Lower Tanana Athabaskan Listening and Writing Exercises

by

James Kari

Key Words Tape Recorded by Isabel Charlie

Conversational Practice Tape Recorded by Peter John

"Fishing Work" Tape Recorded by Evelyn Alexander

Cover drawing "North Fork of the Tolovana River" by the late Eric Charlie

Alaska Native Language Center

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Table of Contents

Acknowledgments	2
Foreword	3
I. The Lower Tanana Sound System	4
II. The Lower Tanana Alphabet recorded by Isabel Charlie	5
III. Lower Tanana Key Words recorded by Isabel Charlie	6
IV. Lower Tanana Conversational Practice recorded by Peter John	11
V. Łuk'a K'oneya', Fishing Work a story recorded by Evelyn Alexander	18
VI. Lower Tanana Place Names in the Fairbanks Area	23

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It is hoped that this introduction to Lower Tanana phonetics and writing will stimulate further learning and recording of this very conservative Athabaskan language.

Jim Kari, April, 1991

Foreword

The Lower Tanana Athabaskan language is spoken by about seventy-five people in the villages of Minto and Nenana as well as in the city of Fairbanks. Lower Tanana formerly had three dialects: Minto Flats and the Nenana River drainage (north of the Alaska Range); the Chena River area; and the Salcha River area. However, the Salcha dialect is quite divergent, and is rather transitional between Lower Tanana, Tanacross, and Ahtna. The following exercises are based on tape recordings of the Minto-Nenana dialect by Isabel Charlie, Peter John, and Evelyn Alexander.

Since few materials in the Lower Tanana language are available at this time, linguists at the Alaska Native Language Center have suggested several revisions in the writing system. With these changes, certain consonants are written just like those in neighboring Athabaskan languages, and the vowels are steamlined now with single letters. A summary of the changes in the writing systems follows:

Previous	New
kh	x
tl	tl
tł'	tl'
n (at end of word)	nh
y (at end of word)	yh
u	w
00	u
ee	i

I. The Lower Tanana Sound System

Consonants

labial	dental	lateral	interdental	apical	retroflex	palatal	velar	glottal
b	d	dl	ddh	dz	dr	j	g	,
	t	tl	tth	ts	tr	ch	k	
	ť'	tl'	tth'	ts'	tr'	ch'	k'	
		ł	th	s	sr	sh	x	h
		1	dh	Z	zr		gh	
(m)	n nh					y yh		

Vowels

	non-n	asal		nasal	
i			u		Ų
	e	w		ę	
a			0	ą	

II. The Lower Tanana Alphabet

Tape Side A:0-6.27, recorded by Isabel Charlie

Consonants

b	baba	food	S	si	I, me
ch	chonh	rain	sh	shath	wart
ch'	ch'wx	quill	sr	srisr	sheefish
d	dena	man	t	tenh	ice
ddh	ddheł	mountain	t'	t'asr	charcoal
dh	ch'edheth	skin	th	thoyh	sand
dl	edli	it's cold	tl	tlanh	green wood
dr	dranh	day	tl'	tl'uł	rope
dz	dzenh	muskrat	tr	tretr	dry wood
g	gwx	rabbit	tr'	tr'axa	woman
gh	seghu'	my tooth	ts	tso'	beaver
h	hał	trap	ts'	ts'eba	spruce
j	jega	berry	tth	netthi'	your head
k	kwn'	fire	tth'	tth'ok	plate
k'	k'o'	arrow	X	xwx	Canada goose
1	selo'	my hand	y	yo	sky
ł	łuk'a	salmon	yh	deyh	spruce hen
m	Menhti	Minto	Z	noghelzut	he slid down
n	nen'	land	zr	nezrunh	it is good
nh	nenh	you	,	se'ot	my wife
Vous	la				
Vowe		5.1.ma.ma.o.m		4	
a	sanh	summer	u	tu	water
_	beleda'	his smoke		łut	ice, glacier
e	let	smoke	w	tthaxw	first
•	yex	house		k'wy'	willow
i	desni	I say	ą	netl-'ila'	I didn't see it
	tsitl	snow	ę	ęhę'	yes
0	oyh	snowshoe	Ų	ixų	in vain
	bedhot	his mouth			

