dialects

The traditional range of the Ahtna People is along the many tributaries of the Copper River. It is encompassed by mountain ranges, lakes, glaciers, and broad forested flood plains, and it is larger than many smaller American states. Archaeologists suggest that Ahtna may have lived here for 2,000 years or longer. Evidence in the Tangle Lakes Archaeological District suggests much longer. The Ahtna language itself is derived from a proto-Athabaskan language which may have first evolved as long as 5,000 to 10,000 years ago as humans migrated from Eurasia into The New World via the exposed Bering Sea floor called Beringia, which is also called The Bering Land Bridge, though it was not a bridge by any means. Portions of the exposed land, mostly grasslands, was well over a hundred miles across. Numerous indigenous Native American languages are part of this linguistic family. Navajo, for instance, shares many linguistic similarities to Ahtna. Like all languages, the Ahtna vocabulary is dynamic. It has changed throughout history, and it is changing even today. In the past hundred years, over 100 words have joined the Ahtna vocabulary canon due largely to Euro-American influences. Early contact with Russians left us many Russian loanwords, and more recent contact has given the language

even more new words, many from English. A few words are even borrowed from other Alaska Native Peoples such as Tlingit and Alutiiq (sometimes called Eskimo, though Alutiiq people do not necessarily identify themselves as Eskimo).

Throughout this dictionary, readers will note a C, L, W, U, or M after most Ahtna words, representing the distinct dialectal ranges of the Ahtna language: Central, Lower, Western, Mentasta (also called Upper Ahtna). My great aunt, Morrie Secondchief and her husband, Joe Secondchief, were the last speakers of the Western (Mendeltna area) dialect. Morrie died in May 1999. Joe died in 1994. I participated in both their potlatches in Copper Center and helped to dig their graves.



Ahtna's four distinct dialects (1990, James Kari; note Prince William Sound)

As I did with the *Alutiiq Noun Dictionary* (2010), the *Ahtna Noun Dictionary* is organized by category instead of alphabetically. The reason for this is simple. At the time, no other tribal member could read or write in Ahtna in any degree of fluency. Therefore, since no one else would know how to spell *ts'abaeli* (white spruce tree), how would they know *where* to look for it in an alphabetically-ordered dictionary? The solution was easy enough: arrange the dictionary by major categories such as plants, animals, birds, insects, or numbers so that users could turn to the section on plants and look for the word for white spruce tree.

Syntax Structure

Note: I do not feel knowledgeable enough in linguistics to discuss syntax with assuredness. But I will try to share what I believe to be accurate, beginning with modifying nouns.

Modifying a Noun:

In English, as in many languages, a word that modifies a noun usually goes *before* the word it modifies, as in the sentence, “The black dog barked at me.” The adjective “black” modifies the noun “dog.” Indeed, in English, we can have a series of adjectives such as in the title of one of my favorite children’s books: *Clifford, The Big, Red Dog*. But in Ahtna, modifiers (adjectives, etc.) generally go *after* the noun it modifies, as in the word for Raven (the diety, trickster figure), which in Ahtna is called *Saghani Ggaay* (literally “Little Raven”). *Saghani* is a noun for the word for the species of raven (*Corax corax*), while *ggaay* means “little or small.” Thus, the syntax is actually expressed as “Raven little.” Consider other words such as *nen ten*, the word for permafrost (literally “frozen ground”). The word *nen* means “land or ground”; the modifier *ten* means “frozen.” Thus, the syntax is “Land frozen.” Other examples include the word for Denali/Mt. McKinley, which is *Dghelaay Ce’e* (literally “Big Mountain”). The word *dghelaay* means “mountain,” while *ce’e* means “big, biggest, or large.” Thus, the syntax is “Mountain Biggest.” Another example using *ce’e* is the place name for Lake Susitna, which is *Ben Ce’e* (literally “Big Lake”). In this case, the noun *ben* is a general term meaning “lake” modified by the word for “big or large.”

Verb Usage:

Generally, in Ahtna, the verb goes after the noun, e.g. “I have a house” is *Hwnax il’aan*. Also, in this example: “I have land” is *Nen’ il’aan*.

COMPARATIVE LINGUISTICS

Several other Alaska Native languages border Ahtna, including Upper Tanana and Tanacross to the north, Dena'ina to the west, and Tlingit and Eyak to the south. In 2008, Eyak became extinct as no other living Native person can speak that language fluently. Excluding Eyak, the other three neighboring languages are also members of the Diné language family, of which the cultures are generally called Athabaskan (sometimes spelled *Athabaskan*). Historically, these differing cultural groups could understand one another enough to trade goods. Ahtna, for example, often traded copper and dentalia (a freshwater shell used in commerce and jewelry) with its neighbors. Tlingit especially prized Ahtna's copper, which they used to make *tinnah*, a symbol of great value. This small chapter compares some similarities and dissimilarities between Ahtna and its two Athabaskan neighbors to the north: Upper Tanana and Tanacross. The addition of Dena'ina is forthcoming. Note the specialized orthographic symbols, which are not used in Ahtna (ê, î, â, û, á, ï, ö, ã, é, ɥ, sh). The use of these symbols is confusing. I think they are used because different linguists working with different groups brought their own ideas to the table, instead of collaborating with linguists who had already worked with neighboring languages to foster standardization and homogeny.

English	Ahtna	Tanacross	U. Tanana
Wolverine	nałtsiis	náhtsjiith	
Caribou	udzih	wudzih	bedzeyh
Rabbit	ggax	gah	gwx
Red Fox	naggets'i	náagêddh	
Beaver	tsa'	tsá'	tso'
Muskrat	dzen	dzenh	dzenh
Lynx	niduuyi	niidûuy	niduuy
Wolf	tikaani	tiikâan	
Dall sheep	debae	demee	deba
Porcupine	nuuni	ts'iit	

English	Ahtna	Tanacross	U. Tanana
Bear (in general)	sos	shos	sresr
[in Ahtna, a cinnamon phase black bear is called: <i>sos tsiic</i> ; a black bear is: <i>nel'ii</i>]			
Grizzly Bear	tsaani	ch'eliitthögh'	
Moose	denigii	dendîig	denigi
Cow Moose	deyaazi	des <u>h</u> aaz	
Mouse	dluuni	teltsêdz	deltsedza
Marten	tsuugi		tsugi
Squirrel	dliigi	dlêg	dlega
Mink	tehts'uuts'i	tehts'ųqdz	
Least Weasel	cuuy	nihmaay	chesrga
Salmon	łuk'ae	łuk'a	łuk'a
Duck	dats'eni		dets'eni
Raven	dotson'		dotron'
[in Ahtna more commonly: <i>saghani</i>]			
Chickadee	ts'idzeggaak		ts'edzegaga
[more precisely, this Ahtna word refers to a chickadee's call/song]			
Chief	kaskae		kwska
Fire	kon'		kwn'
Land	nen	nen'	nen'
Smoke	łet	łet	łet
Water	tuu	tu	tu
Pack	xal		xal

Dog	lick'ae		liga
Lake	ben	ben	benh

[The word for *lake* in Gwich'in is *van*, the y pron. similar to *ben*]

Sources:

Arnold, Irene. *Núun Dinahtlăa': The Tanacross Animals Book*. Fairbanks: Alaska Native Language Center, 2008. (23 pages)

Kari, James. *Lower Tanana Athabaskan*. Fairbanks: Alaska Native Language Center, 1991. (27 pages)

AHTNA PLACE NAMES

In the perhaps thousands of years that Ahtna People have lived in Copper River country, they have named almost every place—every creek, hill, mountain, river, pond, and lake. Such a list is a book all by itself. Indeed, James Kari has compiled an extensive list of over 2,000 ethnogeographic Ahtna terms. The following list is a sampling of some common Ahtna place names with pronunciation.

Copper River	<i>'Atna'tuu</i> <i>Ts'itu'</i>	[Aht-na-to] [chit-to]
Mentasta	<i>Mendaesde</i> (note: <i>men</i> means “lake” in Upper Ahtna, whereas <i>ben</i> means “lake” in other regional dialects)	[Men-das-da]
Slana	<i>Stl'ana'</i>	[Stlaw-na]
Batzulnetas	<i>Nataelde</i>	[Na-tath-da]
Suslota	<i>Sasluu'na'</i>	[Sas-loo-na]
Nabesna	<i>Nabaesna'</i>	[Nab-es-na]
Chisana	<i>Tsetsaan' Na'</i>	[Chets-ah-na]
Chistochina	<i>Tsiistl'edze' Na'</i>	[Chist-eh-jen-na]
Gakona	<i>Ggax Kuna'</i>	[Gok-koh-na]
Gulkana	<i>C'ulc'e Na'</i>	[Kul-ken-na]
Dry Creek Village	<i>Latsibese'caegge</i>	[La-chee-bess- kag-eh]
Glennallen	<i>Ciisik'e Na'</i>	[Kee-sik-ken-na]
Mendeltna	<i>Bendil Na'</i> (lit. “creek runs between two lakes”)	[Ben-deel-na]
Cantwell	<i>Yidateni Na'</i>	[Yee-dat-en-ee-na]
Valdez Creek Village	<i>C'ilaan Na'</i>	[Kee-lon-na]

Knik	<i>C'enacet Na'</i>	[Ken-ak-et-na]
Tazlina River	<i>Tezdlen Na'</i> (lit. "Swift Water River")	[Tez-dlen-na]
Tazlina Lake	<i>Bendilbene'</i> (lit. "lake between the lakes")	[Ben-deel-ben-eh]
Copper Center	<i>Tl'aticae'e</i> (lit. "Mouth of Klutina River")	[Kloo-tee-kaw]
Wood Camp	<i>T'aghes Tah</i>	[Taw-wes-taw]
Kenny Lake area	<i>Dzen Kulaende</i> (lit. "muskrat place")	[Jen Koo-land-eh]
Tonsina River	<i>Kentsii Na'</i>	[Ken-chee-na]
Chitina	<i>Tsedi Na'</i>	[Ched-ee-na]
Taral	<i>Taghaelden</i>	[Taw-weh-de]
Strelna	<i>Staghaelna'</i>	[Sta-whale-na]
Kotsina	<i>K'ats'i Na'</i>	[Kot-see-na]
Mt. Drum	<i>Hwdaandi K'elt'aeni</i> (possibly from <i>daan</i> , "hole, crater")	[Wha-don-dee Kelth-taw-nee]
Mt. Sanford	<i>Hwdinndi K'elt'aeni</i> (possibly from <i>diin</i> , "to see" or "know")	[Wha-deen-dee Kelth-taw-nee]
Mr. Wrangell	<i>Uk'eledi</i>	[Kelth-ed-ee] [Oo-kelth-ed-ee]
Mr. Blackburn	<i>K'ats'i Tl'aadi</i>	[Kat-sit-klah-dee]
Mt. McKinley/Denali	<i>Dghelaayce'e</i> (ce'e means "large or big")	[Gall-eye-kek-eh]
Klutina River	<i>Tl'atii Na'</i> (lit. "Undercurrent River")	[Klaw-tee-na]
Klutina Lake	<i>Tl'atibene'</i>	[Klaw-tee-ben-eh]

Willow Lake	<i>Bentsiibene'</i>	[Ben-chees-ben-eh]
Willow Mountain	<i>Tahteni</i>	[Taw-ten-ee]
Valdez Arm, Inlet	<i>Tatitl'aa</i>	[Ta-teet-law]
Talkeetna Mountains	<i>Dghelaay tahwt'aene</i>	[Gall-eye-taw-tan]
Talkeetna River	<i>Taa'i Na'</i> (lit. "Three Rivers": <i>taa'i</i> = "three"; <i>Na'</i> = "river") (also) <i>I'delcuut Na'</i>	[Taw-kee-na] [Ee-dell-kute-na]
Susitna Lake	<i>Ben Ce'e</i> (ce'e means "large or big")	[Ben Kek-eh]
Susitna River	<i>Sasut Na'</i>	[Sus-oot-na]
Nelchina River	<i>Xaz Ghae Na'</i>	[Haz-gay-na]
Delta River	<i>Saas Na'</i>	[Soss-na]
St. Anne Lake	<i>Ts'iisi Bene'</i> ("ts'iisi" means "glare ice")	[Chee-see Ben-eh]
Lake Louise	<i>Sasnuu' Bene'</i>	[Sass-new Ben-eh]
Tulsona Creek	<i>Taltsogh Na'</i> (lit. "yellow creek" or "yellowish-tan creek")	[tal-so-na]
Jack River (near Cantwell)	<i>Yidateni Na'</i>	[Yee-dot-ten-ee-na]
McClaren River (Tangle Lakes region)	<i>Ciidze' Na'</i>	[kee-jay-na]
Suslota Creek	<i>Sasluugge' Na'</i>	[sos-loo-geh-na]

To see Google Earth maps with Ahtna Place names, go to www.johnsmelcer.com
click on dictionaries and then Ahtna Maps

ANIMALS

In Ahtna culture, many animals, especially those that are hunted or trapped for food or fur, have two names: a common name and a hunting name. The common name is used in everyday conversation, as in “Did you see the lynx running across the meadow?” or “I saw a wolverine chasing a rabbit.” But a different name was used when a hunter was actually in the woods hunting or trapping. For instance, whereas a lynx is commonly called *niduuy* [pron. nee-do-yee], it is called *uk’e nesii* [oo-keh ness-ee] while actively engaged in hunting or trapping. This special usage may reflect the respect a hunter has for the animal. Another example includes the Ahtna word for beaver. Commonly, they are called *tsa’* [pron. chaw], but its hunting name is *tehnuune’* [pron. teh-noon-eh], which means, “porcupine that swims under water” (you can see the root word for porcupine, *nuuni*, and *tuu*, the word for water).

animals (general term)	<i>kohnesi</i> (C, L) <i>nunyae</i> (W)	[koe-ness-ee] [noon-ya]
bat (<i>Myotis lucifugus</i>)	<i>xelggaay</i> (C, L) <i>xelggaagga’</i> (M)	[keth-guy] [keth-guy-ga]
bear (general term) (<i>ursidae</i>)	<i>sos</i>	[sos]
bear cub	<i>c’gaaya</i>	[kay-guy-ah]
black bear (<i>Ursus americanus</i>)	<i>nel’ii</i>	[nell-ee]
cinnamon phase	<i>sos tsiic</i>	[sos cheek]
grizzly bear (<i>Ursus arctos</i>)	<i>tsaani</i> (lit. “smells like feces”)	[chaw-nee]
coastal brown bear	<i>natu’ tsaane’</i>	[nat-oo chawn]
bear nickname	<i>nunyae</i>	[noon-ya]
silver tip grizzly	<i>yasbaay</i> (C, L) <i>yasbedah</i> (M)	[yass-bay-ee] [yass-beh-da]
beaver (<i>Castor canadensis</i>)	<i>tsa’</i>	[chaw]
beaver; hunting name	<i>tehnuune’</i> (C)	[teh-noon-eh]

beaver pond	<i>tša'ben</i> (C, L) <i>tša' bene'</i> (M)	[chaw ben] [chaw ben-eh]
beaver skin	<i>tša' zes</i>	[chaw zess]
small beaver	<i>tša' c'ecuudi</i>	[chaw kek-oo-dee]
medium beaver	<i>tša' kaghaxi</i> (C, M)	[chaw kay-ya-kee]
large beaver	<i>tša' c'ecoghe'</i>	[chaw kek-o-way]
beaver dam	<i>tša' hwtsiile'</i> <i>tša' kotsiil'</i> (M)	[chaw cheel] [chaw koe-cheel]
beaver lodge	<i>tša' kaen'</i> (C, L)	[chaw kan]
caribou (<i>Rangifer arcticus</i>)	<i>udzih</i> (C, M) <i>ghenaayi</i> (W) <i>anaay</i> (L)	[you-jee] [gen-nay-yee] [ah-nay]
baby caribou; calf	<i>tšaali ggaay</i> (also pron.)	[cheth-ee guy] [chath-ee guy]
young male caribou	<i>uk'os c'ets'edi</i>	[oo-kos ket-ched- ee]
medium- sized bull	<i>dak'ali</i> (C, L) <i>dek'ali</i> (M)	[dack-all-ee] [deck-all-ee]
lead caribou, bull (<i>kaskae'</i> means “Chief”)	<i>udzih kaskae'</i>	[you-jee kass-ka]
bull caribou	<i>udzih cox</i>	[you-jee choe]
fox (general term)	<i>naggets'i</i>	[nag-get-see]
red fox (<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>)	<i>nunyeggaay</i> (C, L) <i>ninyuggaay</i> (W)	[noon-yeh-guy] [nin-yuh-guy]
light red fox	<i>delk'ali</i>	[dell-kall-ee]
nickname in myths	<i>ciil' hwyaa</i>	[keeth who-yah]
silver fox	<i>delt'uuts'i</i>	[dell-toots-ee]

mountain goat (<i>Oreamnos americanus</i>)	<i>sbaay</i>	[sbay]
lynx (<i>Lynx canadensis</i>)	<i>niduuyi</i> (also pron.)	[nee-do-yee] [nee-do-ee]
lynx; hunting name	<i>uk'e nesii</i>	[oo-keh ness-ee]
small lynx	<i>c'ecuude'</i> (M)	[kek-oo-day]
marmot, whistler (<i>Marmota caligata</i>)	<i>kuyxi</i> (C, L) <i>nadaey</i> (M) <i>c'udelyesi</i> (W)	[kue-hee] [na-day] [kue-deth yes-see]
marten (<i>Martes americana</i>)	<i>tsuugi</i> (C, L) <i>tsuuc</i> (M)	[chew-gee] [chewk]
dark martin	<i>lt'uuts'i</i> (C, L)	[too-chew-see]
marten; hunting name	<i>lootkasi</i> (C, L) <i>netetkosi</i> (M)	[thloot-kass-ee] [net-et-koss-ee]
mink (<i>Mustela vision</i>)	<i>tehts'uuts'i</i>	[teh-choots-see]
moose (general term) (<i>Alces alces</i>)	<i>deniigi</i> (C, L) <i>deniici</i> (M)	[den-nee-gee] [den-nee-kee]
cow; female moose	<i>deyaazi</i>	[day-yozz-ee]
bull moose	<i>nicuuni</i> (C, L, M) <i>c'eyiidze'</i> (W)	[nik-kue-nee] [kay-yee-jay]
calf moose	<i>i'detsiige'</i> (C, L)	[kay-det-chee-geh]
moose hide; skin	<i>deniigi zes</i>	[de-neeg-ee zes]
one-or-two year old bull moose	<i>ciilggezi</i> (lit. "young man moose"; spike or spike-fork bull moose)	[keeth-gezz-ee]
yearling cow moose	<i>caltaey</i> (M?)	[kal-tay]
mouse (<i>Cricetidae</i>)	<i>dluuni</i>	[dloo-nee]

muskrat (<i>Ondatra zibethicus</i>)	<i>dzen</i>	[jen]
land otter (<i>Lutra canadensis</i>)	<i>tahwt'aey</i>	[tawt-kay]
sea otter	<i>tsicogh</i>	[chee-koe]
pika; mountain rabbit (<i>Ochotona collaris</i>)	<i>k'e'i</i> (C, L) <i>k'egi</i> (M) <i>tseziltahi</i> (W)	[keh-ee] [keg-gee] [chez-ith-taw-he]
porcupine (<i>Erethizon dorsatum</i>)	<i>nuuni</i>	[new-nee]
porcupine quill	<i>c'ox</i>	[k-oh]
porcupine hunting name	<i>neghadiye</i>	[neh-wa-dee-yeh]
rabbit (<i>Lepus americanus</i>)	<i>ggax</i> (also pron.)	[gak] [gok]
rabbit in summer	<i>ggax delzeni</i>	[gak dell-ze-nee]
rabbit drive	<i>nuu</i>	[new]
rabbit skin; fur	<i>ggax zes</i>	[gak zes]
mountain; dall sheep (<i>Ovis dalli</i>)	<i>debae</i>	[deh-bah]
ram; male	<i>sos yaane'</i> (C, L) <i>sos yaann'</i> (M)	[ses yah-neh] [sos yawn]
ewe; female	<i>c'edzedzi</i> (C, L)	[ked-jed-zee]
sheep salt lick	<i>debae naa'</i>	[deh-bay na]
shrew (<i>Sorex sp.</i>)	<i>hudalkayi</i> (C) <i>hudaldzeli</i> (L) <i>tsudahkeyi</i> (M)	[koo-da-kay-yee]
arctic ground squirrel (<i>Citellus parryi</i>)	<i>tseles</i>	[chell-ess]

red squirrel (<i>Tamiasciurus hudsonicus</i>)	<i>dligi</i> (C) <i>delduudi</i> (W) <i>deltsele</i> (M)	[dlee-gee] [dell-do-dee] [dell-cheth-ee]
squirrel's nest; hole	<i>dligi ta'</i>	[dlee-gee taw]

seal (species unspecific)	<i>kaeygg'yux</i> (L)	[kige-yuk]
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fur seal (*Callorhinus sp.*)

harbor seal (*Phoca vitulina*)

Note: In the fall of 2003, I explored the Copper River from Cordova northward into Lower Ahtna Country with the president of the Native Village of Eyak. As far inland as Miles Glacier, we saw seals swimming in the river, ostensibly following the schools of spawning salmon. I'm certain Ahtna hunters in the past harvested such a resource for its luxurious fur and meat, but it appears the word has been lost. If the Ahtna word for *seal* was a loanword from neighboring Alutiiq, which is likely, then it might have been something like *qaigyaq* (pron. kige-yuk). [Kari lists seal as *kasighil'aayi*, lit. "The one whose head sticks up (from the water)."]

weasel; ermine (<i>Mustela erminea</i>)	<i>ceghaznae</i> (C, L) <i>nihbaay</i> (M)	[kay-gozz-na] [nih-buy]
least weasel (<i>Mustela rixosa</i>)	<i>cuuy</i>	[kue-ee]
whale (general term)	<i>telaani</i>	[teth-law-nee]
wolf (general term) (<i>Canis lupus</i>)	<i>tikaani</i> (C, L) <i>tikaandi</i> (W)	[tik-on-ee] [tik-on-dee]
wolf nickname	<i>nunya</i> (pron. <u>a</u> as in "cat")	[noon-ya]
wolverine (<i>Gulo gulo</i>)	<i>naltsiis</i> (C, L) <i>naltsiisi</i> (M)	[noth-chees] [noth-chees-ee]
wolverine; hunting name	<i>tl'akoltсени</i>	[kla-koll-chen-ee]

BABY TERMS

baby	<i>sc'enggaay</i>	[skən-guy-ee]
fetus	<i>c'enaay</i>	[ken-eye]
afterbirth	<i>c'e'eli</i>	[keh-elth-ee]
umbilical cord	<i>uts'iige'</i>	[oo-chee-geh]
his cradle cap	<i>utsit'uudze'</i>	[oo-chee-to-jay]
“baby’s lunch”; (note: the black residue in the creases of baby palms)	<i>sc'enggaay kaede'</i>	[skən-guy-ee kad-eh]
baby basket; cradle	<i>ts'aatl'</i> (C, L) <i>ts'aal</i> (U)	[chot-leh] [choth]
baby basket strap	<i>sc'aen tl'uule'</i>	[skan tloo-leh]
soft spot on baby’s head; fontanelle	<i>utsit'aa'a</i> (L) <i>utsit'aagge</i> (C)	[oot-see-taw-ah] [oot-see-taw-geh]
baby face protector	<i>tsitnitaani</i>	[chit-nit-taw-nee]
baby’s hammock	<i>benes</i> (C, L) <i>dahbiil</i> (M)	[ben-ess] [da-beelth]
diaper; moss used in cradle	<i>ts'aatl'tsele'</i> (C, L) <i>ts'aal tsel</i> (M)	[chot-leh chell-leh] [choth chell]
bearskin mat (for bravery)	<i>tsaani zes tael</i>	[chaw-nee zess tath]

MAGIC AMULETS

The following eight words each include the Ahtna term for “amulet” (*unaghaltl'u'*). No pronunciation is listed for the word “amulet” itself as no accurate or common pronunciation was recorded in all the interviews. An amulet is a talisman or charm (like a necklace or bracelet) which bestows magical powers to the wearer.

beaver claw amulet (for good working)	<i>tša' laggane' unaghaltl'u'</i>	[chaw la-gone-eh]
beaver tooth amulet (for good woodcutting)	<i>tša' ghu' unaghaltl'u'</i>	[chaw woo]
ptarmigan foot amulet (for fast walking)	<i>lacbeh ke' unaghaltl'u'</i>	[lock-beh]
swan's windpipe amulet (for good speaking)	<i>kaggos zuul unaghaltl'u'</i>	[kag-gos zoolth]
moose eye amulet (for good vision)	<i>deniigi nehtl'ets' unaghaltl'u'</i>	[den-ee-gee]
hawk's wing feather amulet (for good hunting)	<i>c'entadziidzi ts'enlabiile' unaghaltl'u'</i>	[ken-ta-jee-jee chen-la-beel-eh]
copper penny amulet (for wealth)	<i>tsedi dicaaxi unaghaltl'u'</i>	[ched-ee dee-kaw- kee]
skin shaving amulet (for skill with skins)	<i>c'ezaex lataane' unaghaltl'u'</i>	[kez-ak la-taw- neh]

BIRDS

bird; general term	<i>ggaaggi</i> (C, L) <i>ts'eggaagga</i> (M)	[gaw-gee] [tis-gaw-gaw]
common loon (<i>Gavia immer</i>)	<i>dadzeni</i> (C, L) <i>tadziil</i> (M)	[dod-zen-nee] [tad-zeeth]
arctic loon (<i>Gavia artica</i>)	<i>ts'elbae</i> (C, L) <i>ts'albaet</i> (M) (pron. the <i>t</i> as a syllable)	[t-sell-bah] [t-sell-bat]
red-necked grebe (<i>Podiceps grisegena</i>)	<i>senyae</i> (C, L) <i>ts'eli</i> (M)	[sen-ya] [tsell-ee]
horned grebe (<i>Podiceps auritus</i>)	<i>lighay'lbe't</i> (L) <i>lighay'be't</i> (C) <i>laghay'be't</i> (W)	[sell-ite-bet] [slaw-ite-bet]
double-crested cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax auritus</i>)	<i>ts'iyogge'</i> (C, W)	[tsee-yoe-geh] [chee-yoe-geh]
trumpeter swan (<i>Olor buccinator</i>)	<i>taggos</i> (U) <i>kaggos</i> (C, L)	[tag-gose] [kag-gose]
whistling swan (<i>Olor columbianus</i>)	<i>nalt'uuy</i>	[nall-too-ee]
Canada Goose (<i>Branta canadensis</i>)	<i>xax</i> (pron. the word slowly and long)	[hok; also haw]
white-fronted goose (<i>Anser albifrons</i>)	<i>daghedi</i> (C) <i>daghadi</i> (L)	[da-wed-ee] [da-wad-ee]
snow goose (<i>Chen hyperborea</i>)	<i>dat'aeggi</i> (C) <i>dat'aek'i</i> (W) <i>dat'ae'i</i> (L)	[daw-ta-gee] [daw-ta-kee] [daw-ta-ee]
snow goose hunting name	<i>ts'enlazeni</i> (C)	[tsen-law-zen-nee]
duck (general term)	<i>dats'eni</i> (C, M) <i>dziidzi</i> (W, L)	[dot-sen-ee] [zeed-zee]

mallard duck (<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>)	<i>sidatl'ets'i</i> (C, L) <i>kedeltsiigi</i> (C, W) <i>t'aaycogh</i> (U)	[see-dot-lets-see] [ked-elt-see-gee] [tie-choe]
pintail duck (<i>Anas acuta</i>)	<i>sehnaezi</i> (C, L) <i>sahnaezi</i> (W) <i>dzehnaezi</i> (M)	[seh-naz-ee] [sah-naz-ee] [zeh-naz-ee]
American widgeon (<i>Mareca americana</i>)	<i>tasiiyi</i> (C, L) <i>sahsiin</i> (M)	[tass-see-yee] [sa-seen]
shoveler (<i>Spatula clypeata</i>)	<i>dalalagga</i> (M)	[dal-a-thlaw-ga]
green-winged teal (<i>Anas carolinensis</i>)	<i>tsos</i> <i>c'etsos</i> <i>tsesggaay</i> (W)	[soss] [ket-soss] [sess-guy]
canvasback duck (<i>Aythya valisineria</i>)	<i>ndzeli</i> (M) (pron. the <u>n</u> as a syllable)	[n-zell-ee]
harlequin duck (<i>Histrionicus histrionicus</i>)	<i>dzel dziidze'</i> (W) <i>dzel dziide'</i> (M)	[zeth zeed-zeh] [zeth zee-deh]
greater scaup (<i>Aythya marila</i>)	<i>tsitk'aani</i> (C, L) <i>tsitk'aay</i> (M)	[seet-kaw-nee] [seet-kie]
lesser scaup (<i>Aythya affinis</i>)	<i>neltsoghi</i> (C, L) <i>naltsogho</i> (M)	[nelt-so-he] [nalt-soe-ho]
Barrow's golden-eye (<i>Bucephala clangula</i>)	<i>kaskae utse'e</i> (C, M)	[kass-ka oot-seh-eh]
bufflehead (<i>Bucephala albeola</i>)	<i>tuhtsedl</i> (M)	[too-sed-el]
oldsquaw (<i>Clangula hyemalis</i>)	<i>'ah'ala'</i>	[ah-a-law]
common scoter (<i>Oidemia nigra</i>)	<i>neli</i>	[nell-ee]
white-winged scoter (<i>Melanitta deglandi</i>)	<i>tatsaan' leh</i> (C, L) <i>datstaan' leh</i> (W) <i>tatsaan' 'eli</i> (U)	[tat-sawn-leh] [dat-sawn-leh] [tat-sawn-el-ee]

merganser (<i>Mergus merganser</i>)	<i>tseghos</i>	[seh-wus]
osprey (<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>)	<i>hwts'ic</i> (M) <i>hwts'i'</i> (C)	[wit-sik] [wit-see]
fish hawk	<i>c'etsaa</i> (W)	[ket-saw]
Accipiters (<i>Accipiter sp.</i>)	<i>c'enbic</i> (C)	[ken-bik]
goshawk (<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>)	<i>ggax dadeghael</i> (M)	[gok dad-eh wath]
marsh hawk (<i>Circus cyaneus</i>)	<i>c'entadziidzi</i> (C, L) <i>c'enstadziidi</i> (M)	[ken-ta-zee-zee] [ken-sta-zee-dee]
sparrow hawk (species uncertain)	<i>ts'ihc'uu'li</i> (L)	[tsee-que-zee]
golden eagle (<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>)	<i>'c'eyaane'</i> <i>c'etsaa</i> (U)	[kay-yaw-neh] [ket-saw]
bald eagle (<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>)	<i>sgulak</i> (C, L, W) (Alutiiq loanword: <i>kuckalaaq</i> pron. kootch-ka-luk) <i>tuudi</i> (U)	[sgoo-luck] [too-dee]
spruce grouse (<i>Canachites canadensis</i>)	<i>'eldyaani</i> (C) <i>'elgaani</i> (L) <i>deyh</i> (M)	[elth-dee-yaw-nee] [elth-gee-yaw-nee] [dee]
sharp-tail grouse, willow grouse (<i>Pedioecetes phasianellus</i>)	<i>c'eltagi</i>	[kelth-tug-gee]
ruffed grouse (<i>Bonasa umbellus</i>)	<i>tsaan' ts'uus</i> (C, L) (also pron.) <i>tsaan' ts'uuy</i> (M) (lit. "excrement pile")	[tsawn soos] [chawn soos] [tsawn soo-ee]
willow ptarmigan (<i>Lagopus lagopus</i>)	<i>lacbeh</i> (C, L) <i>lacbae</i> (M) (pron. <u>ba</u> as in "bat") <i>laggoni</i> (L)	[lock-beh] [lock-ba] [law-go-nee]

rock ptarmigan (<i>Lagopus mutus</i>)	<i>dzelk'aale'</i> (W)	[zeth-kaw-leh]
white-tail ptarmigan (<i>Lagopus leucurus</i>)	<i>liyutsaaghi</i> (W)	[thlee-yute-saw-we]
sandhill crane (<i>Grus canadensis</i>)	<i>dael</i>	[dath]
spotted sandpiper (<i>Actitis macularia</i>)	<i>tabaaht'aene</i>	[taw-baw-tan-eh]
yellowlegs (<i>Totanus sp.</i>) solitary sandpiper (<i>Triinga solitaria</i>)	<i>sadiye</i>	[saw-dee-yeh]
common snipe (<i>Capella gallinago</i>)	<i>yaziil</i> (C, L)	[ya-zeeth]
northern phalarope (<i>Lobipes lobatus</i>)	<i>tekastnisigi</i> (M) <i>tekay'tnisigi</i> (C) <i>tikay'tnisigi</i> (W)	[tek-kos-nis-see-gee] [tek-kie-nis-see-gee] [tee-kie-nis-see-gee]
seagull (in general) (<i>Larus sp.</i>) herring gull (<i>Larus argentatus</i>)	<i>nalbaey</i>	[nall-bay]
immature gull	<i>ts'ik'ebaedzi</i> (C, L)	[seek-eh-ba-zee] [cheek-eh-ba-zee]
glaucous-winged gull (<i>Larus glaucescens</i>)	<i>ts'itu' nalbaey</i>	[see-to nall-bay] [chee-to nall-bay]
mew gull (<i>Larus canus</i>)	<i>mentah nalbaey</i> (M) <i>bentah nalbaey</i>	[men-ta nal-bay] [ben-ta nal-bay]
Bonaparte's gull (<i>Larus Philadelphia</i>)	<i>tl'ests'aey</i> (C, L) <i>tsidelt'uudzi</i> (M) <i>tl'ests'ae</i> (W) (pron. <u>sa</u> as in "cat")	[tless-say] [see-dell-tude-zee] [tlest-sa]

arctic tern (<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>)	<i>cedelggezi</i> (M) (also pron.) <i>tl'ests'aey</i>	[ked-ell-gez-zee] [ked-ell-bez-zee] [klest-say]
owl, general term (<i>Strigidae</i>)	<i>besiini</i> <i>besiin</i> (W)	[bess-see-nee] [bess-seen]
great horned owl (<i>Bubo virginianus</i>)	<i>besiini</i> <i>c'udzaghi</i> (C) <i>ts'udzagha</i> (M)	[bess-see-nee] [kue-za-way] [tsoo-za-wa]
great gray owl (<i>Strix nebulosa</i>)	<i>daaghe besiini</i> (C, L) <i>naldaax</i> (C) <i>naldaak</i> (L) <i>naldaaxa</i> (M)	[daw-weh bess-see-nee] [noth-dok] [noth-dok] [noth-daw-ka]
snowy owl (<i>Nyctea scandiaca</i>)	<i>yesbaa</i> (C, L) <i>yesc'ebaa</i> (M)	[yes-baw] [yes-ka-baw]
saw-whet owl (<i>Aegolius acadicus</i>)	<i>naghay'ts'ax</i> (C, L) (from <i>na'aaye'</i> , moon) <i>nak'ets'ax</i> (M)	[naw-eye chok]
Hawk owl (<i>Aegolius funereus</i>)	<i>lay'tsen'</i> (C) <i>sulyiidi</i> (M)	[lie-chen] [soolth-yee-dee]
belted kingfisher (<i>Megaceryle alcyon</i>)	<i>tac'il'</i> (M)	[taw-kill]
yellow-shafted flicker (<i>Colaptes auratus</i>)	<i>tsenel</i> (C, L) <i>ntsiil</i> (M) (pron. the <u>n</u> as a syllable)	[chen-neth] [n-cheelth]
woodpecker, general term	<i>cen'lkatl'i</i> (C, L) <i>cenc'elkadi</i> (M)	[ken skaw-klee] [ken-kes-kaw-dee]
flycatcher (<i>Tyrannidae</i>)	<i>sdaedze'</i>	[stad-zeh]
swallow (<i>Hirundinidae</i>)	<i>dzuuts</i> (C, L) <i>tsic'eht'on'o</i>	[joots]
camprobbler; common gray jay (<i>Perisoreus canadensis</i>)	<i>stakalbaey</i> (C, L) <i>takalbaey</i> (M, W)	[stok-all-bay] [tok-all-bay]

black-billed magpie (<i>Pica pica</i>)	<i>stakatniigi</i> (C, L) <i>tsakatniigi</i> (M) <i>sakatniigi</i> (W)	[stok-at-nee-gee] [chak-at-nee-gee] [sak-at-nee-gee]
common raven (<i>Corvus corax</i>) name in mythology	<i>saghani</i> (C, L) <i>tsaghani</i> (M) <i>saghani ggaay</i> (C, L)	[sa-gaw-nee] [cha-gaw-ne] [sa-gaw-nee guy]
raven's call	<i>ggaak</i> <i>ggol</i> (pron. the <u>G</u> slowly and long)	[gok] [goal]
black-capped chickadee (<i>Parus atricapillus</i>)	<i>ne'iine'</i>	[neh-ee-neh]
boreal chickadee (<i>Parus hudsonicus</i>)	<i>ne'iine'</i>	[neh-ee-neh]
chickadee's call	<i>ts'idzeggaak</i>	[chid-zig-gok]
water ouzel (dipper) (<i>Cinclus mexicanus</i>)	<i>tesletledi</i> (C, L) <i>tutsoggo'</i> (M) <i>tasaltledi</i> (W)	[tess-el-kled-ee] [toot-so-go] [tass-al-kled-ee]
robin (<i>Turdus migratorius</i>)	<i>suux</i>	[soo] or [sue]
robin's call	<i>cila' dziidzi</i>	[kee-la zee-dee]
thrush (<i>Hylocichla sp.</i>)	<i>natl'iizi</i>	[na-klee-zee]
mountain bluebird (<i>Sialia currucoides</i>)	<i>hngitl'uus</i> (L)	[nie-kloos]
ruby-crown kinglet (<i>Regulus calendula</i>)	<i>desozi</i> (L)	[dess-so-zee]
Bohemian waxwing (<i>Bombycilla garrulus</i>)	<i>utsit'aagga dighi'aay</i> (M) <i>tsiluuts' t'aeni</i> (C, L)	[see-loots tan-ee]
Northern Shrike (<i>Lanius excubitor</i>)	<i>hngitl'uusi</i> (C)	[nie-kloos-see]

rusty blackbird (<i>Euphagus carolinus</i>)	<i>skolts'aex</i> <i>ts'ekolcak</i> (M)	[tseh-kole-kee-ak]
yellow warbler (<i>Dendroica petechia</i>)	<i>t'aan'ltigi</i> (C, L) <i>dzelggaagga'</i> (M)	[tonth-kig-gee] [zeth-gaw-ga]
myrtle warbler (<i>Dendroica coronata</i>)	<i>xa'diidi</i>	[ha dee-dee]
Northern waterthrush (<i>seirurus noveboracensis</i>)	<i>tsa'aht'uudi</i> (M) <i>be'l ggaek</i> (L)	[tsa-too-dee] [bets-gak]
pine grosbeak (<i>Pinicola enucleator</i>)	<i>xaydudiye</i> (C, L) <i>k'elatuudi</i> (M)	[hie-do-dee-ya] [kell-a-too-dee]
redpoll (<i>Acanthis sp.</i>)	<i>diin</i> (C, L) <i>diinyh</i> (M)	[deen]
slate-colored junco (<i>Junco hyemalis</i>)	<i>delt'odzi</i> (C, L) <i>tadelt'odzi</i> (C, L) <i>citnetl'edzi</i> (M) <i>delts'ots'i</i>	[deth-toad-zee] [ka-deth-toad-zee] [keet-net-tled-zee] [deth-so-zee]
white-crown sparrow (<i>Zonotrichia leucophrys</i>)	<i>ldzentnestggayi</i> (C) <i>delziidi diisdlaets</i> (W)	[dell-zee-dee dees-slats]
golden-crowned sparrow (<i>Zonotrichia atricapilla</i>)	<i>tsae desnii xu' ka'skalyaa</i> (C, L)	
snowbird (<i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i>)	<i>hwggaek</i> (C, L) <i>ggaex</i> (M) <i>hwggaex</i> (W)	[gak] [gak] [gak]

BIRD RELATED TERMS

nest	<i>c'et'ox</i>	[ket-toe]
egg	<i>c'eghaeze'</i>	[keh-waz-eh]
egg yolk	<i>ghostsiige'</i> (C, L) <i>ghostsiic</i> (M)	[gost-see-geh] [gost-seek]
egg shell	<i>c'eghaes ts'ene</i>	[keh-was sen-eh]
egg white	<i>c'eghaes ggayi</i>	[keh-was guy-ee]
down feathers	<i>cots'</i>	[chotes]
long feathers	<i>t'aa</i>	[t-aw]
wing feathers	<i>uts'enlabiile'</i>	[oot-sen-la-bee- leh]
beak	<i>c'eda'</i>	[ke-daw]
gizzard	<i>c'edzaxe'</i>	[ked-zok-eh]
bird claws	<i>c'ekelaggane'</i>	[kek-el-la-gon-eh]
wing	<i>ts'enla'</i> (C, L) (also pron. <i>c'ets'enla'</i> (M)	[tsen-law] [chen-law] [ket-sen-law]
migrating birds	<i>nat'aaggi</i>	[not-aw-gee] [not-aw-bee]
baby birds	<i>dayuuts' ghelyaayi</i> (C, L) <i>dats'uux ghalyael</i> (M)	[daw-utes well-yaw-yee] [dots-uke yaw-yath]

BODY PARTS

The Ahtna words for individual body parts can stand alone. For instance, the second word on the list “skin” is simply *zes*. We can speak of salmon skin (*łuk’ae zes*), moose skin (*deniigi zes*), muskrat skin (*dzen zes*), or human skin. More precisely, we can speak of *his* or *her* skin, as in “Her skin is beautiful” or “His skin is dirty.” In professor Kari’s early work with Ahtna elders in the 1970s, he assigned the gender-neutral identifying prefix *y* to refer to the pronouns *his* or *her*. During the 120 workshops I facilitated in the mid-to-late 1990s, the elders voted unanimously to revise the symbol to *u*, thus we can say *uzes* to refer to either his skin, or *unaegge’* to refer to her eyes.

his/her body	<i>unaaytah</i> (C, L)	[oo-nie-taw]
his/her skin	<i>uzes</i>	[oo-zes]
his/her body hair	<i>ugha’</i>	[oo-ga]
bone	<i>ts’ene</i>	[chen]
his/her bone	<i>uts’ene’</i>	[oo-chen]
his/her fat	<i>uk’ax</i>	[oo-kla]
blood	<i>del</i>	[dell]
his/her blood	<i>udele’</i>	[oo-dell-eh]
his/her veins	<i>uc’uuze’</i>	[ook-you-zeh]
his/her head	<i>utse’</i>	[oo-chay]
his/her hair (on head)	<i>utsigha’</i>	[oo-chee-gaw]
his/her cowlick	<i>utsiluudze’</i>	[oo-chee-loo-jay]
his/her sideburns	<i>udzaluudze’</i>	[ood-za-loo-jay]
his/her scalp	<i>utsizes</i>	[oo-chee-zes]
his/her skull	<i>utsits’ene’</i>	[oo-chee-chen-eh]
his/her brain	<i>utsighaan’</i>	[oo-chee-gone]

his/her forehead	<i>bensdaagge'</i> (C, L) <i>bentsadaagga'</i> (M)	[bens-daw-gay] [bent-sa-dag-a]
between his/her eyes	<i>bentaggede</i>	[bent-ta-gad-eh]
his/her face	<i>unaen'</i>	[oo-nan]
side of his/her face	<i>bentl'aa</i>	[ben-tlaw]
his/her cheeks	<i>bentl'abets'</i>	[ben-tlaw-bets]
his/her eyebrows	<i>bensdagha'</i> (C, L)	[bens-dag-eh]
his/her eyes	<i>unaegge'</i>	[oo-nag-eh]
his/her eyelashes	<i>unehduudle'</i> (C) <i>unehduude'</i> (L)	[oo-nay-dude-lay] [oo-nay-dude-eh]
his/her eye socket	<i>unak'ae</i>	[oo-nak-aye]
his/her eyelid	<i>unehzes</i>	[oo-neh-zes]
his/her eyeball	<i>unehyiige'</i>	[oo-neh-yee-ga]
corner of his/her eye	<i>unehk'etl'aa</i>	[oo-neh-ket-la]
his/her ear	<i>udzaghe'</i>	[oo-jog-eh]
his/her inner ear	<i>udzii</i>	[oo-jee]
his/her ear drum	<i>udzilogge'</i>	[oo-jee-low-geh]
his/her ear lobe	<i>udzaghe' cii</i> (C, L) <i>udzagha' ciit</i> (M)	[oo-jag-eh kee] [oo-jag-a keet]
his/her nose	<i>bentsiis</i>	[ben-chees]
his/her nostrils	<i>bengestah</i> (C, M) <i>bengese'</i> (L)	[ben-gest-ah] [ben-gess-eh]
his/her nose cartilage	<i>bengiidge'</i>	[ben-geez-jeh]
nose bone	<i>benyese'</i>	[ben-yes-eh]
his/her nose bone	<i>uniyese'</i>	[oo-nee-yes-eh]

side of his/her nose	<i>unayggeh</i>	[oo-nay-gay]
his/her lips	<i>uzaa</i>	[oo-za]
his/her tongue	<i>utsula'</i>	[oo-chew-law]
his/her teeth/tooth	<i>ughu'</i>	[oo-woo]
his/her gums	<i>ughutsen'</i>	[oo-woo-chen]
tooth root	<i>ughucene'</i>	[oo-woo-ken-eh]
his/her eye teeth	<i>ulighu'</i>	[oo-lee-woo]
his/her gumline	<i>ughut'ax</i> (M) <i>ughut'ah</i> (C, L)	[oo-woo-stla] [oo-woo-stlaw]
between his/her teeth	<i>ughustl'en</i>	[oo-woo-stlen]
gap in his/her teeth	<i>ughu'tah tsel</i>	[oo-woo-ta chel]
his/her throat	<i>uyidah</i>	[oo-yee-daw]
his/her uvula	<i>uyidahlogge'</i> (C, L)	[oo-yee-da-low-gay]
his/her larynx	<i>uzaegge'</i>	[oo-zag-ga]
his/her windpipe	<i>uzuut</i>	[oo-zoolth]
his/her chin	<i>uyida'</i> (pron. <u>a</u> as in “cat”)	[oo-yee-da]
point of his/her chin	<i>uda'</i>	[oo-da]
his mustache	<i>udayaane'</i>	[oo-die-yan]
his beard	<i>udayuudze'</i>	[oo-die-you-jeh]
his/her neck	<i>uk'os</i>	[oo-kos]
his Adam's apple	<i>uyidah dziide'</i> (C, L) <i>ucole'</i> (M)	[oo-yee-da-jee-day] [oo-kolth-eh]
around his/her neck	<i>unizaghe</i> (C, L)	[oo-nee-zaw]

his/her shoulders	<i>ughedze'</i>	[oo-wed-zeh]
his/her shoulder blade	<i>uggaan' cela'</i> (C, M) <i>uggaan' cila'</i> (L)	[oo-gon kel-la] [oo-gon keel-la]
between his/her shoulder blades	<i>uggaan' ggah</i>	[oo-gon ga]
his/her arm	<i>uggaane'</i> (C, L)	[oo-gon-eh]
his/her armpit	<i>uk'ets'ax</i>	[oo-ket-chaw]
his/her armpit hair	<i>uk'ets'ax gha'</i>	[oo-ket-chaw gaw]
his/her biceps	<i>uggaane' yizdaay</i> (C, L)	[oo-gon yeez-die]
his/her upper arm	<i>uggaan' cene'</i>	[oo-gon-ken-eh]
his/her elbow	<i>uts'os</i> (pron. chose as in “dose”)	[oo-chose]
his/her forearm	<i>uts'iile'</i>	[oo-cheel-leh]
his/her wrist	<i>unicene'</i> (C, L) <i>bencene'</i> (M)	[oo-nee-ken-eh] [ben-ken-eh]
his/her hand	<i>ula'</i>	[oo-la]
his/her palm	<i>ulak'ae</i> (pron. final <u>a</u> as in “cat”)	[oo-lak-a]
back of his/her hand	<i>ulant'aa'a</i> (C, L) <i>ulant'aagga'</i> (M) <i>ulant'aak'e</i> (W)	[oo-lan-taw] [oo-lan-taw-ga] [oo-lan-taw-ka]
his/her knuckles	<i>ulatse'</i>	[oo-la-chay]
his/her thumb	<i>ulacots'</i>	[oo-la-kots]
his/her fingers	<i>ulats'ighose'</i>	
his/her little finger	<i>uniidi</i>	[oo-nee-dee]
his/her ring finger	<i>uniidi ghaaghi</i>	[oo-nee-dee ga-gih]