III. Lower Tanana Key Words

Tape Side A: 6.27-end, Side B: 0-7.20, recorded by Isabel Charlie

1. i		2. e	
liga	dog	jega	berry
si	I, me	łet	smoke
denigi	moose	bebet	his belly
dinji	money	tretr	dry wood
chila	young man	seth	ridge
3. a		4. o	
baba	food	tth'ok	plate
dał	sandhill crane	dwxtso	cache
tr'axa	woman	doyonh	chief
dasr	sandbar	thoyh	sand
beleda'	his smoke	k'o'	arrow
5. u		6. w	
nu	island	tthaxw	first
łut	ice, glacier	xwtl	sled
beghu'	his teeth	bek'wth	his neck
setsu	my grandmother	bekwn'	her husband
yuzri	he calls his name	lek'wtl	it is white
7		•	
7. a	.	8. e (rare)	
netl-'ila	I didn't see it	ęhę'	yes
ithdo'ą	he is not staying	dęy'	late spring
ch'edethdliga	he is not singing		
ethtreghą	he is not crying		
negwdzą	it is short		
9. ų (rare)		10. b	
	I talk for nothing	benh	lake
Achesyayii iAq	i wik ioi noming	ts'eba	
		ch'elbatr	spruce
		basi'	he boiling something
			thank you
		deba	Dall sheep

11A. m (varia Menhti 11B. w (rare) ch'edhetlwenh	Minto Lakes	12. d duł nedoth deneyh deyh dena	firewood, fuel it is heavy bearberry spruce hen man
13. t	wave	14. t'	charcoal
tu	water	t'egheth	cottonwood
se'ot	my wife	bet'ox	underneath it
deltwtl	he talks loudly	bet'wx	its nest
ethdetenh	it's frozen	yeghit'otth	he cut it
15. n		16. nh (varian	t of n)
neł	wedge	tenh	ice
nelani	meat	Menhti	Minto
sentseyh	my nose	nenh	you
nen'	land	ch'edenunh	he is drinking
dink'a	gun	tth'enh k'at	grave
17. dl		18. tl	
dlega	tree squirrel	tlwx	grease
dhedlo	they are there	betlanh	his friend
dletsinh	it was made	xwtl	sled
dlot	algae	nekotl	raspberry
edli	it is cold	etltsi	I am making it
19. tl' tl'wx tl'ul ch'etl'ot nothdetl'unh	sedge (grass) rope headwaters he is dressed	20. l lotth'ek lek'ox delk'esr begola'	ring it is fat it is red his snare
betl'eda	his waist	beliga'	his dog