his/her middle finger	<i>ulacots' ghaaghi</i>	[oo-la-kots ga-gih]
his/her index finger	<i>utanidzehi</i>	
hair on his/her fingers	<i>ula' dyuuts' (C, M)</i> <i>ula' guus' (L)</i>	[oo-la doots] [oo-la gus]
his/her finger knuckles	<i>ulatsicuudze'</i>	[oo-la-chee-kood-zeh]
his/her finger bone	<i>ulats'ene'</i>	[oo-la-chen-eh]
his/her fingernails	<i>ulaggane'</i>	[oo-lag-gan-eh]
his/her fingertips	<i>ulacii (C, L)</i> <i>ulaciit (M)</i>	[oo-la-kee] [oo-la-keet]
between his/her fingers	<i>ulaggeze</i>	[oo-la-gez-eh]
upper part of his/her body (torso)	<i>uzi' (C, L)</i> <i>uzic (M)</i>	[oo-zih] [oo-zik]
his/her stomach area	<i>ubede</i>	[oo-bed-eh]
his/her chest area	<i>udzedghaane' (C, M)</i> <i>udzeggaane' (L)</i>	[oo-jed-gone-eh] [oo-jeh-gone-ed]
his /her thorax; (inner chest)	<i>ut'aay k'eh</i>	[oot-eye k-eh]
his/her chest bones (sternum)	<i>ut'aayts'ene'</i> <i>uyaadze'</i>	[oot-eye-chen-eh] [oo-ya-jeh]
his/her collar bone	<i>ut'agge'</i>	[oot-ta-geh]
his/her breast	<i>ubaa' (C, L)</i> <i>ut'uu' (M)</i>	[oo-baw] [oo-too]
his/her nipple	<i>ut'uutse' (M)</i> <i>ubaadetse' (C, L)</i>	[oo-too-cheh] [oo-bod-cheh]
his/her belly button	<i>uts'iige'k'ae (C, L)</i> <i>uts'uk'ae (C, L)</i>	[oo-chee-geh-ka] [oo-choo-ka]
his/her belly	<i>ube't</i>	[oo-bet]

his/her abdomen	<i>utsaadle'</i> (C, M) <i>utsaade'</i> (L)	[oo-chod-leh] [oo-chod-eh]
his/her stomach muscles	<i>ucaggas</i>	[oo-kag-gas]
his/her inner abdomen	<i>ucaan</i>	[oo-kan]
his/her abdomen lining (faeae)	<i>ucannyu'</i>	[oo-kan-you]
his/her waist	<i>utl'ede</i>	[oo-led-eh]
his/her pelvic region	<i>uk'aye'</i> (C, L) <i>uk'ey'</i> (M)	[oo-kay-yeh] [oo-kay]
his/her hips	<i>ubaege'</i>	[oo-bag-eh]
his/her tailbone	<i>uce'</i> (pron. <u>ka</u> as in "cat")	[oo-ka]
his/her back	<i>uyene'</i>	[oo-yen-eh]
his/her upper back	<i>uyenghaane'</i>	[oo-yen-gon-eh]
his/her spine	<i>uyents'uu</i>	[oo-yen-chew]
muscle in small of back	<i>uts'ehtsiine'</i>	[oo-cheh-chee-nay]
his/her insides	<i>uyii</i>	[oo-yee]
his/her ribs	<i>ucaagge'</i>	[oo-kag-geh]
his/her upper ribs	<i>ughuuge'</i>	[oo-goo-geh]
his/her heart	<i>uciz'aani</i> (C, L) <i>ucez'aani</i> (W) <i>udzaey'</i> (M)	[oo-kiz-aw-nee] [oo-kez-aw-nee] [oo-jay]
his/her esophagus	<i>uk'ese'</i>	[oo-kess-eh]
his/her lap	<i>udzest'aa</i>	[oo-jest-ah]
his/her kidneys	<i>udzedze'</i> (C, L) <i>udzedze</i> (M)	[oo-jeh-jay] [oo-jeh-jeh]

his/her liver	<i>uze't</i>	[oo-zet]
his/her lung	<i>udzeldogge'</i>	[oo-jell-doe-geh]
his/her bladder	<i>ulose'</i>	[oo-low-say]
his/her gall bladder	<i>utl'edze'</i>	[oot-leh-jay]
his/her intestines (guts)	<i>uts'iige'</i>	[oot-chee-gay]
his/her colon	<i>uk'eytneggodze'</i>	[oo-ket-neg-go-jay]
his/her anus, rectum	<i>utsel</i>	[oo-chell]
his penis	<i>utsogge'</i> (pron. <i>choe</i> as in "low")	[oo-choe-geh]
her vagina	<i>uluune'</i> <i>utsene'</i>	[oo-loo-nay] [oo-chen-nay]
his/her crotch	<i>utl'ae</i>	[oot-la]
his/her pubic hair	<i>utl'agha'</i>	[oot-la-ga]
his testicles	<i>ughaeze'</i>	[oo-gaz-eh]
his scrotum	<i>ughaeze' zes</i> (lit. "testicle skin")	[oo-gaz-eh zes]
his/her buttocks	<i>utl'a'</i> <i>utl'atsen'</i>	[oot-klaw] [oot-latch-en]
his/her leg	<i>uts'ene</i> <i>uts'entah</i>	[oo-chen-eh] [oo-chen-taw]
his/her thigh muscle	<i>ughostsens'</i>	[oo-gos-chen-eh]
his/her thigh	<i>ughoscene'</i>	[oo-gos-ken-eh]
his/her knee	<i>uggo't</i>	[oo-got]
his/her knee cap	<i>uggo't k'ez'aani</i>	[oo-got kezz-aw-nee]
his/her lower leg	<i>udzaade'</i>	[oo-jaw-day]
his/her shin	<i>udzak'a'</i>	[oo-jok-ah]

his/her shin bone	<i>udzats'ene'</i>	[oo-ja-chen-eh]
his/her calf	<i>uts'eze'</i>	[oo-chez-eh]
his/her ankle	<i>ukecene'</i>	[oo-keh-ken-eh]
his/her feet	<i>uke'</i>	[oo-kay]
bottom of his/her feet	<i>uketl'aa</i>	[oo-ket-la]
his/her heel	<i>uketatl' (C, L)</i> <i>ukeltatl (M)</i>	[oo-ket-tot]
his/her toes	<i>ukelaghose'</i>	[oo-kel-a-gos-eh]
his/her big toe	<i>ukelacoghe' (C, L)</i> <i>ukelacots (M)</i>	[oo-kel-a-koe-gay] [oo-kel-a-kots]
his/her toe nail	<i>ukelaggane'</i>	[oo-kel-a-gon-eh]
between his/her toes	<i>ukelaggeze</i>	[oo-kel-a-gez-eh]

BODY PRODUCTS, CONDITIONS & POSITIONS

As with Body Parts, the gender-neutral prefix u can be added to any word below to indicate the pronoun *his* or *her* (e.g. “his snot” is expressed *uben-gestatlogge’*).

snot, phlegm	<i>ben-gestatlogge’</i> (C, M) <i>ben-gestatlo’</i> (L)	[ben-ges-tat-low-geh] [ben-ges-tat-low]
dry snot	<i>ben-gestahuude’</i>	[ben-ges-ta-loo-deh]
saliva	<i>sae’</i> (C, L) (pron. the <u>a</u> as in “cat”) <i>saek</i> (M)	[sa] [sack]
tears	<i>tsaghtuu</i> (also pron.) (lit. “head water”)	[chaw-to] [saw-to]
breath	<i>uyiits’</i>	[oo-yeets]
pus	<i>xez</i> <i>ghez</i>	[hezz] [wezz]
his/her ear wax	<i>udziigheluu’</i> (C, L) <i>udziigheluude’</i> (C) <i>udziiluude’</i> (M)	[oo-jee-geh-loo] [oo-jee-geh-loo-deh] [oo-jee-loo-deh]
vomit	<i>koy</i> (pron. as in “boy”)	[coy]
sweat	<i>sel</i>	[sell]
urine	<i>lets</i> (sometimes: <i>dlets</i>)	[thletch, kletch]
excrement; feces solid waste	<i>tsaan’</i> (pron. the <u>aw</u> longer than normal)	[chawn]
small hard feces	<i>duuts’</i>	[doots]
diarrhea	<i>ts’i</i> (C, L) (pron. uncertain)	

fart	<i>tl'e't</i> <i>tl'iit'</i>	[kletch] [kleetch]
his/her body odor	<i>uts'aa</i> (also pron.)	[oot-saw] [oo-chaw]
his/her teeth tartar	<i>ughu' tsaane'</i> (lit. "teeth feces")	[oo-woo-chon]
birthmark	<i>c'eyuunitsen'</i> (C, L) <i>c'eyuunntsen'</i> (M)	[kay-you-nit-chen] [kay-yoon-chen]
wart	<i>yaes</i>	[yass]
his/her wound	<i>ukak'ae</i> (pron. final <u>a</u> as in "cat")	[oo-kak-ka]
scab, sore	<i>luu't</i>	[thloot]
semen	<i>tsok ghez</i> (lit. "penis pus")	[choke-hez]
scar	<i>se't</i>	[set]
skin boil	<i>'i'aasi</i>	[ee-ass-ee]
his/her dandruff	<i>utsilaedze'</i> (pron. <u>la</u> as in "last")	[oo-cheel-la-jay]
smile, laugh	<i>dlo'</i> (C, L) <i>dlok</i> (M)	[dloe] [dloke]
sleep	<i>naat</i>	[noth]
his/her strength	<i>utiye'</i>	[oo-tee-yeh]
his/her voice	<i>uzaegge'</i>	[oo-zag-geh]
his/her shadow; reflection	<i>uyiige'</i> (note: <i>ceyiige'</i> means ghost or spirit; a dead person's shadow)	[oo-yee-geh]
sickness, pain, influenza	<i>ts'ax</i>	[chok]

cold, cough	<i>kos</i>	[koss]
snow-blindness	<i>nehzuun</i>	[neh-zoon]
craving for food	<i>kuyaa</i>	[koo-yaw]
underweight	<i>ts'enggan</i>	[chen-gan]
handicap, injury	<i>sdatnae</i> (pron. <u>sdat</u> as you would “stat”)	[sdat-na]
crippled, injured	<i>saatl'</i> (C, L) <i>saat</i> (M)	[sot-leh] [sot]
squatting position	<i>ts'uus</i>	[chuse]
corpse, dead person	<i>c'ezaege'</i> (lit. “without spirit” [k'aaz])	[kez-zag-geh]
naked	<i>c'edeh'aede</i> (lit. “without clothes”)	[ked-eh-had-eh]
barefooted	<i>kets'is 'aede</i> (C, L) (lit. “without moccasins”)	[keh-chees ad-eh]
barehanded	<i>lats'is 'aede</i> (pron. <u>la</u> as in “lap”)	[la-chees ad-eh]
unconscious	<i>siits' 'aede</i>	[seet-sad-eh]

CLANS/CLAN TERMS

clanspeople	<i>ghaltsiilne</i> (C, L) <i>ghaltsiil'iinn</i> (M)	[gal-cheelth-neh] [gal-cheelth-een]
Red Paint Clan female member of Red Paint Clan	<i>Tsisyu</i> <i>tsists'aey</i>	[chish-you] [chist-chie]
clan; general term	<i>Nitsisyu</i> (C, L) <i>Netsisyu</i>	[nit-chiss-shoe] [net-chiss-shoe]
Caribou Clan	<i>Udzisyu</i>	[you-jee-shoe]
Down from the Sky Clan	<i>Naltsiine</i>	[nall-chee-neh]
Out of Canyon Clan	<i>Dits'i'iltsiine</i>	[ditch-ill-chee-neh]
Canyonberry People	<i>Dengige' tahwt'aene</i> (extinct)	
Fish Tail Clan	<i>C'elaeyu</i> <i>C'ecela'yu</i>	[kell-a-you] [kek-kell-a-you]
Fireweed Clan	<i>Dik'aagiyu</i>	[dik-aw-gee-you]
Sky Clan	<i>Naltsiine</i>	[nal-chee-na]
Snowbunting Clan	<i>Ggaexyu</i> (extinct)	[guy-you]
One-way Clan; Single-Minded Clan	<i>'Alts'e' tnaey</i>	[alt-chalt-nay]
Water Clan	<i>Taltsiine</i>	[tal-chee-na]
Mountain People/Clan	<i>Dghelaay Tahwt'aene</i> (C) <i>Ggalaay Tahwt'aene</i> (L)	[gull-eye taw-tan-ee] (same pron.)
Fox Clan	<i>Nen' Hwzaa</i> (U)	[nen who-zaw]
Seagull moiety; Raven's grandchildren	<i>nalbaey utsuuy</i>	[nal-bay oo-chew]

clansmen	<i>'eldaan'ne</i>	[sel-dawn-neh]
father's clansmen	<i>-ta' beldaan'ne</i>	[staw bell-dawn-neh]
member of same or closely related clan	<i>yudelkanen</i> (C, L) <i>yudelkani</i> (M)	[you-del-kan-nen] [you-del-kan-ee]
one's clan helper	<i>-ciile'</i>	[skee-leh]
people of an opposite clan	<i>c'aats'ne</i>	[pron. uncertain]
paternal relative	<i>-desnen'</i>	[sdes-nen]
paternal relatives	<i>-desnen'iine</i>	[sdes-nen-ee-na]
maternal relatives	<i>- 'el ts'inidaekne</i>	[selth chin-ee-dak- neh]

CLOTHES & RELATED TERMS

clothes	<i>yu'</i>	[you]
dance clothes	<i>ndaas yu'</i> <i>c'edzes yuu'</i> (M)	[doss-you] [ked-zes you]
shirt, dress	<i>dghaec</i> (C) <i>ggaec</i> (L) <i>deghaec</i> (M)	[gike] [gike] [deh-gike]
potlatch shirt	<i>hwtiitl dghaege'</i>	[koo-teeth gag-eh]
skirt	<i>dabaac</i> (C)	[da-bok]
blouse	<i>c'eciidi</i> (C) <i>c'ezic</i> (U)	[kek-kee-dee] [kez-eek]
coat	<i>beldih</i> (W) (Russian loanword)	[bell-dee]
parka	<i>dan deghaec</i> (M) <i>dghani dghaec</i> (C) <i>ggani ggaec</i> (L)	[dan deh-gike] [gan-nee gike] [gan-nee gike]
vest	<i>dehts'ughelzo'i</i> (C, L)	[da-che-gell-zoe-ee]
blanket, robe	<i>ts'ede'</i> (C, U) <i>sde'</i> (L)	[ched-ah] [sed-ah]
woven rabbit blanket	<i>ggax stl'uuni</i>	[gok stloo-nee]
rabbit skin blanket	<i>ggax sde'</i>	[gok sed-ah]
wood war armor	<i>cen dghaec</i>	[ken gike]
armor (general term)	<i>ggaan' ditaani</i> (C)	[gon dit-aw-nee]
rain coat	<i>caan dghaec</i>	[kon gike]
pants	<i>tl'asel</i> <i>sel</i>	[klaw-selth] [selth]
dress pants	<i>dicaaxi tl'asel</i> (lit. "expensive pants")	[dee-kaw-kee klaw-selth]

blue jeans	<i>ts'iits'i tl'asel</i> (C) (<i>ts'iits'i</i> means <i>denim</i>)	[chee-see klaw-selth]
suspenders	<i>tl'asel tl'uul</i>	[klaw-selth-tloo-leh]
belt	<i>sez</i>	[sezz]
moccasins, Indian slippers	<i>kentsiis</i>	[ken-chees]
mukluks	<i>kec'otl'</i>	[kek-oth]
rubber boots	<i>satbagi</i> (C, L) <i>sacbagi</i> (W) (Russian loanword) <i>tuu sel</i> (U) (<i>tuu</i> means <i>water</i>)	[sat-bag-gee] [sak-bag-gee] [too selth]
shoelace	<i>kentsiis tl'uule'</i>	[ken-chees tloo-leh]
socks	<i>tel</i>	[tell]
mittens	<i>gets</i>	[gets]
gloves	<i>lagets'</i>	[la-gets]
mitten strings	<i>gets tl'uule'</i>	[gets tloo-leh]
hat, hood	<i>tsic'uuts'</i> <i>tsic'uus</i>	[cheek-oots] [cheek-oos]
muskrat hat	<i>dzen tsic</i>	[jen cheek]
beaver hat	<i>tsa' tsic</i>	[chaw cheek]
shaman's hat (sleep doctor?)	<i>sen tsic'uus</i>	[sen cheek-oos]
puberty hood	<i>tsikal</i>	[chee-koth]
decorations on puberty hood	<i>dzoobaas</i> (C)	[joo-boss]
purse, handbag	<i>'alcesi</i>	[alth-kess-ee]

ring	<i>lats'agh</i>	[lat-chaw]
bracelet	<i>ladi'aani</i>	[lad-ih-aw-nee]
necklace	<i>nezaghe'snelyaayi</i>	[nezz-ah-snell yaw-yee]
handkerchief, scarf	<i>ladok</i> (C, L) (Russian loanword)	[la-dock]
beads	<i>natl'ets'i</i>	[na-tless-see]
ochre paint	<i>tsiis</i> (ex. <i>tsisyu</i> , “Paint Clan”)	[chees]
chin tattoo	<i>uyida' neltats'</i>	[oo-yee-da nell-tats]

COLORS

white	<i>lggay</i> (C, L) <i>lggey</i> (M)	[ell-guy-ee] [ell-gay-ee]
black	<i>lt'uuts'</i> (also pron.)	[ell-toots'] [ell-toots-eh]
red	<i>del</i> (also <i>deldel</i>)	[dell]
dark red	<i>t'el</i>	[tell]
brown	<i>ltsogh</i> (see “yellow” below)	[ell-choe]
dark brown	<i>delzen</i>	[dell-zen]
navy blue	<i>datl'ets'i</i>	[dak-klet-see]
light blue	<i>suux</i>	[soo]
gray	<i>lbaa</i>	[ell-baw]
silver	<i>lbaey</i> (M)	[ell-bay]
yellow	<i>tsogh</i> (C) (pron. as in English “so”. One example of usage includes <i>Taltsogh Na'</i> , Tulsona Creek; lit. “yellow creek”)	[so]
yellowish-brown	<i>ditsiic</i>	[dee-cheek]
tan	<i>'itsuuk</i>	[eet-sook]
turquoise	<i>sos k'os</i> (M)	[sos kos]
orange	<i>saghani gige'</i> (lit. “raven berry”)	[saw-gaw-nee gig-eh]
rusty	<i>na'aay tsaane'</i>	[naw-eye chawn]
green	<i>tl'ogh</i> (L) (also pron.) <i>tl'ogh k'eltsiini</i> (C) (<i>tl'ogh</i> also means “grass”)	[tloe] [kloe] [tloe kell-cheen-ee]

off-white / cream

ukadelggey (M)

[ook-a-dell-gay]

clear, glassy

uyii kat'kaen
uhwnax kat'taen
(*hwnax* means “house”)

[oo-yee-kot-kan-ee]
[oo-nok kot-tan-ee]

COOKING & EATING UTENSILS

cooking utensils	<i>c'aniidi</i> (C, L) <i>c'eniidi</i> (M) <i>c'egheniidi</i> (W)	[kan-ee-dee] [ken-ee-dee] [keg-gen-ee-dee]
dish, dishes	<i>ts'aay'</i> (C, L) <i>ts'aac</i> (M)	[chaw-eye] [chaw-ak]
dinner plate	<i>delkadi</i> (C, L)	[dell-kaw-dee]
wooden plate	<i>cen tsa'aay'</i> (C, L)	[ken chaw-eye]
soup bowl	<i>tsa'aay' deldziidi</i>	[chaw-eye dell-jee-dee]
cooking basket	<i>ghalts'axi</i> (C) <i>k'alts'axi</i> (L) <i>k'elts'axa</i> (M)	[gelt-saw-kee] [kelt-saw-kee] [kelt-saw-ka]
cup	<i>tutiil</i> <i>tsesga'</i> (W) (pron. uncertain) (Russian loanword)	[to-teeth]
glass	<i>sdagaan</i> (C, L) (Russian loanword) <i>sdagele'</i> (W)	[sda-gawn] [sda-gel-eh]
saucer	<i>tutiil tl'aaxi</i>	[to-teeth tlaw-kee]
stove	<i>sdoo</i> (C, L, M) (English deriv. pron. like English “stove”) <i>gabiin</i> (C, W) <i>gamiin</i> (C, W) (Russian loanwords)	[sdoe] [ga-bean] [ga-mean]
stove pipe	<i>gabiin zaegge'</i> (lit. “stove’s larynx”) (hybrid, Russian and Ahtna terms)	[ga-bean zag-geh]

frying pan	<i>uyii nac'ent'esi</i> <i>benec'ent'esi</i> <i>sguuli</i> (L) (Russian loanword)	[oo-yee na-ken-tess- ee] [ben-ek-en-tess-ee] [sgoo-lee]
baking pan	<i>sdoo delts'axe'</i> (C, L) <i>sdoo ts'aac</i> (M) (lit. means “stove dish”)	[sdoe dell-chak-eh] [sdoe chaw-ak]
mixing bowl	<i>uyii nay'nilbaesi</i> (C, L)	[oo-yee nie-nill-bass- ee]
dish pan	<i>c'etsiy ts'aay'</i> (C, L) <i>tsits'aay</i> <i>c'etsii ts'aac</i> (M)	[ket-chee chaw-eye] [chit-chaw-eye] [ket-chee chaw-ak]
tea kettle	<i>tсениic</i> (C) <i>tсениi</i> (M) <i>tsiniic</i> (L) (all variants of Russian loanword)	[chen-EEK] [chen-ee] [chin-EEK]
small kettle	<i>tсениic ggaay</i> (C)	[chen-EEK-guy]
coffee pot	<i>guuxiniic</i> (W)	[goo-hee-neek]
teapot	<i>uyii tay'deltl'edi</i> (C) <i>uyii tay'delyaesi</i> (L) <i>uyii tacdelyaesi</i> (M)	[oo-yee tie-dell-tled- ee] [oo-yee tie-dell-yess- ee] [oo-yee tak-dell-yess- ee]
spout	<i>udazuuze'</i>	[oo-da-zoo-zeh]
bucket	<i>naz'aay</i>	[naz-eye]
cast iron pot	<i>ts'es naz'aaye'</i> (C, L)	[chess-noz-eye]
copper kettle	<i>tsedi naz'aaye'</i> (C, L) <i>tsetsaan' naz'aay'</i> (M)	[ched-ee noz-eye] [chet-san noz-eye]
barrel; keg	<i>nadelgheli</i>	[na-del-gell-ee]
spoon	<i>skaa</i>	[skaw]

metal spoon	<i>c'etsiy skaa</i> (C, L) <i>c'etsii skaa</i> (M)	[ket-chih skaw] [ket-chee-skaw]
wooden spoon	<i>cen skaa</i>	[ken skaw]
birch spoon	<i>k'ey skaa</i>	[kay skaw]
sheep horn spoon	<i>debaede' skaa</i>	[de-ba skaw]
fork	<i>tsicot'i</i> (C, L) <i>c'egugi</i> (M)	[chee-koe-tee] [kay-goo-gee]
table knife	<i>tsay'tsiy nelbedzi</i> (C, L)	[chay-chee nell-bed-zee]
spatula	<i>u'el nakey'nalyaexi</i> (C, L)	[oo-kalth nak-nal-yath-ee]
roasting stick; meat fork	<i>gges</i>	[gess]
wooden hook	<i>cen sax</i> (C, L) <i>decen sax</i> (M)	[ken sok] [deh-ken sok]
toothpick	<i>neghustl'en detsiyi</i>	[neh-gus-tlen det-chee]
rolling pin	<i>uk'eh ludalbasi</i> (C, L)	[oo-keh thlood-al-bass-ee]
can, bottle	<i>c'ecene'</i>	[kek-ken-eh]
lard pail, lard bucket	<i>salcene'</i>	[sal-ken-eh]
whiskey bottle	<i>uyaeni cene'</i> (C, L) <i>kon'tu' cene'</i> (M) (lit. "fire water bottle")	[oo-yan-ee ken-eh] [kon-too ken-eh]
lid	<i>c'edaaydi</i>	[ked-eye-dee]
dish scraper	<i>tl'ogh destl'uuni</i> (lit. "green grass pad")	[kloe dest-loon-nee]
intestine bag, for storing lard	<i>c'etsaa'zes</i>	[ket-saw-zess]

moose bladder bag, used for storing lard	<i>deniigi lose'</i>	[den-nee-gee loss-eh]
fish skin bag	<i>ba'zes</i>	[baw-zess]
swan bone straw, drinking tube	<i>kaggos zuul</i> (C,L) <i>taggos zuul</i> (U)	[kag-gos zoolth] [tag-gos zoolth]
water pitcher	<i>tuyiizkaani</i> (also pron.)	[to-yeeek-on] [to-yeeek-non] [to-yeeek-non-ee]

DOMESTIC ANIMALS / PETS

cat	<i>gusgeggaay</i> (Russian loanword)	[guss-geh-guy]
cow	<i>giliba'</i> (C, L) (Russian loanword)	[gill-ee-baw]
dog, in general	<i>lic'ae</i> <i>li'kaey</i> (C, L)	[thlik-a] [thlik-kay]
puppy	<i>liggaay</i> (lit. "little dog")	[thlee-guy]
male dog	<i>liciil</i> (lit. "boy dog")	[thlee- keeth]
old dog	<i>liyaane'</i>	[thlee-yon-ee]
horse	<i>gon</i> (C) <i>gaan'</i> (L) (Russian loanword)	[gon] [gon]
pig	<i>sidin-gah</i> (C) (Russian loanword)	[see-deen-ga]

FIRE & FIRE RELATED WORDS

fire	<i>kon'</i> (C, L)	[kon]
kitchen matches	<i>kon' delnaesi</i>	[kon delth-nass-ee]
wooden matches	<i>cen kon'</i> (C, L)	[ken kon]
paper matches	<i>giligak kon'</i> (C, L)	[gill-i-gak kon]
fire pit	<i>kon' dak'ae</i> (M) <i>kon' k'ae</i> (C, L)	[kon dak-a] [kon ka]
fireplace	<i>kon' dek'aan'de</i>	[kon dek-on-day]
spark	<i>kon' ts'iile'</i>	[kon cheel-eh]
fire drill; friction stick	<i>c'uditsaey</i> (C, L)	[kue-dit-chay]
ashes	<i>kon' laedze'</i>	[kon-la-jay]
charcoal; coal	<i>t'aes</i>	[tass]
hot coals	<i>sii't</i>	[seet]
smoke	<i>let</i>	[thlet]
smokehole; in a house/tent	<i>letk'ae</i> <i>lek'ae</i> (M)	[thlet-ka] [thlek-a]
firewood	<i>tsets</i>	[chets]
wood shavings;	<i>c'ezaes</i>	[kay-zass]
wood chips; kindling	<i>c'ekay</i> (C, L) <i>c'ekaye'</i> (W)	[kay-kay] [kay-kay-eh]
dry brush	<i>hduule'</i>	[doo-lay]
dry spruce twigs	<i>dats'iisi</i> (C, L) (gen. pron. only "chee-see") <i>dacts'iisi</i> (M) <i>dats'iits'i</i> (W)	[da-chee-see] [dak-chee-see] [da-cheet-see]

kindling; general term	<i>ghalt'oghi</i>	[gal-toe-ee]
axe chips	<i>c'etsaedle'</i>	[ket-chad-leh]
fire tongs; used to lift hot rocks	<i>sezel cene'</i> (C, L) (“sezel” is steam bath) <i>tsezel cene'</i> (U)	[sez-zel ken-eh] [chez-zel ken-eh]
rocks or stones for steam bath	<i>sezel ts'ese'</i> (C, L) <i>tsezel ts'ese'</i> (U)	[sez-zel chess-a] [chez-zel chess-a]
lamp, candle	<i>nunak</i> (L) <i>ninak</i> (M, C) (Eskimo loanword?)	[new-nak] [nee-nak]

FISH & WATER CREATURES

arctic grayling (<i>Thymallus arcticus</i>)	<i>tsabaey</i>	[cha-bay]
small grayling	<i>segele</i> (M) <i>tsabaey ggaay</i> (C, L) (<i>ggaay</i> means “small” or “little”)	[seg-ell-ee] [cha-bay guy]
grayling dorsal fin	<i>uts’edae’</i>	[oo-ched-eh]
bloodsucker, leach (<i>Hirudinea</i>)	<i>ben tl’aghese’</i> (C, L) <i>tl’aghes ggaay</i> (M)	[ben tla-ges-eh] [tla-ges guy]
bullhead, sculpin (<i>Cottidae</i>)	<i>ts’est’aaxi</i> <i>ts’est’aaxdi</i> (W)	[chess-ah-kee] [chess-ack-dee]
burbot, ling cod (<i>Lota lota</i>)	<i>ts’anyae</i> (C, L) <i>ts’aann</i> (M) (pron. uncertain)	[chen-ya]
clam	<i>dahdaak</i> (Alutiiq loanword from <i>salaq</i> ?)	[da-dok]
crab	<i>nats’endelaayi</i>	[nats-sen-dell-eye-yee]
hooligan; eulachon (also called “candlefish” because the slender, oily, and edible fish could be dried and used as candles.)	<i>dilaxi</i>	[dill-ah-kee]
arctic lamprey (<i>Lampetra japonica</i>)	<i>tl’aghes</i>	[tlaw-ges]
northern pike (<i>Esox Lucius</i>)	<i>c’ulgaadzi</i> (M) <i>olgaadzi</i> (C)	[kool-gad-zee] [ool-gad-zee]
salmon (general term) (<i>Oncorhynchus</i>)	<i>luk’ae</i>	[thloo-ka]
sockeye salmon (reds) (<i>Oncorhynchus nerka</i>)	<i>nulaeggi</i>	[new-lak-ee]

small sockeye salmon	<i>sesluugge'</i>	[ses-loo-geh]
upper Copper River red	<i>natael luugge'</i>	[na-tath loo-geh]
king salmon (<i>Oncorhynchus tshawytscha</i>)	<i>luk'ece'e</i> (lit. "big salmon"; <i>ce'e</i> means "big")	[thloo-kek-eh]
king salmon that spawns up Tonsina River	<i>kentsina'i</i> (L)	[kent-see-na ?]
small king salmon; jack	<i>bac'its'aadi</i> (C, L)	[bak-eets-a-dee]
silver salmon; coho (<i>Oncorhynchus kisutch</i>)	<i>xayluugge'</i>	[high-loo-geh]
silver salmon nickname	<i>tehdzuugge'</i> (C, L)	[ted-joo-geh]
pink salmon; humpback (<i>Oncorhynchus gorbuscha</i>)	<i>dak'aay</i> (C, L) <i>dak'aagi</i> (M)	[dak-aye] [dak-a-gee]
spawning fish	<i>tazdlaexi</i> (C, L) <i>tazdlaegge</i> (M)	[taz-dlak-he] [taz-dlag-gee]
late salmon	<i>k'ets'eni</i>	[kets-sen-ee]
spawned-out salmon	<i>dadzaasi</i> <i>tultaeni</i>	[dad-zas-see] [toolth-tan-eh]
lake snail	<i>tl'aas</i> (M)	[tlass]
sucker (<i>Catostomus catostomus</i>)	<i>dahts'adyeh</i> (C) <i>dahts'ageh</i> (L) <i>tats'ade</i> (M)	[dot-sod-yeh] [dot-sog-eh] [tat-sod-eh]
dolly varden (<i>Salvelinus malma</i>)	<i>ts'engasdlaeggi</i> <i>ts'engastlaegge</i> (M)	[chen-gas-dlag-kee] [chen-gast-lag-eh]
lake trout (<i>Salvelinus namaycush</i>)	<i>baet</i>	[bat]
rainbow trout (<i>Salmo gairdneri</i>)	<i>t'aan' delk'esi</i> (L) (also: <i>biidelxi</i>)	[tan dell-kess-ee] [bee-dell-hee]
steelhead	<i>dadzeli</i> (?) <i>xaylukae</i> (C) (lit. "winter salmon")	[dad-zelth-ee] [high-thlook-eh]

whitefish (<i>Coregonus nelsoni</i>)	<i>luux</i>	[thlook]
round whitefish; pin nose (<i>Prosopium cylindraceum</i>)	<i>xasten'</i> (C, L) <i>kasten'</i> (M)	[kass-ten] [kass-ten]
minnows, fry fish	<i>tsabaey yiige'</i> (C) <i>'ul'uli</i> (M)	[cha-bay yee-geh] [koolth-kool-lee]
frog (<i>Rana sylvatica</i>)	<i>naghaay</i>	[na-guy-ee]

FISH PARTS & TRADITIONAL USEAGE

Without question salmon was (and still is) the single most important food (protein) source to Ahtna Indians. Hundreds, even thousands of fish are caught annually by families to be smoked or dried for winter consumption and to feed pack dogs. No wonder so many words about salmon exist in the Ahtna vocabulary.

salmon head	<i>luk'ae tse'</i>	[thlook-a chay]
fermented fish heads (general term)	<i>c'etse' nitsiitl'i</i>	[pron. uncertain]
fermented fish eggs and fish heads	<i>k'uun' tay'tse'</i> <i>k'uun' taytsi (M)</i>	[k-oon ta-cha] [k-oon ta-chee]
fermented fish (<i>fermented underground</i>)	<i>dzenax</i> (also pron.)	[jen-naw] [jen-nok]
fermented fish heads (also called "stink heads," a delicacy, though prone to salmonella and botulism if done incorrectly)	<i>nelk'oli</i>	[nelth-kolth-ee]
fish nose cartilage	<i>bengguudze'</i>	[ben-goo-jay]
fish's belly	<i>c'ebede</i>	[kay-bed-eh]
fish backbone	<i>c'eyene'</i>	[kay-yen-eh]
fish's gills	<i>uk'ese' (C, M)</i> <i>uk'estes'e' (L)</i>	[ook-ess-eh] [ook-est-eh]
fish skin	<i>ba'zes</i>	[bah-zess]
fin (general term)	<i>c'et'oghe'</i>	[ket-toe-gay]
pectoral fin	<i>i'dzaghal t'oghe'</i>	[ee-jay-gall toe-gay]
pelvic fin	<i>ut'aay t'oghe</i> (also pron.)	[oo-tie toe-gay] [oo-taw toe-gay]
dorsal fin	<i>uyen t'oghe</i>	[oo-yen toe-gay]
adipose fin	<i>ucel t'oghe'</i>	[oo-kell toe-gay]

anal fin	<i>utsel t'oghe'</i>	[oo-chel toe-gay]
fishtail	<i>c'ecila'</i> (L) (also pron.)	[kek-kell-ah] [oo-kell-ah]
fishtail meat	<i>celt'agge'</i> (C) <i>cilt'agge'</i> (L) <i>c'ecelat'agga'</i> (M)	[kell-taw-geh] [kill-taw-geh] [kek-eh-lat-tag-ah]
fish milt (sperm)	<i>c'etl'edze'</i>	[ket-leh-jay]
fish eggs	<i>k'uun'</i> (pron. as one long syllable)	[k'oon]
dried fish eggs	<i>k'uun' nezggani</i>	[k-oon nez-gaw-nee]
fish egg soup	<i>k'uun' taas</i>	[k-oon toss]
fresh fish	<i>naanaay</i>	[nie-nie]
slime	<i>c'etl'ese'</i>	[ket-kless-eh]
scales	<i>c'egguuze'</i>	[keg-goo-zeh]
fish's air bladder	<i>c'elose'</i>	[kell-o-say]
fish blood (black)	<i>ucaan hwdistl'iize'</i>	[oo-kan dis-klez-zee]
dried fish	<i>ba'</i>	[bah]
partially dried fish	<i>ukazggani</i>	[oo-kaz-gan-ee]
filleted fish	<i>tnadghuugi</i>	[tnad-gue-gee]
fishing hole (dipnetting place)	<i>ciisi k'aet</i>	[kee-see kat]
salted fish	<i>natu' dzenax</i> (also pron.)	[nat-to jen-aw] [nat-to jen-ak]
salted fish used for dog food	<i>k'ets'</i>	[ell-kess-ee]
soaked dry fish	<i>naltseli</i> <i>naltsel</i> (M)	[nalth-chell-ee] [nall-chell]

whole fish;
barbequed on a stick

tsigi ggaay

[chi-gee guy-ee]

fish cooked over fire

na'ibaali (C, L)

[na-ee-by-lee]

suspended by a line

na'ibaal (M)

[naw-ee-byth]

wind-dried fish meat

uk'edezyesi
uk'edezyiic (M)

[ook-ed-ez-yes-ee]
[ook-ed-ez-yeek]

FOOD & RELATED TERMS

food; in general	<i>c'aan</i> (C, L) (pron. as two distinct syllables)	[k-on]
his lunch	<i>ukaede'</i> (C, L) <i>ukokaede'</i> (M)	[oo-kad-eh] [oo-koe-kad-eh]
his left-over food	<i>uditsagge'</i>	[oo-dit-cha-gay]
meat	<i>c'esten'</i>	[ket-chen]
my meat	<i>sc'etsiine'</i>	[sket-chee-nay]
fried meat	<i>c'etsen' zt'aeyi</i>	
boiled meat	<i>c'etsen' sdlaedzi</i>	[ket-chen sla-jee]
dried meat	<i>c'etsen' zggani</i> (pron. the <u>z</u>)	[ket-chen z-gan-ee]
smoked meat	<i>c'etsen' let'el zggani</i> (pron. the <u>zg</u> together)	[ket-chen thlet selth zgan-ee]
raw meat	<i>t'aexi c'etsen'</i>	[ta-kee ket-chen]
freshly-killed meat	<i>c'etsen' dghots'i</i>	
rib meat	<i>c'eyitsen'</i>	[kay-yee-chen]
steaks from hump	<i>c'eghaane'</i>	[kay-gone-eh]
moose's leg meat	<i>c'ekodaa'</i> (C, L)	[kek-oh-daw]
shoulder meat	<i>c'eghesnatsen'</i>	
moose hip meat	<i>c'ebaege'</i>	[keh-bag-eh]
tripe	<i>i'tsazes</i> (C, L) <i>c'etsaa' zes</i> (W)	[eet-chaw-zes] [ket-chaw zes]
intestine	<i>c'ets'iige'</i>	[ket-chee-gay]

moose gut; part of stomach	<i>c'edziide'</i>	[keh-jee-day]
moose belly lining	<i>c'ecaanyu'</i>	[kek-awn-you]
diced meat	<i>bedzes</i>	[bed-zess]
diced fermented meat	<i>dinaat'aats'i</i>	[din-naw-tot-see]
blood and fat soup	<i>utanay'tnelk'aani</i> (C, L) <i>utanatnelk'aann</i> (M)	
food in caribou stomach (dried and eaten with fish grease)	<i>c'etsaagge'</i>	[ket-chaw-gay]
gristle	<i>c'e't</i> (C, L) (pron. the <u>k</u> as a syllable) <i>dec'et</i> (M)	[k-et] [dek-et]
bone marrow	<i>c'eyighe'</i>	[kay-yee-geh]
kidney fat; heart fat	<i>i'yunax</i> (C, L) <i>c'iyunax</i> (M) <i>c'eyinax</i> (W)	[i-you-nak] [kee-you-nak] [kay-yee-nak]
fat around moose large intestine	<i>c'entsedle'</i>	[ken-ched-leh]
fat	<i>c'ek'ax</i>	[kek-kok]
rendered fat	<i>c'ecaadze'</i>	[kek-kaw-jay]
solid fat, lard	<i>tlagh</i>	[tlaw]
grease	<i>xae</i>	[ka] (as in “cat”)
fresh salmon	<i>naanaay</i>	[naw-nie]
fish meat	<i>c'enaat'</i>	[ken-not]
dry fish	<i>ba'</i>	[ba]
smoked salmon strips	<i>natsa'i</i> (C, L) <i>natsagga</i> (M) <i>natsak'i</i> (W)	[nat-sa-kee] [nat-sag-ga] [nat-sa-kee]

backbone strip from king salmon	<i>c'entsiis k'aage'</i>	[ken-chees kaw-geh]
dried salmon strips	<i>i'denaagge'</i> (C, L) <i>c'edenaagga'</i> (M)	[ee-den-aw-geh] [ked-en-aw-ga]
split whole salmon backbone	<i>nił dzendalneni</i> (M)	[neelth jen-dal- nen-ee]
cut fish	<i>lk'esi</i>	[ell-kess-ee]
salmon grease	<i>luk'ae ghe'</i>	[thlook-ay geh]
fermented fish	<i>dzenax</i>	[jen-ok]
salt cured fish	<i>natu' dzenax</i>	[nat-to jen-ok]
dried king salmon head	<i>tsit'aggan</i>	[cheet-ag-gan]
roasted whole fish on a roasting stick	<i>tsigiggaay</i>	[chee-gig-guy]
roasted fish meat on a roasting stick	<i>natael</i>	[na-tath]
salmon nose cartilage	<i>c'engguudze'</i>	[ken-goo-jay]
fermented fish eggs	<i>k'uun' tay'tse'</i> (C, L) <i>k'uun' tac'etse'</i> (M)	[k-oon tay-cheh] [k-oon tak-eh-cheh]
fermented fish heads; “stink heads”	<i>nelk'oli</i> (M) <i>nalk'oli</i> (C, L)	[nelth-kolth-ee] [nalth-kolth-ee]
dried fish eggs, stuffed in fish skin	<i>k'uun' dzaex</i>	[k-oon jack]
fish egg soup	<i>k'uun' taas</i>	[k-oon toss]
egg; bird egg	<i>ghaes</i>	[gas]
soup; in general	<i>taas</i>	[toss]
soup broth (juice?)	<i>utu'</i>	[oo-to]

gravy	<i>c'aan niziili</i> (C) <i>c'aan nilziili</i> (M)	[kon niz-zeelth-ee] [kon nil-zeelth-ee]
vegetables, or fruit	<i>nanelyaki</i>	[nan-el-ya-kee]
rice	<i>gguux k'enełtsiini</i> (C, L) (lit "looks like worms") <i>zaay</i> (M) (English loanword)	[goo ken-ell-chee- nee] [zie]
beans	<i>miin</i> (M) (English loanword) <i>miizi</i> (C, L)	[meen] [mee-zee]
Indian potatoes	<i>tsaas</i>	[choss]
dried apple	<i>bedzaghe'</i> (C, L) <i>c'ebedzagha'</i> (M)	[be-jaw-ga] [keh-be-jaw-ga]
dried peaches	<i>nen' bedzaghe'</i> (C, L)	[nen be-jaw-ga]
prunes	<i>bents'ese' nilaeni</i> (C, L) <i>bents'ese' hwnilaen</i> (M)	[ben-chees-ee neel-lan-ee] [ben-chees-ee neel-lan]
bread	<i>liba'</i> (W) (Russian loanword) <i>c'aan</i> (C, L) (pron. as two syllables)	[thlee-ba] [k-on]
toast	<i>c'aan nilyaayi</i> (C, L) <i>c'aan nilyaas</i> (M)	[k-on neelth-yaw-yee] [k-on neelth-yos]
flour	<i>c'aan nal'oxi</i>	[k-on nal-o-kee]
brown bread, dark flour	<i>tselnesne'</i> (C, L) <i>c'aan nelt'uudzi</i> (M)	[chell-nes-neh] [k-on nel-to-jee]
pilot bread, cracker, hardtack	<i>c'aan nelggani</i>	[k-on nell-gone-ee]
fry bread, bannock	<i>kon'k'e nezt'aeyi</i>	[kon-keh nez-ta-yee]

honey, syrup	<i>bedaga'</i> <i>bediga'</i> (Russian loanwords) <i>k'iltu'</i> (M) (lit. "birch tree water")	[be-daw-ga] [be-dee-ga] [keelth-to]
cough syrup	<i>kos badigaa'</i>	[kos ba-dee-gaw]
butter	<i>basdlah</i> (C, L) <i>basdlax</i> (M) (Russian loanwords)	[bos-dla] [bos-dlah]
berry pudding	<i>c'encaes</i>	[ken-kass]
sugar	<i>ggalnesi</i> (L) <i>dghalnesi</i> (C, M) <i>saxaal</i> (W) (Russian loanword)	[gall-ness-ee] [gall-ness-ee] [saw-koll]
brown sugar	<i>ggalnesi lt'uuts'i</i> (<i>lt'uuts'i</i> means "dark")	[gall-ness-ee ell-toot-see]
cooked sugar; sugar candy	<i>ggalnesi sdlaedzi</i> (often called only " <i>sdlaedzi</i> ")	[gal-ness-ee sla-jee]
salt	<i>natu'</i>	[na-to]
pepper	<i>neldon'i</i> (C, L)	[nell-doe-nee]
mustard	<i>sc'aen tsaane'</i> (scatological origin)	[sken chawn]
chewing gum	<i>dzaex</i>	[jack]
beverage	<i>ts'etnaani</i>	[chet-non-ee]
milk	<i>baa</i> (pron. as in "law") <i>c'ebaa</i> (W) (Russian loanword)	[baw] [keh-baw]
soda pop	<i>tuu nelnesi</i> (lit. "tastes good water")	[to nell-ness-ee]

tea	<i>tsaey</i> (Russian loanword)	[chie; chy]
tea bag	<i>‘alcesi ggaay</i> (lit. “little bag”)	[alth-kess-see guy]
coffee	<i>guuxi</i> (C, L) <i>guuxe’</i> (M, W) (Russian loanword)	[goo-kee] [goo-keh]
water	<i>tuu</i>	[to]
bacon	<i>begin</i> (English loanword)	[beh-gin]
oatmeal	<i>‘utniil</i> (English loanword)	[oot-neel]
beer	<i>tuu ts’etnaani</i>	[to chet-non-ee]
wine	<i>gigitu’</i> (lit. “berry water”)	[gig-ee to]
whiskey	<i>uyaeni</i> (C, L) (Russian loanword) <i>kon’tu’</i> (M, C) (lit. “fire water” or “water that burns”)	[oo-yan-ee] [kon to]
vodka	<i>lazenii tu’</i>	[la-zen-ee to]
gin	<i>ts’abaeli tu’</i> (lit. “spruce tree water”)	[cha-bell-ee to]
chewing tobacco	<i>lasgih</i> (Russian loanword)	[loss-gee]
cigarette	<i>let</i> (lit. “makes smoke”)	[thlet]
snuff	<i>datk’aali</i>	[dot-kall-ee]
medicine; general term	<i>bedesnii</i> (C, L) (English loanword) <i>c’ekunesi</i> (M)	[bed-es-nee] [kek-un-ness-ee]
groceries	<i>c’aan ggaay</i> (C, L)	[k-on gie]