21. ł		22. ddh	
łiga	dog	ddheł	mountain
goł	snare	doddhineh	be quiet
lats	dirt, ashes	kałt'oddha	water lily
yellet	he is singeing it	teddha	last night
lets'eyh	birch fungus ashes	ghedet'oddhi	that which is cut
23. tth		24. tth'	
tthak'wna'	rock	tth'enh	bone
deltthwghi	yellow object	xedadletth'i	they are staying
tetth	night	tth'ax	sinew thread
betthen'	his flesh	Tth'itu'	Tanana River
detthekts'en'	entirely	tth'u	milk
25. dh		26. th	
dhido	you sit	theth	belt
xwdheł	heat	eth	fish trap
bedhana	his neck, collar	thedo	timbered area
dhetltsinh	I made it	nek'wth	your neck
ch'edheth	skin	ethdetenh	it froze
27 1		28. ts	
		/X TC	
27. dz	•. 1		1
dzax	pitch	tso	cache
dzax beladza'	his soil, ashes	tso lats	soil, ashes
dzax beladza' dodzeni	his soil, ashes common loon	tso łats setseya	soil, ashes my grandfather
dzax beladza' dodzeni ch'eldzes	his soil, ashes common loon he is dancing	tso lats setseya tsugi	soil, ashes my grandfather marten
dzax beladza' dodzeni	his soil, ashes common loon	tso łats setseya	soil, ashes my grandfather
dzax beladza' dodzeni ch'eldzes bedzegha'	his soil, ashes common loon he is dancing	tso lats setseya tsugi deltsedza	soil, ashes my grandfather marten
dzax beladza' dodzeni ch'eldzes bedzegha' 29. ts'	his soil, ashes common loon he is dancing his ear	tso lats setseya tsugi deltsedza 30. z (rare)	soil, ashes my grandfather marten mouse
dzax beladza' dodzeni ch'eldzes bedzegha' 29. ts' ts'ex	his soil, ashes common loon he is dancing his ear	tso łats setseya tsugi deltsedza 30. z (rare) noghelzut	soil, ashes my grandfather marten mouse he slid down
dzax beladza' dodzeni ch'eldzes bedzegha' 29. ts' ts'ex bets'es	his soil, ashes common loon he is dancing his ear	tso lats setseya tsugi deltsedza 30. z (rare) noghelzut delzek	soil, ashes my grandfather marten mouse he slid down it drips
dzax beladza' dodzeni ch'eldzes bedzegha' 29. ts' ts'ex bets'es ts'etsan'	his soil, ashes common loon he is dancing his ear hat his elbow grass	tso łats setseya tsugi deltsedza 30. z (rare) noghelzut delzek ghejezwł	soil, ashes my grandfather marten mouse he slid down it drips I am sliding
dzax beladza' dodzeni ch'eldzes bedzegha' 29. ts' ts'ex bets'es ts'etsan' sets'uk'at	his soil, ashes common loon he is dancing his ear hat his elbow grass my navel	tso lats setseya tsugi deltsedza 30. z (rare) noghelzut delzek ghejezwł yetenadlezut	soil, ashes my grandfather marten mouse he slid down it drips I am sliding he swallowed it
dzax beladza' dodzeni ch'eldzes bedzegha' 29. ts' ts'ex bets'es ts'etsan'	his soil, ashes common loon he is dancing his ear hat his elbow grass	tso łats setseya tsugi deltsedza 30. z (rare) noghelzut delzek ghejezwł	soil, ashes my grandfather marten mouse he slid down it drips I am sliding
dzax beladza' dodzeni ch'eldzes bedzegha' 29. ts' ts'ex bets'es ts'etsan' sets'uk'at	his soil, ashes common loon he is dancing his ear hat his elbow grass my navel	tso lats setseya tsugi deltsedza 30. z (rare) noghelzut delzek ghejezwł yetenadlezut	soil, ashes my grandfather marten mouse he slid down it drips I am sliding he swallowed it
dzax beladza' dodzeni ch'eldzes bedzegha' 29. ts' ts'ex bets'es ts'etsan' sets'uk'at dets'eni	his soil, ashes common loon he is dancing his ear hat his elbow grass my navel	tso lats setseya tsugi deltsedza 30. z (rare) noghelzut delzek ghejezwł yetenadlezut dedezis	soil, ashes my grandfather marten mouse he slid down it drips I am sliding he swallowed it
dzax beladza' dodzeni ch'eldzes bedzegha' 29. ts' ts'ex bets'es ts'etsan' sets'uk'at dets'eni 31. s	his soil, ashes common loon he is dancing his ear hat his elbow grass my navel ducks	tso łats setseya tsugi deltsedza 30. z (rare) noghelzut delzek ghejezwł yetenadlezut dedezis 32. dr	soil, ashes my grandfather marten mouse he slid down it drips I am sliding he swallowed it he is shivering
dzax beladza' dodzeni ch'eldzes bedzegha' 29. ts' ts'ex bets'es ts'etsan' sets'uk'at dets'eni 31. s sanh seth	his soil, ashes common loon he is dancing his ear hat his elbow grass my navel ducks summer ridge	tso lats setseya tsugi deltsedza 30. z (rare) noghelzut delzek ghejezwł yetenadlezut dedezis 32. dr drana	soil, ashes my grandfather marten mouse he slid down it drips I am sliding he swallowed it he is shivering
dzax beladza' dodzeni ch'eldzes bedzegha' 29. ts' ts'ex bets'es ts'etsan' sets'uk'at dets'eni 31. s sanh seth gelis	his soil, ashes common loon he is dancing his ear hat his elbow grass my navel ducks summer ridge birch seeds	tso łats setseya tsugi deltsedza 30. z (rare) noghelzut delzek ghejezwł yetenadlezut dedezis 32. dr drana nedraya'	soil, ashes my grandfather marten mouse he slid down it drips I am sliding he swallowed it he is shivering today your heart
dzax beladza' dodzeni ch'eldzes bedzegha' 29. ts' ts'ex bets'es ts'etsan' sets'uk'at dets'eni 31. s sanh seth gelis	his soil, ashes common loon he is dancing his ear hat his elbow grass my navel ducks summer ridge	tso lats setseya tsugi deltsedza 30. z (rare) noghelzut delzek ghejezwł yetenadlezut dedezis 32. dr drana nedraya' xwłgwdra	soil, ashes my grandfather marten mouse he slid down it drips I am sliding he swallowed it he is shivering today your heart gnat