HOUSEHOLD FURNISHINGS & PERSONAL BELONGINGS

belongings, possessions, stuff	<i>ggan</i>	[gon]
his property	<i>udataaxi</i>	[oo-dat-taw-he]
his belongings	<i>u'iiye</i> <i>u'ii</i> (W)	[oo-yee-yeh] [oo-yee]
his property (after death)	<i>uggase'</i>	[oo-gas-eh]
mirror	<i>uyii na'stnal'aeni</i> (C, L) <i>nastnal'aenn</i> (M)	[oo-yee not-nost-nall- lan-ee] [nost-nall-lan]
garbage	<i>tilt'edi</i>	[till-deth-ee]
dirt, dust, filth (in a house)	<i>ggas</i>	[goss]
box, trash bin	<i>uyii kolyaesi</i>	[oo-yee kall-yass-ee]
steambath washtub, dug out spruce log	<i>gulide'</i> (L) (Russian loanword)	[goo-lee-deh]
steambath switch	<i>beniic</i> (C, L) <i>meniic</i> (M)	[ben-neek] [men-neek]
broom	<i>u'el hwdeggaadi</i> <i>u'el koltsezi</i> (W)	[oo-eth deh-gaw-dee] [oo-eth kole-chez- zee]
mop	<i>u'el nakotc'ots'i</i>	[oo-eth nok-o-choe- chee]
oil lamp wick	<i>bediile'</i> (C, L) (Russian loanword)	[bed-deel-eh]
clock, watch	<i>tatnelt'odzi</i> (C, L) <i>deltlaagi</i> <i>tsesi</i> (Russian loanword)	[tat-neth-toe-jee] [dell-tlaw-gee] [chess-see]

a fancy watch	<i>dzincbaas</i> (C) (Russian loanword)	[jink-boss]
bed, bunk	<i>dzel</i> (C, L) <i>dahdzel</i> (M)	[jeth] [daw-jeth]
blanket	<i>ts'ede'</i> (C, U) <i>sde'</i> (L) (pron. as in “slaw”)	[ched-ah] [sdaw]
Hudson Bay Blanket	<i>ts'ede' lggayi</i> (lit. “white blanket”)	[ched-eh ell-guy-ee]
printed fabric tapestry	<i>tsicoh sde'</i>	[chee-koe sdaw]
mat, bedroll, mattress	<i>tael</i>	[tath]
rabbit skin blanket	<i>ggax ts'ede'</i>	[gok ched-ah]
grass mat	<i>tl'ogh tael</i>	[kloe-tath]
feather mattress	<i>cots' tael</i> (pron. <i>cots'</i> as one syllable)	[kee-oats tath]
caribou skin mat	<i>udzih tael</i>	[you-jee tath]
sleeping bag	<i>uyii ts'eztaeni</i> (C, L)	[oo-yee chez-tan-ee]
pillow	<i>tsi'aal</i>	[chee-oth]
pillow case	<i>tsi'aal zes</i> (lit. “pillow skin”)	[chee-oth zess]
door	<i>lidatnetaani</i> (also pron.)	[dot-net-taw-nee] [thli-dot-net-taw-nee]
key	<i>geluuts</i> (Russian loanword)	[gell-oots]
table	<i>uk'e'sc'eyaani</i> (C, L) <i>uk'etsc'eyaann</i> (M)	[ook-ez-skay-yon-ee] [ook-et-skay-yon]
tea table, low table	<i>tsaey t'aaxi</i> (also pron.)	[chay taw-hee] [chay taw-kee]

chair	<i>sdali</i> (pron. as in “stall”) <i>sdal</i> (M)	[sdall-ee] [sdall]
trunk	<i>uyii kuzdlaayi</i> (<i>uyii</i> means “goes inside”)	[oo-yee kuz-dlaw-yee]
cabinet	<i>ut’aa kuzdlaayi</i>	[oo-taw kuz-dlaw-yee]
box	<i>sael</i>	[sath]
wood box	<i>cen sael</i> (C, L) <i>decen sael</i> (M)	[ken sath] [dek-ken sath]
lamp, light, candle	<i>nunak</i> (L) <i>ninak</i> (C, M) (Eskimo loanword)	[new-nak] [nee-nak]
baby cradle	<i>ts’aatl’</i> (C, L) (pron. uncertain) <i>ts’aal</i> (M)	[choth]
soap	<i>biile’</i> (Russian loanword)	[bee-leh]
cross	<i>geliis</i> (pron. “leese” as in “geese”) (Russian loanword)	[gell-leese]
photograph	<i>galdiine’</i> (W) (Russian loanword)	[gal-deen]
telephone	<i>uyii skenaesi</i> (C, L) <i>uyii ts’kenaesi</i> (W)	[oo-yee sken-nass-ee] [oo-yee chen-ken-nass-ee]
calendar	<i>na’aay yuule’</i> (lit. “sun counter”)	[naw-eye you-leh]
string calendar	<i>yuul</i> (as in English “youth”)	[yooth]
handbag, sewing bag	<i>’alcesi</i>	[oth-kess-see]

handbag	<i>get</i>	[geth]
comb	<i>tsuzaegi</i>	[chew-zag-ee]
paper, book	<i>giligak</i> (C, L) (Siberian Russian loanword)	[gill-ee-gak]
writing	<i>stsesi</i> (also pron.)	[kay-chees] [kay-chess]
money	<i>dicaaxi</i> (C, L) <i>den-gi</i> (W) (Russian loanword)	[dee-kaw-kee] [den-gee]
ladder	<i>bentnilkaeni</i> (L, W) <i>ketnitaani</i> (M, C)	[bent-nil-kan-ee] [ket-nit-taw-nee]
pipe, for smoke	<i>letcene'</i> (C, L) <i>lecene'</i> (M)	[thlet-ken-eh] [thlee-ken-eh]
mosquito lotion	<i>kuggaedi c'a'i</i>	[koo-god-ee-kaw-ee]
binoculars, telescope	<i>uyii hwnal'aeni</i>	[oo-yee who-nall-lan-ee]
map	<i>nen' k'estsesi</i> (C, L)	[nen kes-ches-ee]
eye glasses	<i>nak'ae ts'elyaayi</i>	[neck-ah chell-yaw-yee]
sun glasses	<i>na'aay nak'ae ts'elyaayi</i> (<i>na'aay</i> means "sun")	[naw-eye neck-ah chell-yaw-yee]
walking cane	<i>tets'</i>	[tets]
tobacco can	<i>lasgih cene'</i>	[loss-gee ken-eh]
tobacco spit, juice	<i>lasgih tuu</i> (<i>tuu</i> means "water")	[loss-gee too]
phonograph, musical instrument	<i>tnelzaeli</i>	[nell-zal-lee]

pencil

u'et c'etsiisi

[oo-eth ket-chee-see]

wallet

dicaaxi zes
(lit. "money skin")

[dee-kaw-kee zes]

HUNTING & FISHING TERMS

arrowhead, spearhead	<i>c'ek'a'</i>	[kek-kaw]
arrow	<i>cenk'a'</i> (C, L) <i>decenk'a'</i> (M)	[ken-kaw] [dek-ken-kaw]
iron arrowhead	<i>c'etsiy k'a'</i> (lit. "sharp iron")	[ket-chee kaw]
copper arrowhead	<i>tsedi k'a'</i> (lit. "sharp copper")	[ched-ee kaw]
antler arrowhead	<i>dats'en k'a'</i> (also pron.) (lit. "sharp antler")	[dot-sen kaw] [daw-chen kaw]
arrow feather	<i>cenk'a t'aa'</i> (pron. the <i>t</i> as a syllable)	[ken-kaw t-aw]
blunt arrow, for birds & small game	<i>tl'es</i> <i>centl'es</i> <i>tas</i> (M)	[tless] [ken-tless] [tass]
spear	<i>dudaay</i> <i>uyuuni</i>	[doo-die] [oo-you-nee]
caribou spear	<i>c'izaeggi</i> (C)	[kiz-zag-ee]
war weapons	<i>bandeyaeni</i> (C, L) <i>mandeyaenn</i> (M)	[ban-day-yan-ee] [man-day-yan]
gun, rifle	<i>k'a'</i> (lit. means "sharp")	[kaw]
gunsight	<i>k'a' k'ez'aani</i> (C, L)	[kaw kez-aw-nee]
gun case, scabbard	<i>k'a' zes</i> (lit. "gun skin")	[kaw zess]
bullets	<i>k'a' tse'</i> (pron. <i>cha</i> as in "chat")	[kaw cha]

old-time bullets	<i>c'edziidi</i> (C, L) <i>c'edziide'</i> (M)	[ked-zee-dee] [ked-jee-day]
gunpowder	<i>c'elaedze'</i> (lit. “gun dust”)	[kot-lad-zee]
old-time gun, (ex. .45-70)	<i>bentl'aadi</i> (C, L)	[ben-klaw-dee]
single shot .22	<i>ggax ghole'</i> (C) (note: <i>ggax</i> means “rabbit”)	[gok kol]
pistol	<i>nadec</i> (Russian loanword) <i>k'a' ggaay</i> (W) (lit. “small gun”)	[na-dek] [kaw guy]
snare	<i>ggaat</i>	[goth]
moose snare	<i>biil</i>	[beeth]
trap, in general	<i>'ael</i>	[ath]
rabbit trap	<i>ggax 'ael</i>	[gok ath]
large deadfall trap for lynx	<i>taadzi</i> (also pron.)	[tod-zee] [taw-jee]
ptarmigan snare	<i>suus</i> (W)	[soos]
steel trap	<i>te'ali</i> (C,L) <i>c'etsii 'ael</i> (M) (lit, “iron trap”)	[teh-ath-lee] [ket-chee ath]
caribou fence, for herding	<i>tsic</i> <i>tsec</i> (lit. “fence”)	[chik] [chek]
game lookout	<i>nehk'aedi</i>	[neh-kad-ee]
porcupine hip bone (used for divination in hunting)	<i>nuuni k'aye'</i>	[new-nee kie-yah]
slingshot	<i>telt'uusi</i> (note: same word for “grasshopper”)	[tell-too-see]

fish spear	<i>stl'eni</i> (C, L)	[stlen-ee]
fish spear with detachable head	<i>dunax</i> <i>dinax</i> <i>c'edinax</i> (M)	[doo-nok] [din-nok] [ked-ee-nok]
dip net	<i>ciisi</i>	[kee-see]
fish trap	<i>tiz'aani</i> (L) <i>tez'aani</i> (C, M)	[tiz-aw-nee] [tez-aw-nee]
fishnet	<i>tehbiił</i>	[teh-beeth]
fish scaler tool	<i>u'el c'elgguusi</i>	[oo-eth kell-gue-see]
fish stringer	<i>c'e'os</i> (C, L) <i>c'e'es</i> (M)	[kek-koss] [kek-ess]
small fish hook	<i>ges</i> (C, L)	[gess]
fish or meat rack, drying rack	<i>daxi</i>	[daw-kee]
fish rack poles	<i>dghastaani</i> (C) <i>dastaann</i> (M) <i>ggestaani</i> (L)	[dass-taw-nee] [dass-tawn] [gess-taw-nee]
Stone ulu (for cutting salmon)	<i>bendaasi</i> (C)	[ben-daw-see]

**Bendaasi* is made from a specific type of river rock which fractures easily when struck against another rock, leaving sharp fragments roughly the size and shape of a traditional Yupik or Inupiaq *ulu*. I've made and used these at fishcamp in Tazlina. They are so efficient that I could fillet a large salmon in less than one minute.

INSECTS

insect, bug, worm	<i>gguux</i>	[goo]
water bugs (general term)	<i>tehguugge'</i>	[teh-goo-geh]
ant (<i>Formicidae</i>)	<i>nadosi</i>	[na-doe-see]
ant's aphid	<i>nadosi 'alcesi</i>	[na-doe-see ath-kess-see]
leaf aphid	<i>c'et'aan' gguugge'</i>	[ket-tawn goo-geh]
bumble bee, bee (<i>Bombus sp.</i>)	<i>ts'endziidi</i> (also pron.)	[zen-zee-dee] [tsen-zee-dee]
(note: a marvelous example of <i>onomatopoeia</i> , a word that sounds like the thing it represents; in this case a bee's buzzing)		
bee's stinger	<i>ts'endziidi tsogge'</i>	[tsen-zee-dee choe-geh]
beetle (?)	<i>lakoldiixi</i>	[la-kolth-dee-kee]
long-horned beetle (<i>cerambycidae</i>)	<i>dede' naldaeli</i>	[deh-da nall-dath-ee]
water beetle	<i>tehtsa'</i> (also pron.)	[teh-tsaw] [teh-chaw]
water boatman bug (<i>Corixidae</i>)	<i>tuuk'e nateltledi</i>	[tuke-eh naw-tel-kled-ee]
butterfly (<i>Lepidoptera</i>)	<i>lahts'ibaay</i> (C, L,W) <i>lts'ibaay</i> (C) <i>lahleli</i> (M)	[la-tsee-by] [tslee-by] [la-lell-lee]
water butterfly	<i>tuu lahlel'</i> (M)	[too la-lell]
caterpillar	<i>gguux guu'si</i> (L) (pron. <i>gue</i> as in "clue") <i>gguux dzuuts'i</i> (C) <i>gguux deyuudzi</i> (M)	[goo gue-see] [goo jute-see] [goo deh-yood-zee]

yellow caterpillar	<i>hwdzax ts'iltsaesi</i>	
caterpillar cocoon/ chrysalis	<i>gguux dzuuts'i hwnax</i> (lit. "caterpillar house")	[goo jute-see nok]
snow flea (<i>Achorutes sp.</i>)	<i>yes tl'ige</i>	[yes tlig-geh]
dragonfly (<i>Anisoptera</i>)	<i>tselc'utsaey</i> (C, L) (also pron.) <i>tsecogh</i> (M)	[tsell-kute-say] [chell-kute-say] [tsay-kee-yoe]
centipede (<i>Chilopoda</i>)	<i>tsactsii zes</i> (also pron.)	[tsak-see zes] [chak-see-zes]
animal fleas (<i>Siphonaptera</i>)	<i>c'etl'ige'</i>	[ket-tlig-geh]
daddy long legs (<i>Tipula sp.</i>)	<i>kuggaedi ubaan</i> (C, L) <i>kuggaedi c'enaan</i> (M)	[koo-gad-ee oo-bon] [koo-gad-ee ken-non]
common housefly (<i>Phormia sp.</i>)	<i>don'</i> (pron. as in "loan")	[doan]
green-eyed gadfly (<i>Tabanidae</i>)	<i>c'ut'aats'i</i>	[que-kot-see]
black fly (<i>Simulium molestum</i>)	<i>kolggots'i</i>	[kolth-goat-see]
marsh fly (<i>Tetanocera sp.</i>)	<i>tsaan' ts'uuy</i> (M) (also pron.)	[tsawn soo-ee] [chawn soo-ee]
fly eggs (maggots?)	<i>c'elts'ezi</i> (also pron.)	[keth-tsez-zee] [keth-chez-zee]
grasshopper (<i>Caelifera</i> & <i>Ensifera</i>)	<i>telt'uusi</i> (C, L) <i>nelteni</i> (M)	[tell-too-see] [nelth-ten-ee]
louse (<i>Anoplura</i>)	<i>ya'</i>	[yah]
mosquito (<i>Culicidae</i>)	<i>kuggaedi</i>	[koo-gad-ee]

mosquito larvae	<i>c'eyuuni tsabaeyé'</i>	[kee-yoo-nee cha-by-yeh]
(note: <i>c'eyuuni</i> means “spirit or ghost”; <i>tsabaey</i> means grayling)		
spring mosquitoes	<i>bekulggun'i</i>	[bah-koolth-goo-nee]
clothing moth	<i>yu'ldaeli</i>	[you-en-dath-lee]
sawfly (<i>Symphta</i>)	<i>tseduhsael</i> (M) (also pron.)	[tseh-do-sal] [cheh-do-sal]
spider (general term) (<i>Arachnid sp.</i>)	<i>kudadzaey</i> (C) <i>kuggadzaey</i> (L)	[koo-dad-zay] [koo-god-zie]
spider web	<i>kudadzaey tl'uule'</i>	[koo-gad-zie kloo-leh]
carpenter ant (<i>Camponotus sp.</i>)	<i>cen'lg hats'i</i> (C, L) <i>cenc'elghadzi</i> (M)	[ken-glaw-see] [ken-keth-glod-zee]
yellowjacket wasp (<i>Vespinae</i>)	<i>ts'endziidi ts'aegge</i> (also pron.)	[tsen-zee-dee tsag-geh] [chen-jee-dee chag-eh]
carrion beetle (<i>Silphidae</i>)	<i>tsidelggayi</i> (C, L) <i>c'elk'oni</i> (M)	[see-del-guy-ee] [keth-koe-nee]
water insect larvae	<i>cen ggaec t'aeni</i> (L)	[ken gak tan-ee]
black worm	<i>ggux ts'ae'i</i> (C, L) <i>ggux ts'aegge'</i> (M)	[goo tsa-ee] [goo tsa-geh]
insect shell	<i>ggux ts'aadle'</i> (C, M) (also pron.) <i>ggux ts'aade'</i> (L) (also pron.)	[goo tsad-leh] [goo chad-leh] [goo tsad-eh] [goo chad-eh]

KINSHIP TERMS

my mother	<i>snaan</i>	[snon]
his mother	<i>ubaan</i> (C, L) <i>baan</i> (W) <i>unaan</i> (M)	[oo-bon] [bon] [oo-non]
our mother	<i>ne'aan</i> (C, L) <i>nenaan</i> (M)	[neh-non] [neh-non]
mother and daughter	<i>nilnaan</i> (C, L) <i>nilbaan</i> (W)	[nilth-non] [nilth-bon]
father	<i>sta'</i> (pron. as in “straw” or “claw”)	[staw]
father and son	<i>nilta'</i>	[nilth-staw]
mother (deceased)	<i>ucaan ts'inseden</i> (C, L)	[oo-kon chin-sed-en]
father (deceased)	<i>snelyaanen</i> (C, L)	[snelth-yon-nen]
grandfather, grandfather's brother	<i>-tsiye</i>	[schee-ya]
great-grandfather	<i>xu'ane' -tsiye</i> (C, L) <i>xu'ene' -tsiye</i> (M)	[who-an-neh schee-ya] [who-en-neh schee-ya]
grandmother, grandmother's sister	<i>-tsucde</i> (C, M) <i>-tsude</i> (L)	[schook-da] [schoo-deh]
great-grandmother	<i>xu'ane' -tsucde</i>	[who-an-neh schook-da]
(man's) grandchild	<i>-tsuuye</i>	[schoo-yeh]
(women's) grandchild	<i>scaay</i>	[sky]
aunt; mother's sister	<i>sak'eye</i> <i>ak'eye</i> (L)	[sok-kay-ah] [ak-kay-eh]

aunt, father's sister	<i>sbets'e'</i> (pron. the <u>s</u> with the word "bet")	[sbet-seh]
uncle; father's brother	<i>staay</i> (pron. as in "fly" or "sky")	[sty]
uncle; mother's brother	<i>sez'ae</i>	[sez-ah]
man and his brother's child	<i>niltaay</i>	[nilth-tie]
son (man's son)	<i>sii'ae</i>	[see-ah]
son and father	<i>nil'ii'ae</i>	[nilth-see-ah]
son (woman's son)	<i>-yaaze</i> (C, L) <i>-yaaz</i> (M)	[oo-yoz-eh] [oo-yoz]
daughter (man's daughter)	<i>-tse'e</i>	[oo-cheh-ah]
daughter (woman's daughter)	<i>-yats'ae</i> (C, L) (pron. <u>a</u> as in "cat") <i>-yats'e'e</i> (M)	[oo-yats-a] [oo-yats-eh]
daughter and mother	<i>nil'yats'ae</i>	[nilth-yats-a]
man's sister's child	<i>-azae</i>	[saw-za]
man and his sister's child	<i>nil'azae</i>	[nilth-saw-za]
father's brother's child cousin father's side	<i>sedeltaenen</i>	[sed-ell-tan-en]
father's brother's children	<i>sedelyaane</i>	[sed-el-yon-neh]
sister; younger sister, female parallel cousin	<i>-daedze'</i>	[stad-zeh]
younger sister and her brother or sister	<i>nildaedze'</i>	[nilth-daz-deh]
sister, older sister, older female parallel cousin	<i>-adae</i>	[saw-da]

older sister and her brother or sister	<i>nil'adae</i>	[nilth-saw-da]
brother; younger brother or male parallel cousin	<i>-cele</i>	[skell-eh]
younger brother and his brother or sister	<i>nilcele</i>	[nilth-skell-eh]
brother, male parallel cousin	<i>-ciile'</i>	[skeel-eh]
older brother; older male parallel cousin	<i>-unghae</i> (pron. <i>ga</i> as in “cat”)	[soon-ga]
his/her older brother	<i>binghae</i> (C, L) <i>munghae</i> (M) (pron. <i>ga</i> as in “cat”)	[bin-ga] [mun-ga]
older brother and his brother or sister	<i>nil'unghae</i> (pron. <i>ga</i> as in “cat”)	[nilth-soon-ga]
siblings, collective term cross cousin	<i>-k'enaey</i> <i>-udae</i>	[sken-nie] [soo-da]
his/her cross cousin	<i>bidae</i>	[bee-da]
close friend; close cross cousin	<i>-latsiin</i>	[sla-cheen]
husband	<i>-kan'</i> (pron. as two syllables)	[sk-ah]
wife	<i>-'aat'</i> (pron. as two syllables)	[s-ah]
his wives	<i>u'aat</i>	[who-ot]
co-wives	<i>nilghangga delts'iine</i>	[nilth-gang-ga del-chee-neh]

(Note: Apparently, traditionally, Ahtna marriages were polygamous: i.e. men had more than one wife)

second wife; servant slave	<i>'elnaa</i>	[sell-naw]
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husband and wife	<i>nil'el delts'iine</i> (C, L)	[nilth elth dell-chee-neh]
incestuous marriage	<i>'el nadsaanen</i>	[selth nos-dawn-nen]
child	<i>-ts'enen</i> (C, L) <i>-ts'eni</i> (M)	[schen-en] [schen-ee]
children	<i>snakaey</i>	[snak-eye]
(man's) sister-in-law; (women's) brother or sister-in-law	<i>-ghae</i>	[oo-wa]
(man's) brother-in-law;	<i>-tlen</i>	[stlen]
brother's-in-law	<i>niltlen</i>	[nilth-stlen]
wife's sister's husband	<i>-tl'etaas</i>	[stlaw-toss]
two men married to sisters	<i>niltl'etaas</i>	[nilth-stlaw-toss]

GENDER IDENTIFIERS:

woman	<i>ts'akae</i>	[chess-ka]
lazy young woman	<i>lik'es</i>	[thlee-kez]
(Note: perhaps from <i>lic'ae</i> ; lit. “dog” or <i>li'kaey</i> : “dogs”)		
women	<i>ts'akaey</i>	[chess-sky]
old woman	<i>ts'inst'e'</i>	[chin-steh]
teenage girl	<i>t'aede</i>	[taw-deh]
white woman	<i>gists'ae</i>	[gees-sta]
young man/teen boy	<i>ciil</i>	[keeth]
old man	<i>da'atnae</i>	[daw-ot-na]
(also)	<i>c'etiyi</i>	[ket-tee-yee]
(also)	<i>nest'e'</i>	[ness-teh]
chief, leader	<i>kaskae</i>	[kass-ka]
(Note: A lead caribou is called <i>udzih kaskae</i> : “chief caribou”)		
(also)	<i>denae</i>	[den-na]
Indian/Ahtna person	<i>koht'aene</i>	[kote-an-eh]

TERMS RELATED TO LAND OR WATER

water	<i>tuu</i>	[to]
rain water	<i>caan tuu</i>	[kan to]
creek, stream	<i>c'ena'</i> (note: most all river or creek names end with the suffix: <i>na'</i> as in Tazlina or Klutina)	[ken-naw]
a large river	<i>ts'itu'</i> (lit. “straight water”; any major river drainage. Ex. “Copper River”)	[chit-to]
lake	<i>ben</i> (C, L) <i>men</i> (M)	[ben] [men]
head of a lake	<i>ben k'etl'aa</i>	[ben klaw]
shore along a river	<i>tabaaghe</i>	[taw-baw-geh]
lake shore	<i>benbaaghe</i>	[ben-baw-geh]
ocean shore	<i>natu'baaghe</i>	[na-to-baw-geh]
eddy	<i>'o'</i> (C, L) (pron. as in “oak tree”)	[oke]
waterfall	<i>tuu naghil'aayi</i> (C, L)	[to naw-gilth-aw-yee]
spring water	<i>tak'ats'</i>	[tok-ots]
well, waterhole	<i>tuuk'ae</i> (pron. the <u>a</u> as in “cat”)	[to-ka]
mineral water	<i>tatsen</i> (also pron.)	[taw-ten] [taw-chen]
snow water	<i>tacaes</i>	[taw-kas]
foam	<i>konghos</i> (C, L) <i>tanghos</i> (M)	[kon-wos] [tan-wos]
permafrost	<i>nen' ten</i> (C, L) (lit. “ice ground/land”; <i>nen'</i> = land; <i>ten</i> = ice)	[nen-ten]

swamp	<i>cen</i> <i>tacentah</i>	[ken] [taw-ken-tah]
swamp water (lit. “water tastes like wood”; <i>cen</i> = ”wood”; <i>tuu</i> = ”water”)	<i>centuu’</i>	[ken-to]
bend in river	<i>sdaa</i>	[sdaw]
a point in river	<i>sdacii</i>	[sdaw-kee]
wooded area near a river	<i>sdacen</i>	[sdaw-ken]
point on a ridge	<i>sdates</i>	[sdaw-tess]
island	<i>tandzaey</i> (pron. “jie” as in “eye”)	[tan-jie]
brush-covered island	<i>nuu</i> (C, L) <i>nuuy</i> (M)	[new]
sandbar	<i>daes</i>	[dass]
ocean, sea	<i>natu’</i> (also means “salt”)	[na-to]
wave	<i>taat</i>	[tot]
ice	<i>ten</i>	[ten]
slick ice; glare ice	<i>tents’iisi</i>	[ten-chee-see]
river ice chunks	<i>tendezlaghi</i>	[ten-deh-zlag-eh]
overflow ice	<i>ggaet</i>	[got]
glacier	<i>huu</i> (C, L) <i>huut</i> (M)	[sloo] [sloot]
open water in winter	<i>kataleni</i>	[kat-a-len-ee]
snow	<i>yes</i>	[yoss]
fresh snow	<i>tsiitl’</i>	[cheeth]

falling snow	<i>‘yaas</i>	[kay-yoss]
crusted snow	<i>hwdlii</i> <i>ngelteni</i>	[dlee]
packed snow	<i>sesi</i> <i>sesdon’</i> (also pron.)	[sess-ee] [sess-don] [sess-doe]
water made from melted packed snow	<i>sesitu’</i>	[sess-ee-to]
land, ground	<i>nen’</i>	[nen-eh]
my land	<i>snen’</i>	[snen-eh]
rock	<i>ts’es</i>	[chess]
dirt, dust	<i>laets</i>	[klats]
sand	<i>saas</i>	[sos]
mud	<i>bestl’es</i> (C, L) <i>lic’ak</i> (M)	[bess-tless] [thlee-kak]
hard dry ground	<i>tes tsone’</i>	[tess choe-neh]
trail, road	<i>tene</i>	[ten-eh]
tundra, upland	<i>tsaay nen’</i> (C, L)	[chie-nen-eh]
mountain	<i>ggalaay</i> (L) <i>dghelaay</i> (C) <i>dzel</i> (M)	[gal-eye] [gal-eye] [jeth] ?
foothills	<i>dghelaay cene’</i> (C) <i>dzelcene’</i> (M) (Mentasta pron. uncertain)	[gal-eye ken-eh] [jeth-ken-eh]
knoll, small hill	<i>tes ggaay</i> <i>ses</i> (“ses” is an archaic term)	[tess-guy] [sess]
river bank	<i>bes</i>	[bess]

flat-topped mountain	<i>tsitael</i>	[chit-tath]
river valley	<i>tak'ae</i>	[tok-ah]
canyon	<i>denyii</i>	[den-yee]
falling star; shooting star	<i>son' tsaane'</i> (lit. "star feces")	[son chawn]
gold	<i>ts'es dicaaxi</i>	[chess-dee-kaw-kee]
red paint, Indian paint	<i>tsiis</i>	[chees]
iron	<i>c'etsiy</i> (C, L) <i>c'etsii</i> (M)	[ket-chee] [ket-chee]
copper	<i>tsedi</i> (C, L) <i>tsetsaan'</i> (M)	[ched-ee] [chet-sawn]
brass	<i>na'aay tsaane'</i> (also means "rust")	[naw-eye-chawn]

NON-MATERIAL THINGS

life	<i>c'eyiits'</i>	[kay-yeets-eh]
word	<i>hnae</i>	[na]
language, words	<i>kenaege'</i> (C, L)	[ken-ag-eh]
news, information	<i>hwnic, hnic</i>	[neek]
name	<i>c'e'uze'</i> (C, L) <i>c'uze'</i> (M)	[kek-ooz-eh] [kooz-eh]
fun	<i>dghos</i> (C) <i>degghos</i> (M) <i>ggos</i> (L)	[deh-goss] [deh-goss] [goss]
charming, cute	<i>c'enyu'</i>	[ken-you]
good	<i>ugheli</i>	[oo-well-ee]
sign, premonition	<i>c'ena</i> (C, L) <i>c'enaat</i> (M)	[ken-naw] [ken-not]
impurity, dirt	<i>ggas</i> (pron. the <u>gg</u> slow and long)	[gas]
pure, clean	<i>baggas kole</i>	[ba-gas kawl-ay]
hunting luck	<i>kanaani</i>	[kan-naw-nee]
wisdom, smart	<i>hwyaa</i> (ex. <i>Ciil Hwyaa</i> , lit. “smart young man/boy”)	[who-yaw]
loneliness	<i>sneyaa</i>	[sneh-yaw]
age	<i>saan</i>	[sawn]
his thoughts, his mind	<i>ubiine'</i>	[oo-been-eh]
human spirit, ghost, shadow	<i>c'eyiige'</i>	[kay-yee-geh]
spirit, demon	<i>c'uniis</i>	[que-nees]
his spiritual power	<i>usene'</i>	[oo-sen-eh]

his clairvoyant power (associated with the nose)	<i>bin'dih</i> (C, L) <i>unicdii</i> (M) <i>uni'di</i> (W)	[bin-dee] [oo-nik-dee] [oo-nee-dee]
truth, correct	<i>k'al'ah</i> (L, M) <i>'al'ah</i> (C)	
grief, weeping	<i>tsagh</i> (pron. the <u>t</u> as a syllable)	[t-saw]
God	<i>ne'k'eltaeni</i> (C, L) <i>ut'axhwdilt'aei</i> (M)	[nek-el-tan-ee]
Satan	<i>ts'aghilt'ehen</i>	[chaw-gilth-tah-he]
Devil	<i>yaabel</i> (Russian loanword)	[yaw-bell]
forbidden, taboo	<i>engii</i>	[en-gee]
lie	<i>sol</i> (C, L) <i>yak</i> (M)	[soth] [yak]
pity	<i>tegeh</i>	[teh-geh]
speed, fast	<i>ggaal</i> (pron. the <u>GG</u> digraph slow and long)	[goth]
famine, starvation	<i>hwtsen</i> (M) <i>tsen</i> (C, L)	[wh-tsen] [tsen]
war / fight	<i>c'eghaan</i> <i>sghae</i> (pron. the <u>s</u> as a syllable and the <u>a</u> as in “cat”)	[keh-gon] [s-ga]
his habits	<i>uduule</i>	[oo-doolth-eh]
work	<i>hnaa</i> (the <u>h</u> is barely pronounced)	[h-naw]
hole	<i>c'enu'</i>	

NUMBERS

The Ahtna number system, although seemingly unlike the Hindu-Arabic system used by much of the western world (including the United States), is a base ten counting system. There are ten digits (including zero) which can combine to form hundreds of possible numbers (ex. the the numbers 2 and 1 can combine to create the very different two-digit number: 21). Interestingly, while the system could be infinite (as is Hindu-Arabic), Ahtna does not have words to express numbers beyond 999. Historically, there may not have been need to express greater numbers in a traditional hunting and gathering society. Nor does Ahtna exhibit the use of fractions, or parts, of whole numbers (although there are some uses of the word “half”).

BASE DIGITS 1-9

1 (one)	<i>ts'elk'ey</i> (C, M) <i>ts'alk'ey</i> (L)	[chell-kay] [chall-kay]
2 (two)	<i>nadaeggi</i>	[na-da-gee]
3 (three)	<i>taa'i</i> (C, L) (also pron.) <i>taaggi</i> (W)	[taw-ee] [taw-kee] [taw-gee]
4 (four)	<i>denc'ih</i> (C, L) <i>denc'ii</i> (M, W)	[denk-ee] [denk-ee]
5 (five)	<i>'alts'eni</i>	[alt-say-nee]
6 (six)	<i>gistaani</i> (C, L)	[gist-ah-nee]
7 (seven)	<i>konts'aghi</i> (also pron.)	[kont-sa-gee] [kont-sa-we]
8 (eight)	<i>lk'edenc'ih</i> (C, L) <i>lk'edenc'ii</i> (M, W)	[ka-denk-ee] [ka-denk-ee]

(Note that the root word for four, *denc'ih*, appears in the word for eight. In Ahtna, the word for eight, *lk'edenc'ih*, literally means “double-four”.)

9 (nine)	<i>ts'elk'ey kole</i> (C, L) <i>ketnesi</i> (M)	[chell-kay kwal-aye] [ket-ness-ee]
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(Note that the root word for one, *ts'elk'ey*, appears in the word for nine. In Ahtna, the word for nine, *ts'elk'ey kole*, literally means “take away one”, ostensibly from the number ten.)

10 (ten)	<i>hwlazaan</i>	[la-zawn]
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NUMBERS 11-19

Numbers 11-19 (the teens) are expressed by stating the second digit's singular pronunciation and adding *uk'edi*, which means "a one goes before it." Ex. eleven [11] = *ts'elk'ey* (one) [1] + *uk'edi* ("a one goes before it").

11 (eleven)	<i>ts'elk'ey uk'edi</i>	[chell-kay oo-ked-ee]
12 (twelve)	<i>nadaeggi uk'edi</i>	[na-da-gee oo-ked-ee]
13 (thirteen)	<i>taa'i uk'edi</i>	[taw-ee] or [taw-kee oo-ked-ee]
14 (fourteen)	<i>denc'ih uk'edi</i>	[denk-ee oo-ked-ee]
15 (fifteen)	<i>alts'eni uk'edi</i>	[alt-say-nee oo-ked-ee]
16 (sixteen)	<i>gistaani uk'edi</i>	[gist-ah-nee oo-ked-ee]
17 (seventeen)	<i>konts'aghi uk'edi</i> (also pron.)	[kont-sa-gee oo-ked-ee] [kont-sa-we oo-ked-ee]
18 (eighteen)	<i>lk'edenc'ih uk'edi</i>	[ka-denk-ee oo-ked-ee]
19 (nineteen)	<i>ts'elk'ey kole uk'edi</i>	[chell-kay kwal-aye oo-ked-ee]

COUNTING BY TENS

The numbers 20, 30, 40...90 are expressed similarly to the Hindu-Arabic in so much that it too uses the name for the base digit to express the new concept. This is done in the Central and Lower villages by adding the word *xundelaayi* to the first digit. For example 30 = 3 (taa) + *xundelaayi*, which means, "to become bigger". Thus, the 3 (three) has become bigger (30). Mentasta Village (M) Indians use the word *deztaann* to do the same thing.

20 (twenty)	<i>naa xundelaayi</i> (C, L, W) <i>naa deztaann</i> (M) <i>ts'ilghatne</i> (C)	[naw hun-dell-eye-ee] [naw dez-tan] [chilth-gat-na]
30 (thirty)	<i>taa xundelaayi</i> <i>taa deztaann</i> (M)	[taw hun-dell-eye-ee] [taw dez-tan]
40 (forty)	<i>denc'ih xundelaayi</i> <i>denc'ii deztaann</i> (M)	[denk-ee hun-dell-eye-ee] [denk-ee dez-tan]
50 (fifty)	<i>alts'eni xundelaayi</i> <i>alts'eni deztaann</i> (M)	[alt-say-nee hun-dell-eye-ee] [alt-say-nee dez-tan]
60 (sixty)	<i>gistaan xundelaayi</i> <i>gistaann deztaan</i> (M)	[gist-awn hun-dell-eye-ee] [gist-awn dez-tan]
70 (seventy)	<i>konts'aghi xundelaayi</i> (also pron. "kont-sa-we") <i>konts'agha deztaann</i> (M)	[kont-sa-gee hun-dell-eye-ee] [kont-sa-ga dez-tan]
80 (eighty)	<i>lk'edenc'ih xundelaayi</i> <i>lk'edenc'ii deztaann</i> (M)	[ka-denk-ee hun-dell-eye-ee] [ka-denk-ee dez-tan]
90 (ninety)	<i>ts'elk'ey kole xundelaayi</i> <i>k'etnes deztaan</i> (M)	[chell-kay kwal-aye hun-dell-eye-ee] [ket-nes dez-tan]

2 DIGIT NUMBERS WITHOUT ZERO

Numbers such as 21, 34, 45, 68, 92 are expressed (in Mentasta dialect) as would be expected of Hindu-Arabic. For example: the number 21 is expressed in Mentasta dialect as:

naa deztaann [20] + *ts'elk'ey* [1] = *naa deztaann ts'elk'ey* [21]

pron. [naw dez-tan chell-kay]

The number 36 is expressed in Mentasta dialect as:

taa deztaan [30] + *gistaani* [6] = *taa deztaan gistaani* [36]

pron. [taw dez-tan gist-aw-nee]

However the lower dialects pronounce the same concepts differently using the word *uk'edi* (in this instance the word means “plus” or “added”). The Russian language applies a similar linguistic process. The number 20 is also quite different. Instead of the assumed *naa deztaan* used in Mentasta, an altogether unique numeric term is assigned: *ts'ilghatne* pronounced: [chilth-gat-na].

In Central and Lower (C, L) dialects number 21 is expressed as:

ts'ilghatne [20] + *ts'elk'ey* [1] + *uk'edi* [plus] =
ts'ilghatne ts'elk'ey uk'edi [21]
(Lit. “twenty plus one”)

pron. [chilth-gat-na chell-kay oo-ked-ee]

Similarly, the number 44 is expressed in (C, L) as:

denc'ii xundelaayi [40] + *denc'ii* [4] + *uk'edi* [plus] =
denc'ii xundelaayi denc'ii uk'edi [44]

pron. [denk-ee hun-dell-eye-ee denk-ee oo-ked-ee]

COUNTING BY HUNDREDS

As stated at the beginning of this section, the Ahtna counting system can only express numbers up to 999. There exists no known term for one thousand or greater. Hundreds are expressed by adding the words *ggesdlaani* (L), *dghesdlaani* (C), or *desdlaann* (M) after the first digit. For example, 200 = *naa* (two) + *ggesdlaani* (hundred). These words are pronounced as follows:

ggesdlaani (L) [gess-dlaw-nee]

dghesdlaani (C, W) [dess-dlaw-nee]

desdlaan (M) [dess-dlawn]

NUMBER-RELATED TERMS

once	<i>ts'ilden</i>	[cheelth-den]
twice, 2 places	<i>naade</i>	[naw-deh]
thrice, 3 places	<i>taade</i>	[taw-deh]
two ways	<i>naa xuh</i>	[naw-who]
three ways	<i>taa xuh</i>	[taw-who]
first	<i>tsoxe</i> (pron. uncertain)	[choe-heh]
last	<i>xandeni</i>	[han-den-ee]
half of the land	<i>nen'ghaan'</i>	[nen-gone]
halfway, center	<i>uniidze</i> (C, L) <i>taniidze</i> (M)	[nee-jay] [tan-nee-jay]
entire, whole	<i>laltsic</i>	[thlal-cheek]
a little bit	<i>xa'tle</i> (C, L)	[stee-klah]
nothing	<i>c'ekole</i>	[kek-kole-eh]
fifty cents	<i>dzaabaas</i> (L) <i>dzoobaas</i> (C)	[jaw-boss] [joo-boss]
money, coins	<i>dicaaxi</i>	[dee-chaw-kee]

PLANTS

(To learn more about medicinal uses of indigenous plants, read Priscilla Kari's excellent book on the ethnobotany of Ahtna culture.)

PLANT PARTS

plant, shrub	<i>c'et'aan'</i> (C, L)	[keh-tawn]
bark	<i>c'elat'uudze'</i>	[kell-lat-tood-zeh]
branch	<i>i'zucene'</i> (C, L) <i>c'ezucene'</i> (M)	[eet-zoo-ken-eh] [kez-zoo-ken-eh]
branch tips	<i>udela'</i>	[oo-dell-la]
thick brush	<i>dets'a'</i> (also pron.)	[det-saw] [det-chaw]
tree core, center	<i>uyents'uu'</i>	[oo-yent-soo]
blooming flowers	<i>c'et'aan'ggaay</i> (lit. "small plant") <i>'unetniigi</i>	[keh-tawn guy] [oo-net-nee-gee]
vegetation (general)	<i>hwdenyaex</i>	[den-yah]
knot (in wood)	<i>'izucene' k'ae</i> (pron. <i>ka</i> as in "cat")	[eet-zoo-ken-eh ka]
leaf	<i>c'et'aan'</i> (C, L) <i>c'et'aann'</i> (M) (stress the extra <u>n</u>)	[keh-tawn] [keh-tawn-n]
area under a standing tree	<i>scent'aa</i> (C, L) <i>scent'aax</i> (M) (stress the final <u>k</u> sound)	[sken-taw] [sken-taw-k]
forked branch	<i>ldzitnaghelggezi</i>	
root	<i>c'ecene'</i>	[ken-ken-eh]
peeling	<i>ut'uus</i>	[oot-toos]
main root, large	<i>ughahde'</i>	[oo-wa-deh]

sap; cottonwood or birch	<i>si'</i> , <i>c'ezi'</i> (C, L) <i>sic</i> , <i>k'iil</i> (M)	[see] [kez-zee] [sik] [keeth]
sawdust	<i>tsets c'aane'</i>	[chets kon-eh]
seed or pit	<i>c'ents'ese'</i>	[ken-chess-eh]
vegetable seeds	<i>t'anelyaesi</i> <i>nanelyaxi</i> (W)	[tan-el-yas-see] [nan-el-yah-kee]
flying seeds, fluff	<i>cots'</i> (pron. <i>kee-oats</i> as one syllable) (ex. July is <i>cots' na'aaye'</i> : “flying seed time”)	[kee-oats]
stem, stalk	<i>c'edecene'</i>	[ked-eh-ken-eh]
stick	<i>cen</i> (C,L) <i>tcent</i> (W) (pron. as two syllables) <i>decen</i> (M)	[ken] [t-ken] [deh-ken]
tree stump	<i>dzilcene'</i> (C, L) <i>tsaelcene'</i> (C, L) <i>c'ecene'</i> (M)	[jeelth-ken-eh] [sath-ken-eh] [kek-ken-eh]
switch used in steambath	<i>beniic</i> (C, L) <i>meniic</i> (M) (Russian loanword)	[ben-neek] [men-neek]
thorn	<i>xos</i> (pron. as in “host”)	[hos]
treetop	<i>udelacii</i> (C, L) <i>udelaciit</i> (M)	[oo-dell-la-kee] [oo-dell-la-keet]
tree trunk	<i>c'eghaadze'</i>	[ken-wad-zeh]
vegetation (general term)	<i>hwnelyaexi</i> (more accurately)	[neth-yath-he] [who-neth-yath-he]
wood, firewood	<i>tsets</i>	[chets]
driftwood	<i>tadedze'</i>	[taw-ded-zeh]
hardwood	<i>tsets delggagi</i>	[chets dell-gaw-gee]

dry wood	<i>datsedzi</i>	[daw-ched-zee]
wet wood	<i>nadeltseli</i>	[na-deth-chel-ee]
soft wood	<i>naltsiis tsedze'</i> (note: <i>naltsiis</i> means “wolverine”)	[nath-chees ched-zeh]
green wood	<i>delaeni</i>	[del-la-nee]
rotted wood	<i>diltsoghi</i> (C, L) <i>dilcuusi</i> (C, L)	[deeth-choe-we] [deeth-que-see]
lumber	<i>lets'</i> (C, L) <i>decen tael</i>	[thlets] [deh-ken tath]

TREES & SHRUBS WITHOUT BERRIES

tree, in general	<i>ts'abaeli</i> (also pron.) (pron. <i>bal</i> as in the name “Al”)	[tsa-bal-lee] [chaw-bal-lee]
Alder, Red (<i>Alnus incana</i>)	<i>k'es</i> (C, L) <i>c'ekac</i> (M)	[kess] [keh-kuk]
Alder, Sitka (<i>Alnus crispa</i>)	<i>kon'k'aye'</i> (C, L) <i>kon'k'ey'</i> (M)	[kon-kie-ah] [kon-kay]
Aspen, Quaking (<i>Populus tremuloides</i>)	<i>t'aghes</i> (C, L) <i>t'aghes baay</i> (M)	[taw-wess] [taw-wess buy]
aspen leaves	<i>c'et'aan' baats'i</i>	[keh-tawn bot-see]
Birch, Paper (<i>Betula papyrifera</i>)	<i>k'ey</i>	[kay]
birch with scabs	<i>k'ey delt'eli</i> (L)	[kay del-tel-ee]
Birch, Shrub (<i>Betula nana/glandulosa</i>) also called Buckbrush	<i>hyes</i>	[thlee-yes]
Birch sapling	<i>k'ey tsaay</i> (also pron.)	[kay-chie] [kay-tsie]

Cottonwood (<i>Populus balsamifera</i>)	<i>t'aghes</i> (C, L) <i>t'eghes</i> (M)	[taw-wess] [teh-wess]
cottonwood buds	<i>t'aghes lats'iigi</i> (also pron.)	[taw-wess lot-see-gee] [taw-wess law-chee-gee]
Spruce, White (<i>Picea glauca</i>)	<i>ts'abaeli</i> (C, L) (also pron.) <i>ts'ebael</i> (M) <i>delaeni</i> (W)	[chaw-bell-lee] [chaw-ball-lee] [tse-bale] [del-lan-nee]
Spruce, Black (<i>Picea mariana</i>)	<i>tats'uu'</i> <i>tatsaaye'</i>	[tot-soo] [tot-sie-yeh]
jack spruce	<i>tsaay</i> (C, L) (also pron.)	[tsie] [chie]
thick spruce grove	<i>let'aes</i> (C)	[thlet-tass]
spruce bark	<i>c'elaats'i</i>	[kel-lot-see]
inner spruce bark	<i>i'lataane'</i> (C)	[ee-lat-taw-neh]
spruce needle	<i>'elggade'</i> (C, L) <i>'el laggade'</i> (M)	[eth-god-deh] [eth-la-god-deh]
spruce bough	<i>'el</i>	[eth]
spruce cone	<i>lay'duuy</i> (C, L) <i>lay'duuye'</i> (W) <i>lacduuy</i> (M)	[lie-doo-ee] [lie-doo-yeh] [lock-doo-ee]
spruce root	<i>xay</i> (C, L) (note: <i>xay</i> also means “winter”) <i>xei</i> (M)	[hie] [hey]
spruce gum, hardened sap	<i>dzaex</i> (also pron.)	[zak] [jak]
spruce gum, soft	<i>t'adzaex</i> (also pron.)	[taw-zak] [taw-jak]
Willow (<i>Salix sp.</i>)	<i>k'ay'</i> (C, L) <i>k'ey'</i> (M)	[kie] [kay]

pussy willow	<i>dlahtahliggaaye'</i> (L)	[dlaw-taw-lee-guy-yeh]
	<i>dahliggaaye'</i> (M)	[daw-lee-guy-yeh]
	<i>laliggaay</i> (W)	[law-lee-guy]
a willow	<i>k'ay' giis</i> (C, L)	[kie gees]
	<i>k'ay' huus</i> (C, L)	[kie thloos]
	<i>k'ey' giis</i> (M)	[kay gees]
	<i>huuzi</i> (M)	[thloo-zee]

SMALL PLANTS WITHOUT BERRIES

Frog's Blanket (uncertain sp.)	<i>naghaay ts'ede'</i>	[naw-why ched-eh]
Bluebell (<i>Mertensia paniculata</i>) (often called Lungwort)	<i>lic'ae tsula'</i> (M) (also pron.)	[thlik-a soo-la] [thlik-a chew-la]
White Camass (<i>Zygadenus elegans</i>)	<i>c'eghuk'aedi</i> (M)	[keh-woo-kad-ee]
Wild Celery (<i>Heracleum lanatum</i>)	<i>gguus</i> (C, L) (pron. the <u>G</u> longer) <i>t'aan' delk'esi</i> (M)	[goos] [tawn del-kes-ee]
celery root	<i>gguus tsaaze'</i> (also pron.)	[goos saw-zeh] [goos chaw-zeh]
Wild Chive (<i>Allium schoenoprasum</i>)	<i>hwngilghaegi</i> (C, L) <i>c'edzec</i> (M)	[gill-gag-gee] [ked-zek]
Cinquefoil, Bush (<i>Potentilla fruticosa</i>)	<i>sos ggaane'</i> (L)	[sose-gaw-neh]
Sweet Coltsfoot (<i>Petasites</i> sp.)	<i>naltsiisi ke'</i> (M) <i>naltsiis ke'</i> (C, L) (also pron.)	[noth-see-see-keh] [noth-sees keh] [noth-chees keh]
Sour Dock (<i>Rumex</i> sp.)	<i>t'aan' huus</i>	[tawn thloos]

Fern (in General)	'aax (L) (pron. the glutteral <u>k</u> slowly)	[awk]
Fireweed (<i>Epilobium angustifolium</i>)	tl'ac'usk'a'	[kla-que-skaw]
cotton stage or fluffy stage of fireweed	lats'ik'aage' (L) dlats'ik'aage' (C) dahts'ik'aage' (M)	[lot-seet-kaw-geh] [dlot-seet-kaw-geh] [dot-seet-kaw-geh]
Foxtail (<i>Alopecurus aequalis</i>)	lice'	[thlee-ka]
Sweet Gale (<i>Murica gale</i>)	cetl'e'ts (L)	[kel-lets]
Grass (in general) (<i>Gramineae</i>)	tl'ogh (also means "green")	[kloe]
grass for mat-making	tl'ogh tael	[kloe tath]
a soft grass	tl'ogh del'ots'i	[kloe del-oat-see]
False Hellebore (<i>Veratrum viride</i>)	ts'escene' (also pron.)	[sess-ken-eh] [chess-ken-eh]
Horsetail (<i>Equisetum sp.</i>)	tehts'abaele' (C) tehts'ebael' (M) naghaay ts'abaele' (L)	[tet-sa-bal-leh] [tet-sa-bal] [naw-why saw-bal-leh]
Labrador Tea (<i>Hudson Bay Tea</i>) (<i>Ledum palustre</i>)	laduudze' (C) naduudze' (C, L) c'eladuudze' (M) lat'uudze' (W)	[la-dood-zeh] [na-dood-zeh] [kel-la-dood-zeh] [law-tood-zeh]
Mare's Tail (<i>Hippuris sp.</i>)	tehgguuze' xaxgguuze'	[teh-guze-eh] [ha-guze-eh]
Mistletoe (<i>Loranthaceae</i>) also called Squirrel's Nest	laczdaas c'udzaadze (M) lay'dzaas (C, L) dahdzaas (C, L)	[lok-zoss] [kude-zaw-zeh] [lie-zoss] [da-zoss]

Muskrat food (?) (species uncertain)	<i>nehts'iil t'aann'</i> (M)	[neh-seel tawn]
Stinging Nettles (<i>Urtica gracilis</i>)	<i>kults'esi</i> (C)	[kooth-ses-ee]
Pineapple Weed (<i>Matricaria matricariodes</i>)	<i>k'uunn' k'ent'aey</i> (M)	[koon ken-tay]
Bladderwort (<i>Utricularia vulgaris</i>)	<i>tuu naegge'</i> (C, L) (lit. "water's eye")	[too-nag-eh]
Yellow Pond Lily (<i>Nuphar polysepalum</i>)	<i>xalt'aats'i</i> (C, M) <i>xelt'aa'si</i>	[hal-tot-see] [hel-taw-see]
pond lily flower	<i>tuut'aan'</i>	[too-tawn]
Indian Potato (<i>Hedysarum alpinum</i>)	<i>tsaas</i>	[choss]
Wild Rhubarb (<i>Polygonum alaskanum</i>)	<i>ts'igguuze'</i> (M) (also pron.)	[chee-guze-eh] [tsee-guze-eh]
Sedge (<i>Cyperaceae</i>)	<i>ladzuuy</i> (M)	[lad-zoo-ee]
Silverweed (<i>Potentilla Egedii</i>)	<i>dzel tl'uul'</i> (M)	[zeth-tlool]
Strawberry Spinich (<i>Chenopodium capitatum</i>)	<i>lentsiis dele'</i>	[thlen-chees del-leh]
Wild Sweetpea (<i>Hedysarum Mackenzie</i>)	<i>dzigundak</i> (L)	[jee-goon-duk]
Violet (<i>Viola epipsila</i>)	<i>sa'dih</i> (C, L) <i>tsi'meni</i> (M)	[saw-dee] [chee-men-ee]
Water Milfoil (<i>Myriophyllum spicatum</i>)	<i>tehdlaade'</i>	[teh-dlaw-deh]
Wormwood (<i>Artemesia sp.</i>)	<i>tl'ogh tsen</i> (also pron.)	[kloe chen] [kloe-tsen]
Yarrow, white top (<i>Achillea borealis</i>)	<i>utsit'ahwdelggeyi</i>	

yellow top
(*Achillea lanulosa*)

utsit'ahwdeltsogho (M)

PLANTS WITH BERRIES

berries (in general)

gigi

[gih-gee]

American Dogwood
Berry (Baneberry)
(*Actaea rubra*)

c'eyuuni gige' (L)

[keh-you-nee gih-geh]

Bearberry
(*Arcostaphylos
rubra*)

denes (C, L)
giznae (M)
dziidzi naegge'
(also pron.)

[den-ness]
[geez-na]
[zee-zee nag-eh]
[jee-jee nag-eh]

Blueberry
(*vaccinium
uliginosum*)

gigi gheli (C, L)
gigi (M)

[gih-gee well-ee]
[gih-gee]

Bunchberry
(*Cornus canadensis*)

saghani gige'
(lit. "raven berry")

[saw-gaw-nee
gih-geh]

Cloudberry
(*Rubus chamaemorus*)

nkaat
(pron. the n as a syllable)

[n-koth]

Bog Cranberry;
Low Bush var.
(*Oxycoccus
microcarpus*)

neltaedzi (U)
xay gige' (C, L)
(lit. "winter berry")
ntl'et (M)
(pron. the n as a syllable]

[neth-tad-zee]
[hie gih-geh]
[n-klet]

Cranberry,
High Bush var.
(*Viburnum edule*)

tsanltsaey
tsanltsae
(also pron.)

[tson-say]
[tson-sa]
[chon-say]

Crowberry
(*Empetrum nigrum*)

giznaey (L)
giznae (C)
naht'aezi (M)

[geez-nay]
[geez-na]
[na-taz-zee]

Current, Northern
Black or Skunk
(*Ribes hudsonianum*)

gigi ntsen (C, L)
ligige' (M)

[gih-gee n-chen]
[thlee-gih-geh]

Red Current (<i>Ribes triste</i>)	<i>nantnuuy</i> (C, L) <i>danihnuuy</i> (M)	[nont-noo-nee] [don-nee-noo-ee]
Devi's Club (<i>Echinopanax horridum</i>)	<i>xos cogh</i> (L) (pron. <i>hose</i> as in "host")	[hose koe]
Huckleberry (<i>Vaccinium ovalifolium</i>)	<i>tl'asts'eni</i> (C, L) <i>gigi gheli</i> (W)	[tlass-sen-ee] [gih-gee wel-ee]
Juniperberry (<i>Juniperus communis</i>)	<i>dzel gige'</i> (M, W)	[zeth gih-geh]
Lagoonberry (<i>Rubus arcticus</i>)	<i>dahts'enkaadle'</i> (C) <i>dlahts'enkaade'</i> (L) <i>nkaal</i> (M) (pron. the <u>n</u> as a syllable)	[dot-sen-kod-leh] [dlot-sen-kaw-deh] [n-koth]
Raspberry (<i>Rubus idaeus</i>)	<i>dahts'enc'ogge'</i> <i>denc'oggo'</i> (M)	[dot-sen-koe-geh] [den-koe-go]
Rose (<i>Rosa acicularis</i>)	<i>xost'aan'</i>	[host-tawn]
Rosehips	<i>tsangelt'aeni</i> (C, L) <i>tsingelt'aeni</i> (W) <i>ncuus</i> (U)	[chan-geth-tan-ee] [chin-geth-tan-ee] [n-quse]
Silverberry (<i>Elaeagnus commutata</i>)	<i>dengige'</i> (C, L) <i>dembaa'</i> (M) <i>nige'</i>	[den-gih-geh] [dem-baw] [nee-geh]
Soapberry (<i>Sheperdia canadensis</i>)	<i>ligige'</i> (C, L) <i>sosgige'</i> (M)	[thlee-gih-geh] [sose-gih-geh]
unripe berries	<i>c'enluu</i> (C, L) <i>c'enluut</i> (M)	[ken-loo] [ken-loot]

SEASONS, MONTHS & DAYS

day	<i>dzaen</i>	[jan]
today	<i>dzaene</i> (C, L) <i>dzaenn</i> (M)	[jan-neh] [jan]
daytime	<i>dzaende</i>	[jan-deh]
night	<i>tets</i>	[tets]
last night	<i>tedze</i>	[ted-zeh]
tomorrow night	<i>bende' tedze</i> (C, L) <i>mende' tedze</i> (M)	[ben-deh ted-zeh] [men-deh ted-zeh]
yesterday	<i>k'ada'a</i> (C, L) <i>k'adan'a</i> (M)	[ka-da-ah] [ka-dan-ah]
day before yesterday	<i>k'ada'a htseden</i> (C, L) <i>k'adan'a ka'aa dzaennde</i> (M)	[ka-da-ah ched-en] [ka-dan-ah ka-eye jan-deh]
tomorrow	<i>bende'</i> (C, L) <i>mende'</i> (M)	[ben-da] [men-da]
day after tomorrow	<i>bende' ka'aade'</i> (C, L) <i>mende' ka'aade</i> (M)	[ben-da ka-ah-deh] [men-da ka-ah-deh]
a few days ago	<i>ginda'a</i> (C, L) <i>gindan'a</i> (M)	[gin-da-ah] [gin-dan-ah]
morning	<i>saggan</i> (L, W) <i>sadghan</i> (C) <i>secagha</i> (M) (Tlingit loanword)	[sa-gon] [sa-gan] [sa-kag-a]
early morning	<i>saggan tedze</i> (L) <i>sadghan tedze</i> (C)	[sa-gon ted-zeh] [sa-gan ted-zeh]
this morning (past)	<i>dzensda'a</i> (C) <i>dzinsda'a</i> (L) <i>dzensdan'a</i> (M)	[jens-da-ah] [jins-da-ah] [jens-dan-ah]

midday, noon	<i>tandzeh</i> (C, L) <i>dzaen taniidze</i> (M)	[tan-jay] [jan tan-ee-jay]
late afternoon	<i>dzinsde'</i>	[jins-da]
dusk	<i>xeltse'e</i>	[helts-aye-kay]
midnight	<i>ts'itetsniidze</i> (L) <i>ts'itesniidze</i> (C) <i>tetniidze</i> (M)	[chit-et-snee-jay] [chit-ess-snee-jay] [tet-nee-jay]
midsummer	<i>ts'isaenniidze</i>	[chis-san-nee-jay]
midwinter	<i>xayniidze</i>	[high-nee-jay]
winter solstice	<i>tsc'e'aasde dzaen</i> (M) (lit. "The day the sun goes down into the water")	
winter	<i>xay</i> (C, L) (also pron.) <i>xey</i> (M)	[high] [hie] [heh]
spring	<i>daan'</i>	[don-day]
summer	<i>saen</i>	[san]
fall	<i>nahluude</i>	[naw-lood-eh]
breakup	<i>hwdiziilde</i>	[deez-eelth-day]
freeze up	<i>nen' testende</i>	[nen test-en-day]
month	<i>na'aaye'</i> (C, L) <i>unen</i> (M)	[naw-eye] [oo-nen]
one year	<i>ts'ilden nahwdezet</i>	[cheelth-den na-daw- jez-et]
last year	<i>senda'a</i> (C, L) <i>sendan'a</i> (M)	[sin-dah] [sin-dan-na]
a day's journey	<i>yuul</i>	[yoolth]
one week (seven days)	<i>konts' agi yuul</i> <i>sezel yuule'</i> (C, L)	[konts-a-gee yoolth] [sez-zel you-lay]

Saturday	<i>sezelggaay</i> (L) (lit. “little steam bath”)	[sez-zel-guy-ee]
Sunday	<i>sezelce’e</i> (L) (lit. “big steam bath”)	[sez-zel-kek-eh]
full moon	<i>k’etneldzaes</i> (C, L) <i>k’enaneldzaes</i> (M)	[ket-nell-jes] [ken-na-nell-jes]
new moon	<i>c’i’aan</i>	[key-on]
half moon	<i>na’aay benghaan’</i> (C, L)	[naw-eye ben-gon]
sometimes	<i>nildentah</i>	[neelth-den-taw]
soon	<i>ts’ilghuh</i>	[cheelth-goo]
still; not yet	<i>dats’ii</i> (C, M) <i>t’ats’ii</i> (L)	[da-chee] [ta-chee]
already	<i>da’a</i> (C, M) <i>dan’a</i> (M)	[daw-aw] [dan-aw]
later on	<i>tsae’tah</i>	[chay-tah]
now	<i>k’adii</i> (C, L) <i>k’adiit</i> (M)	[kaw-dee] [kaw-deet]
always	<i>udii’ah</i> (C, L) <i>udih k’a</i> (M)	[oo-dee-ah] [oo-dee ka-ah]
new	<i>’adiidi</i> (C, L) <i>k’adiidi</i> (M)	[kaw-dee-dee] [kaw-dee-dee]
long ago	<i>ts’utsaede</i>	[chew-chad-ee]
long ago; in mythic times	<i>yenida’a</i> (C) <i>yenida</i> (C) <i>yanida’a</i> (L,W) <i>yanidan’a</i> (M)	[yen-ee-daw-aw] [yen-ee-daw] [yan-ee-daw-aw] [yan-ee-dan-aw]
stick calendar	<i>yuul datiili</i> (lit. “period counter”)	[yoolth da-teelth-ee]

The Ahtna months are listed below. Affected by the Euro-American Julian calendric system, it currently uses twelve months. Traditionally, though, Ahtna did not distinguish months as such, but instead divided the year by seasons and seasonal events. Note particularly how the names of winter months relate to how long snow has existed, for example January is “Fifth Month” [of snow]. It is interesting to note that availability of sunlight does not figure in Ahtna time. Much of Alaska is pitch black from December to February, and then the sun never goes down in mid-summer (thus Alaska’s nickname “Land of the Midnight Sun”). One would expect seasons to use phrases such as “Sun goes away,” “Sun returns” or “Time when sun thinks about coming back.”

In Central dialect, each month begins with a word (usually a noun or adjective) and ends with the word *na’aaye*’ [naw-eye], which means “moon” or the full cycle of the moon, which equals a month. In some cases in Mentasta dialect, the word for month, *unen* [oo-nen] appears before the words as a prefix.

January	<i>’alts’eni na’aaye</i> ’ (C, L) (“fifth month [of snow]”)	[alts-say-nee naw-eye]
	<i>ts’akae tl’aa na’aaye</i> ’ (C) (“animals become lazy”)	[chek-aye tlaw naw-eye]
	<i>kataleni len nadelgheli</i> (W) (“riddle month”)	[kat-a-len-ee thlen naw-deth-lay-lee]
	<i>c’edzak saa</i> (M) (possible pron.)	[ked-zak saw] [ked-jak saw]
February	<i>gistaani na’aaye</i> ’ (C, L) (“sixth month [of snow]”)	[gist-ah-nee naw-eye]
	<i>delay na’aaye</i> ’ (“dead leaves make room for new leaves”)	[dell-aye naw-eye]
	<i>unen na’ehwdelaese</i> (M) (“When animals in dens are born”)	[oo-nen naw-eh-del- lass]
March	<i>konts’aghi na’aaye</i> ’ (C, L) (“seventh month [of snow]”)	[kont-sa-gee naw-eye]
	<i>dezits na’aaye</i> ’ (“becomes a little warmer”)	[dez-its naw-eye]
	<i>unen tic’elaxa</i> (M)	[oo-nen tik-el-a-ka]
April	<i>hwdlii na’aaye</i> ’ (C, L) (“snow crusts over; water freezes only in morning”)	[dlee naw-eye]

May	<i>tsabaey na 'aaye'</i> (C, W) ("grayling month")	[chaw-bay naw-eye]
	<i>c'eggaayi na 'aaye'</i> (L) ("baby month; when animals are born")	[keg-eye-ee naw-eye]
	<i>unen kac 'elaxa</i> (M)	[oo-nen kak-el-a-ka]
June	<i>luk'ae na 'aaye'</i> (C, L) ("salmon month")	[thlook-a naw-eye]
	<i>c'eggaayi na 'aaye'</i> (W) ("baby month; when animals are born")	[keg-eye-ee naw-eye]
July	<i>cots' na 'aaye'</i> (C, L) (pron. <i>cots'</i> as one syllable) ("feathers/down/fluff month")	[kee-oats naw-eye]
August – September	<i>hwtsiic na 'aaye'</i> (C, M) ("leaves fall down")	[whi-chik naw-eye]
	<i>ben ditsigi</i> (L) ("leaves turn brown; leaves drop")	[ben dit-chee-gee]
October	<i>benghaan' saeni</i> (C, L) ("middle time; half time")	[ben-gon say-nee]
	<i>nicuunn saa</i> (M)	[nik-oon saw]
	<i>deniigi saeni</i> ("bull moose in rut time")	[den-nee-gee say-nee]
November	<i>taa'i na 'aaye'</i> (C, L) ("third month [of snow]")	[taw-kee naw-eye]
	<i>c'endeli na 'aaye'</i> (L) ("lakes freeze")	[ken-delth-ee naw-eye]
	<i>debae saa</i> (M) ("sheep month")	[deb-a saw]
December	<i>denc'ih na 'aaye'</i> (C, L) ("fourth month [of snow]")	[denk-ee naw-eye]
	<i>unen tic'e'aasi</i> (M)	[oo-nen tik-eh-kaw-see]
	<i>ts'its'aange</i> (in Kari, 1990. uncert.)	

SHELTER & STRUCTURE-RELATED TERMS

village	<i>kayax</i> (C, L)	[kie-yah]
city	<i>kayax ke'e</i> (literally “big village”)	[ki-yah kek-eh]
house, log house	<i>hnax</i> (C, L) <i>konax</i> (M)	[nok] [koe-nok]
moss house	<i>naen' hnax</i> (C, L) <i>nin' konax</i> (M)	[na nok] [nin koe-nok]
spruce bark house	<i>c'elaats'i hnax</i>	[kell-ot-see nok]
spruce bough house	<i>'el hnax</i>	[kelth nok]
old-time bark house	<i>nitsiil</i>	[nee-cheelth]
porch, entryway	<i>lenitsiile'</i> (C, L)	[thlen-ee-cheel-eh]
summer house	<i>lenitsiil</i>	[thlen-ee-cheelth]
brush shelter, temporary	<i>t'anitsiile'</i> (C, L)	[tan-ee-cheel-eh]
skin, hide teepee	<i>na'ibaali</i> (C)	[naw-ball-ee]
steambath, sweat house	<i>sezel</i> (C, L) <i>tsezel</i> (U)	[sez-ell] [chez-ell]
covering on steambath floor	<i>sezel taele'</i> (C, L) <i>tsezel tael'</i> (M)	[sez-ell tal-eh] [chez-ell tal]
tent	<i>tazes</i> <i>balega'</i> (Russian loanword)	[ta-zes] [ball-ee-ga]
door	<i>hwdatnetaani</i> <i>lidatnitaani</i> (C, L)	[dot-net-taw-nee] [thlee-dot-nit- taw-nee]
bathroom, outhouse	<i>tsaan' hnax</i> (C, L) (lit. “excrement house”) <i>ba'aadi</i> (M)	[chon nok] [baw-kaw-dee]

church	<i>tsilgah</i> (C, L) <i>tsilgak</i> (Russian loanwords)	[chill-gah] [chill-gak]
smokehouse	<i>let hnax</i> (C, L) <i>let konax</i> (M)	[thlet nok] [thlet koe-nok]
camping place	<i>yuul k'ae</i> (C, L)	[yooth ka]
public school	<i>dats' ehwdeldiixi</i> (C, L)	[dak-dell-dee-he]
community dance hall	<i>sc'eldzesi</i>	[skell-jess-see]
post office	<i>giligak dalyaesde</i> (C, L)	[gill-ee-gak dal-yes-da]
cache	<i>tsaa</i>	[chaw]
underground cache, cache pit	<i>nen' tsaa</i> (<i>nen'</i> means "land")	[nen chaw]
pole cache	<i>centsaa</i> <i>dahtsaa</i>	[ken chaw] [da-chaw]
underground log cache	<i>cenyii</i> (C, L) <i>cenyiit</i> (M)	[ken-yee] [ken-yeet]
menstrual area	<i>c'olt'aa</i> (C) <i>c'ult'aa</i> (L)	[kolth-taw] [kulth-taw]
small room, shed	<i>c'ol</i> (M)	[kolth]
ceiling	<i>yaxt'aaghi</i> (also pron.)	[yah-taw] [yah-taw-we]
walls, tent walls	<i>ubene'</i> <i>umene'</i> (M)	[oo-ben-eh] [oo-men-eh]
house posts, poles	<i>c'enyes</i>	[ken-yes]
willow frame (for shelter)	<i>k'ay' stl'uuni</i> (C, L)	[kie stloo-nee]
kitchen	<i>idlesi</i> (C, L)	[id-less-ee]
lumber	<i>lets'</i>	[thlets]

floor	<i>hwlaaxe'</i> (C, L)	[lah-keh]
house roof	<i>hwnax yede'</i> (C, L) <i>konax yede'</i> (M)	[nok yed-eh] [koe-nok yed-eh]
moss, used for chinking insulation	<i>naen'</i> (C, L) <i>nin'</i> (M)	[na] [nin]
window	<i>yelok</i> (C, U) <i>yalok</i> (L) (Russian loanword)	[ye-look] [ya-look]
beargut window, used long ago	<i>tsaani ts'iigi yok</i>	[chaw-nee chee-gee ye-look]
glass	<i>unu' hwnal'aeni</i>	[oo-new nal-an-ee]
smoke hole	<i>let k'ae</i> (C, L) (pron. <i>k'ae</i> as two syllables)	[thlet k-ah]
garden	<i>c'anyaexde</i> (C) (also pron.)	[ken-yah-deh] [neh-yah-deh]
grave	<i>nek'et</i> (C, L) <i>nek'eh</i> (C, L)	[nek-et] [nek-eh]
child's grave	<i>sc'aen k'edi</i>	[sken ked-ee]
cemetery	<i>kuk'et</i>	[kuk-et]

SKIN TANNING & SEWING

sewing	<i>c'ekaan'</i>	[kek-on]
hide, skin	<i>c'ezes</i>	[keh-zes]
skin with hair	<i>c'edezes</i>	[ked-eh-zes]
tanned hide for moccasins	<i>kenaay</i> (C, L) <i>k'eyaen'</i>	[ken-nie] [kay-yan]
dried hide	<i>c'eggan</i>	[keg-gan]
skin shavings	<i>c'ezaex</i>	[kez-ak]
skin rack	<i>c'ezaex cene'</i>	[kez-ak ken-eh]
bone skin flesher	<i>ts'entsel</i> (also pron.)	[chin-cheth] [chin-cheth-ee]
skin flesher	<i>natsel</i>	[na-cheth]
rock skin scraper	<i>bendaasi</i> (C, L) <i>mendaasi</i> (M)	[ben-daw-see] [men-daw-see]
cloth, in general	<i>delbaexi</i> (also pron.)	[dell-ba-hee] [dell-ba-kee]
silk	<i>silic</i> (C, M) <i>seli</i> (L) (Russian loanword)	[sill-lik] [sell-ee]
canvas	<i>tazes</i>	[taw-zess]
thick wool	<i>sutnak</i> (Russian loanword)	[soot-nak]
printed cloth	<i>nitnet'aani</i>	[nit-net-taw-nee]
denim	<i>ts'iits'i</i> (C)	[chee-see]
hem, cuff	<i>utl'aani</i>	[oot-law-nee]
patch (his)	<i>uka't</i> <i>ukade'</i> (W)	[oo-kat]

pocket (his)	<i>ugelbaane</i>	[oo-gel-bon-eh]
buttons	<i>guhaa</i> <i>guxaa</i> <i>guhaat</i> (L) <i>guhwa</i> (W) (possible Tlingit loanword)	[gue-ha] [gue-ha] [gue-hot] [gue-wa]
sleeve	<i>c'ebaade'</i>	[keh-baw-dee]
sewing bag	<i>delbaexi</i> 'alcesi	[dell-ba-kee ath-kess-see]
thread	<i>ts'aex</i> (pron. like "chat")	[cha]
yarn	<i>yaan</i> (English loanword)	[yon]
thimble	<i>lay'dak</i> <i>lacadak</i> (M)	[lie-duck] [lak-duck]
sewing awl, drill	<i>tset</i>	[cheth]
scissors	<i>lindeldots'i</i> (C)	[thlin-dell-dote-see]

SKY & WEATHER

sky	<i>yaa</i> (pron. the <u>a</u> as in “cat”)	[ya]
Northern Lights (<i>Aurora Borealis</i>)	<i>yaykaas</i> (C, L) <i>yantbaey</i> (C) <i>yadibaey</i> (M)	[yaw-koss] [yant-bay] [yad-ee-bay]
horizon	<i>yabaaghe</i>	[ya-bah-way]
sun	<i>na’aay</i> (C) <i>saa</i> (M)	[naw-eye] [saw]
moon	<i>tets na’aay</i> (lit. “night sun”)	[tets naw eye]
eclipse	<i>yat’ay’ghi’aan</i>	[yat-kay-ee-yon]
ring around moon (sign of snow)	<i>yaas naa</i> (C, L) <i>yaas naat</i> (M)	[yass naw] [yass not]
sign of rain	<i>caan naa</i> (also pron.)	[kan nah] [kan naw]
star	<i>son’</i> (as in “cone”)	[sone]
shooting star	<i>son’tsaane’</i> (lit. “star feces”)	[sone chawn-eh]
constellation around Big Dipper	<i>nek’eh nekeghaltaexi</i> <i>ne’k’eltaenn</i> (M)	[nek-kay nek-eh- wall-tay-kee] [nek-kel-tan]
sundog; sign of cold weather	<i>dentl’aa hwdelk’an’</i>	[den-tlaw dell-kan]
darkness	<i>xel</i>	[helth]
dawn; light twilight	<i>yikaas</i> <i>hwbaa</i> (C) <i>kabaa</i> (L, M)	[yee-koss] [ba] [ka-ba]
falling snow	<i>yaas</i>	[yoss]

rain	<i>can</i>	[kan]
rainbow	<i>sabiile'</i>	[sa-beel-eh]
clouds; overcast	<i>yanlaey</i> (C, L, W)	[yan-lay]
mist; stream	<i>dzaan</i>	[jon]
mist over water	<i>tadzaan</i> (root: <i>tuu</i> means “water”) <i>tayiidze'</i> (M)	[ta-jon] [ta-yee-jay]
lightning	<i>i'nakone'</i>	[kin-a-kon-eh]
thunder	<i>lteni</i> (C, L) <i>nilteni</i> (M)	[ilth-ten-ee] [nilth-ten-ee]
frost	<i>sogh</i>	[soe]
wind	<i>lts'ii</i>	[elth-chee]
west wind	<i>dasts'eni</i>	[da-chen-ee]
south wind	<i>tsaal</i>	[choth]
north wind	<i>delk'aadzi</i> (C, L, W) <i>delk'aats'i</i> (W)	[delth-kad-zee] [delth-ka-chee]
autumn wind	<i>nat'aan' delaeyi</i> (C,L)	[na-tan del-lay-ee]
gentle breeze	<i>dets'es</i>	[det-chen]
whirlwind	<i>lts'ibaay</i>	[elth-chee-buy]

SUPERNATURAL TERMS & FIGURES

spirit ghost	<i>c'eyiige'</i> (C, L)	[kay-yee-gay]
spirit	<i>c'eyuuni</i>	[kay-you-nee]
spirit's smoke from Mt. Wrangell	<i>c'eyunni lede'</i>	[kay-you-nee thled-eh]
ghost	<i>c'eyuuy</i>	[kay-you]
Bush Indian, Brush Indian	<i>ts'el'eni</i> <i>kol'eni</i> (W)	[chelth-en-ee] [kole-en-ee]
Raven; in traditional mythic stories	<i>Saghani Ggaay</i> (lit. "Little Raven")	[Saw-gaw-nee Guy]
fox (sometimes lynx) nickname in stories	<i>ciil hwyaa</i> (lit. "smart man")	[keeth who-yah]
monster	<i>gguux</i> (also means "insect")	[goo]
Tailed One / Monkey People	<i>Cet'aeni</i> (also pron.)	[ket-tan-nee] [set-tan-nee]
spider people	<i>kudadzaey tnaey</i> (pron. the ʔ in "tnay")	[koo-dad-zay tnay]
sea otter man	<i>tsicogh</i>	[chee-koe]
owl people	<i>besiini tnaey</i>	[bess-see-nee tnay]
boreal owl people	<i>lay'tsen' tnaey</i> (pron. uncertain)	[lay-chen tnay]
moose people	<i>deniigi tnaey</i>	[den-nee-gee tnay]
fox people	<i>nunyeggaay tnaey</i> <i>naggets'i tnaey</i>	[noon-yeh-guy tnay] [naw-get-see tnay]
wolverine people	<i>naltsiis tnaey</i>	[nolth-chees tnay]
black bear people	<i>nel'ii tnaey</i>	[nell-ee tnay]

sheep people	<i>debae tnaey</i>	[deb-ah tnay]
chickadee people	<i>ne'iine' tnaey</i>	[neh-ee-neh tnay]
camp robber people	<i>stakalbaey tnaey</i>	[stok-all-bay tnay]
mouse people	<i>dluuni tnaey</i>	[dloo-nee tnay]
rabbit woman	<i>ggax ts'akae</i>	[gok chess-ka]
loon people	<i>dadzeni tnaey</i> <i>ts'elbae tnaey</i>	[dad-zen-ee tnay] [chell-ba tnay]
porcupine people	<i>nuuni tnaey</i>	[new-nee tnay]
ptarmigan people	<i>lacbeh tnaey</i>	[lock-beh tnay]
Chinook Wind People	<i>tsaal tnaey</i>	[choth tnay]
North Wind People	<i>delk'aadzi tnaey</i>	[delth-kaw-jee tnay]
Stick People	<i>decentah tnaey</i> (M) <i>tsets tnaey</i> (C)	[dek-en-tah tnay] [chets tnay]

TRANSPORTATION

snowshoe	<i>'aas</i> (C, L)	[oss]
hill snowshoe	<i>tsidatl'uuni</i> (C, L) <i>tsedatl'uun</i> (M) <i>tsistl'uuni</i> (W)	[chee-dat-loo-nee] [chee-dat-loon] [chist-loo-nee]
temporary snowshoe	<i>datsaaggi</i>	[dat-chag-gee]
snowshoe parts:		
frame	<i>'aas decen</i>	[oss dek-en]
crossbar	<i>'aas ts'aa'</i>	[oss chaw-ah]
tail crossbar	<i>ucela' ts'aa'</i> (C, M) <i>utssel ts'aa'</i>	[oo-kel-a cha-ah] [oo-chell cha-ah]
front	<i>'aastse'</i> (C, L) <i>'aas 'entse'</i> (M)	[oss-che] [oss ken-che]
foot strap	<i>c'aal</i> (C, L) <i>c'enc'aal</i> (M)	[kawłth] [ken-kawłth]
foot area	<i>c'aalk'ae</i>	[kawłth ka]
foot webbing	<i>kelen</i>	[keth-en]
sinew webbing	<i>ses tl'uul</i>	[ses tloolth]
pack	<i>xael</i>	[hath]
pack parts:		
pack stick	<i>xael cen</i> (C, L) <i>xael decen</i> (M)	[hath ken] [hath dek-en]
pack sack	<i>xael zes</i>	[hath zess]
pack head-strap	<i>tsintaeli</i>	[chin-tal-ee]
dragging pack	<i>bes</i>	[bess]
dog pack	<i>lighaele'</i>	[thlee-gal-ee]

sled	<i>xat</i>	[hoth]
wood sled	<i>cen xat</i>	[ken hoth]
hauling sled; toboggan	<i>cenbes</i> (C, L) <i>decenbes</i> (M)	[ken-bess] [dek-ken-bess]
canvas hauling sled	<i>tazes bes</i> <i>tatzes bes</i>	[taw-zes bess] [tat-zes bess]
sled runners	<i>xat tl'aaxi</i> (C, L) <i>xat tl'aaghi</i> (L)	[hoth tla-kee] [hoth tla-gee]
sled basket	<i>xat yii</i> (C, L) <i>xatl yiit</i> (M)	[hoth yee] [hat yeet]
sled beam	<i>xat yene'</i>	[hoth yen-eh]
sled handle	<i>xat daten'</i> <i>xat daa'di</i> (W)	[hoth daw-ten] [hoth die-dee]
sled cross beam	<i>xat datuu'</i> (C, L) <i>xatl tse'</i> (M)	[hoth da-too] [hat che]
sled braces, stanchions	<i>xat ts'aa'</i> (C, L) <i>xat ts'aagha'</i> (M)	[hoth cha-aw] [hoth cha-a-ga]
lower braces, stanchions	<i>xat dzaade'</i>	[hoth jaw-deh]
dog line, leash	<i>litl'uule'</i>	[thlit-loo-leh]
dog harness	<i>lic'ae dadelts'iiyi</i>	[thlik-a da-del- chee-yee]
dog collar	<i>lic'ae nizaghe'</i> (C, L) <i>lic'ae zizagha'</i> (M)	[thlik-a niz-a guy-ee] [thlik-a ziz-a-guy-ah]
trail	<i>tene</i>	[ten-eh]
summer trail	<i>saen tene</i>	[san ten-eh]
wood trail	<i>tsetska tene</i>	[chet-ska ten-eh]
horse trail	<i>gaan' tene</i> (C, L)	[gone ten-eh]

mountain trail	<i>nen'tah tene</i>	[nen-taw ten-eh]
trapline	<i>'aeltah tene</i>	[halth-taw ten-eh]
meat trail	<i>c'ayaas tene</i>	[kay-yos ten-eh]
well-marked trail	<i>tene done'</i>	[ten-eh don-eh]
railroad	<i>'etsiy tene</i>	[ket-chee ten-eh]
snow trail	<i>tahluu</i> (C, M) <i>tehluu</i> (L)	[tah-loo] [the-loo]
where trail divides	<i>nildzitaataande</i>	[nilth-jit-at-tan-day]
bridge	<i>hwtsiit</i>	[cheeth]
a day's journey	<i>yuul</i>	[yoolth]
campsite	<i>yuul k'ae</i>	[yoolth kay]
raft	<i>hwnes</i>	[ness]
mooseskin boat	<i>c'iis</i> (Tanaina loanword?)	[kees]
canoe	<i>cenuu</i> (variation of English)	[ken-oo]
sailboat	<i>belos cenuu</i>	[bell-os ken-oo]
steamboat	<i>sutnae</i> (W) (Russian loanword)	[soot-nay]
birchbark boat	<i>bakaey</i> (L) <i>bekaey</i> (M, C)	[bak-eye] [bek-eye]
kayak	<i>kayaxbic</i> (L) (Alutiiq loanword)	[kie-yok-bik]
boat, canoe parts:		
bow	<i>unaade'</i>	[oo-nie-deh]
stern	<i>unii</i>	[oo-nee]

sides of boat	<i>udaxe'</i>	[oo-dak-ee]
ribs	<i>udii hghalyaayi</i>	[oo-dee gal-ya-yee]
paddle, oar	<i>ta'aay</i> (C, L) <i>tat'ogho</i> (M) <i>tagh'aay</i> (W)	[taw-eye-ee] [tat-owe-go] [tag-eye-ee]
rudder	<i>uk'ey't'oghi</i>	[oo-kay-toe-gee]
boat pole	<i>ts'itets'</i> (C, L)	[chit-tets]
sail	<i>belos</i> (W, C, L) (Russian loanword) <i>tazes</i> (M)	[bell-os] [taw-zess]
wagon	<i>natelbasi</i>	[na-tel-bass-ee]
airplane	<i>natnet'axi</i> <i>humat'axi</i>	[nat-net-ta-kee] [thloo-nat-ta-kee]
car, automobile	<i>loodaxi</i> (C, L)	[thloo-da-kee]
snowmobile	<i>tsiitl' k'eh loodaxi</i> <i>tsiitl ghadl'</i> (M)	
train	<i>c'etsiy tene loodaxi</i> (lit. "iron trail machine")	[ket-chee ten-eh thloo-da-kee]

POTLATCH & POTLATCH TERMS

Potlatch	<i>hwtiitl</i> (sometimes)	[koo-teeth] [who-teeth]
Potlatch guests/ participants	<i>dzoogaey</i>	[joo-guy]
Potlatch shirt	<i>hwtiitl dghaege'</i> (also) <i>hwtiitl ggaec</i>	[koo-teeth gag-eh] [koo-teeth gike]
Potlatch blanket	<i>hwtiitl ts'ede'</i>	[koo-teeth ched-eh]
Potlatch song	<i>'unggadi 'dliis</i> (uncertain since <i>c'eliis</i> generally means “song”)	
Dance song	<i>c'edzes c'eliis</i>	[ked-zes keh-lees]
Potlatch host's mourning song	<i>hwtiitl c'eliis</i>	[koo-teeth keh-lees]
Potlatch speech	<i>hwtiitl koldogh</i>	[koo-teeth kolth-doe]
Potlatch gifts (blankets, rifles, dry goods, etc.)	<i>ghalii</i>	[wall-ee]
Rifle	<i>k'a'</i> (note: Rifles are common gifts in potlatching. I've seen as many as 100 rifles at a potlatch. I saw twice that many at the potlatch for Chief Walter Northway of Northway Village, who was 117 years old when he died in 1993!)	[k-aw]
Drum drum stick	<i>lgheli</i> <i>u'el c'elgheli</i>	[leh-lee]

LOANWORDS

Loanwords are words that are borrowed from one language's lexicon (vocabulary) and adopted into another. About 100 words in Ahtna are loanwords, mostly from Russian, which had a good deal of contact with Alaska Native cultures during the Russian-American period of Alaska's history (though they had little or no direct contact with Ahtna). Other words are borrowed from English and neighboring languages like Eyak, Tlingit, Denaina, and Alutiiq. Generally, for cultural-linguistic reasons, the adopted words are not pronounced precisely as they were heard. The following partial list illustrates some Ahtna loanwords and their origins.

gold	<i>gol</i>	from English <i>gold</i>
butter	<i>basdlah</i>	from Russian <i>máslo</i>
whisky	<i>uyaeni</i>	from Russian <i>pyányy</i>
oatmeal	<i>'utniil</i>	from English <i>oatmeal</i>
bacon	<i>begin</i>	from English <i>bacon</i>
beans	<i>miinn</i>	from English <i>beans</i>
money	<i>dengi</i>	from Russian <i>dén'gi</i>
stove	<i>gabiin</i> (note: stove is also <i>sdoo</i> , from English <i>stove</i>)	from Russian <i>kamín</i>
coffee	<i>guuxi</i>	from English <i>coffee</i>
cat	<i>gusgeggay</i>	from Russian <i>kóshka</i> for “cat” plus <i>ggay</i> (little)
horse	<i>xoos</i> (note: horse is also <i>gon</i> , from Russian <i>kon'</i>)	from English <i>horse</i>
tea	<i>tsaey</i>	from Russian <i>chay</i>
rice	<i>zaay</i>	(in Mentasta only) from English <i>rice</i>
shoes	<i>suus</i>	from English <i>shoes</i>
sugar	<i>saxaal</i>	from Russian <i>sákhhar</i>
clock; watch	<i>tsesi</i>	from Russian <i>chasý</i>

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

John E. Smelcer, Ph.D. is a shareholder of Ahtna Native Corporation and a member of Tazlina Village Traditional Council and Tsisyu (“Paint”) Clan. In the early-to-mid 1990s, John was co-chair of the Alaska Native Studies program at the University of Alaska Anchorage. In 1994, students nominated him for the Chancellor’s Award. From late 1995 until May 1998, he was the tribally appointed executive director of The Ahtna Heritage Foundation. Before that, he served a season as Ahtna Inc.’s field archaeologist. In a special ceremony in early 1999, Ahtna Chief Harry Johns designated John a Traditional Ahtna Culture Bearer. The author of over 40 books, including *The Ahtna Noun Dictionary and Pronunciation Guide* (1998, 2011 Revised) and *The Alutiiq Noun Dictionary and Pronunciation Guide* (2011), his writing appears in over 400 magazines and journals. John frequently writes and publishes in Ahtna. His *Beautiful Words: The Complete Ahtna Poems* (2011), a literary landmark, stands as the only published literature in the Ahtna language extant. Professor Smelcer’s education includes postdoctoral studies at Harvard, Oxford, and Cambridge, as well as training in Native Museum Management from the Smithsonian Institution. From 2006 to 2011, he was the Clifford D. Clark Fellow of English and creative writing at Binghamton University, the honors campus of SUNY. In March of 2010, John received Binghamton University’s Award for Excellence in Research. In the spring of 2011, John gave a lecture on his Ahtna language work at Harvard University as part of the Woodberry Library’s Omniglot Seminars. To learn more about the him go to www.johnsmelcer.com

James Kari, Ph.D. is one of the world’s most experienced field researchers in linguistics with over 40 years experience working with Alaska Native languages. He was one of the original linguists at the Alaska Native Language Center. Winner of the American Book Award for his work with Peter Kalifornsky, he is Professor Emeritus at the University of Alaska Fairbanks and recipient of the Alaska Governor’s Award for the Humanities.

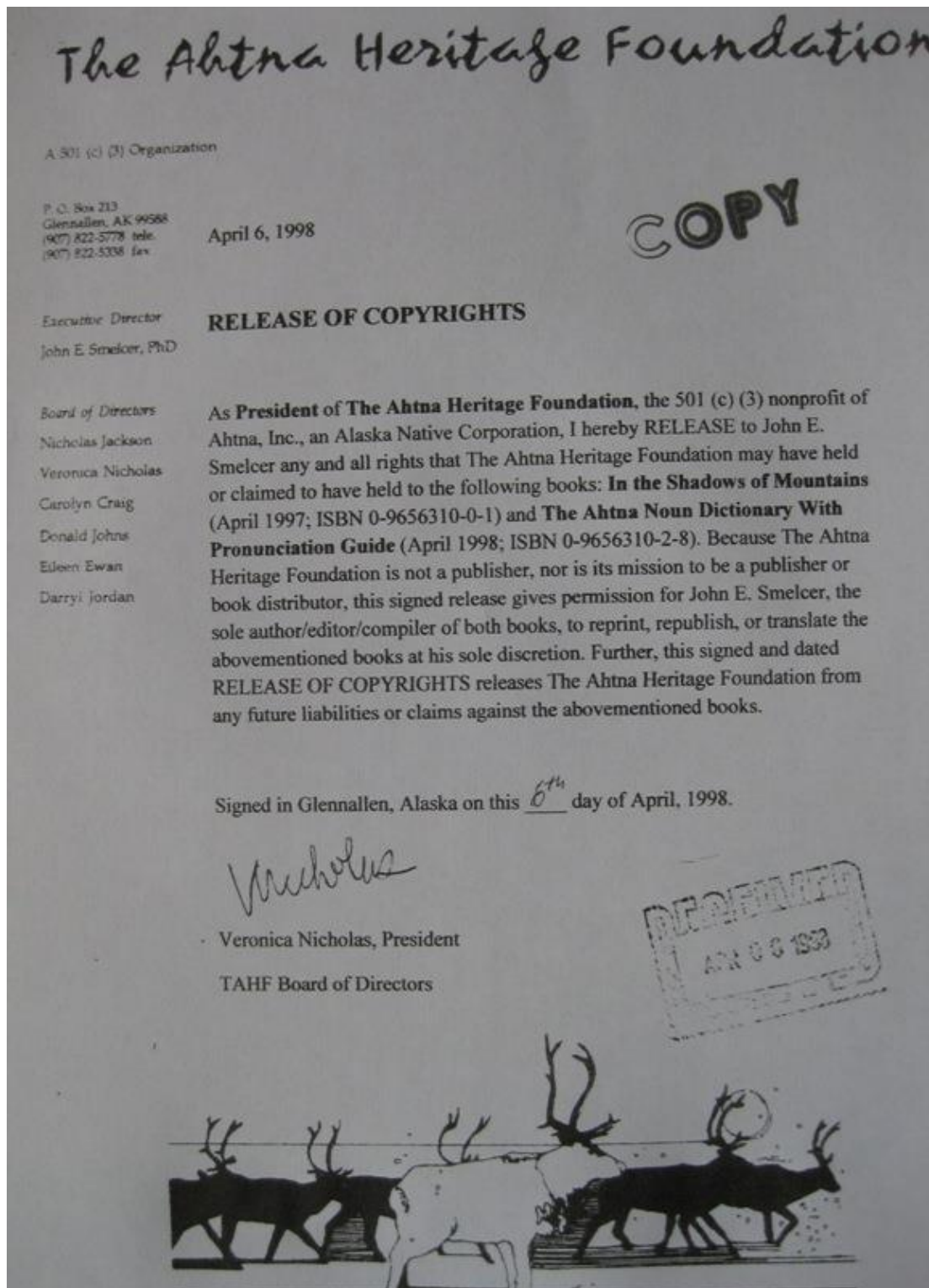
Noam Chomsky, Ph.D. is the world’s foremost linguist and widely considered the father of modern linguistics. He is listed among the top ten most cited people of all time. He is the author of hundreds of scholarly books and articles. Chomsky is Emeritus Professor and Institutional Professor of Linguistics at M.I.T.

Steven Pinker, Ph.D. is the world’s leading cognitive psychologist, known for his wide-ranging advocacy of evolutionary psychology and the computational theory of the mind. He is the author of numerous books, including *The New York Times* bestseller, *The Language Instinct* and *The Stuff of Thought*. Named one of *Time Magazine*’s “100 most influential people in the world,” he was twice a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize. In 2006, the American Humanist Association named him “Humanist of the Year” for his contributions to public understanding of human evolution. He is the Johnstone Family Professor of Psychology at Harvard University.

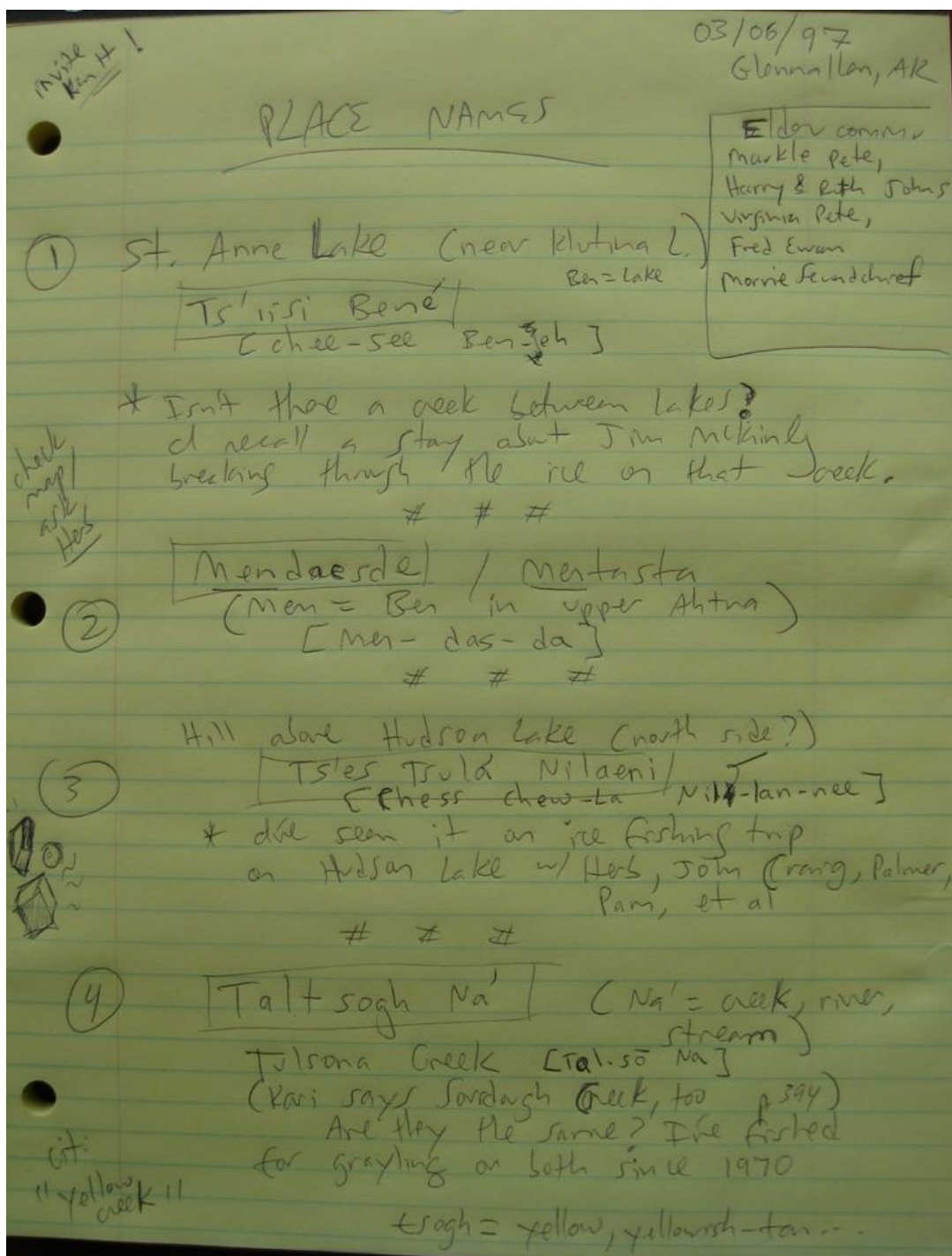
Ken Hale, Ph.D. was a legendary M.I.T. linguist who spoke over 50 languages, including a number of Native American languages, among them Hopi and Navajo.

James Welch (1932-2003) was the American Book Award winning author of such books as *Fools Crow*, *Winter in the Blood*, *The Indian Lawyer*, and *The Death of James Loney*.

APPENDIX



Release of Copyrights to John E. Smelcer (April 6, 1998)



Example of field notes from a March 1997 Ahtna language workshop in Glennallen

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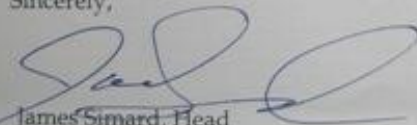
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Sincerely,


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