33. tr		34. tr'	
tretr	dry wood	tr'iyh	canoe
letr	urine	tr'etodeł	we will go
troth	wild carrot	ełtr'eyh	it is windy
katreth	moccasins	tr'utthat	anciently
dotron'	raven	tr'ehtr'a	arctic tern
35. sr		36. zr	
sresr	black bear	nezrunh	it is good
srisr	sheefish	juzra	camprobber, grey jay
srosr	knot	belogezret	between his fingers
xwnghwsr	foam	bezregha'	his gaff hook
srajela	grayling	bezrok'wł	no wonder
37. j		38. ch	
jeth	hook	bechoya	her grandchild
joni	this thing	nuchuni	bull moose
nejejet	I'm afraid	dechenh	stick
jaldi	playing cards	chasi	clock
dinji	money	chesrga	least weasel
39. ch'		40. sh (rare)	
39. ch' dech'et	it is tough	40. sh (rare) shath	wart
	it is tough stump		wart mountain teepee
dech'et	-	shath	
dech'et ch'echena'	stump	shath neshuli	mountain teepee
dech'et ch'echena' ch'e'oł	stump he is eating	shath neshuli nadleshwtl	mountain teepee it is swollen
dech'et ch'echena' ch'e'oł bech'o'	stump he is eating away from him	shath neshuli nadleshwtl nilshutl	mountain teepee it is swollen it swelled up
dech'et ch'echena' ch'e'oł bech'o'	stump he is eating away from him	shath neshuli nadleshwtl nilshutl	mountain teepee it is swollen it swelled up leave it be
dech'et ch'echena' ch'e'oł bech'o' dhech'eł	stump he is eating away from him	shath neshuli nadleshwtl nilshutl enshuya	mountain teepee it is swollen it swelled up leave it be
dech'et ch'echena' ch'e'oł bech'o' dhech'eł 41. y yu'	stump he is eating away from him it is torn	shath neshuli nadleshwtl nilshutl enshuya 42. yh (variant	mountain teepee it is swollen it swelled up leave it be of y) caribou
dech'et ch'echena' ch'e'ol bech'o' dhech'el 41. y yu' siy'i	stump he is eating away from him it is torn beads	shath neshuli nadleshwtl nilshutl enshuya 42. yh (variant bedzeyh xwyh	mountain teepee it is swollen it swelled up leave it be of y) caribou winter, spruce roots
dech'et ch'echena' ch'e'ol bech'o' dhech'el 41. y yu' siy'i k'wy'	stump he is eating away from him it is torn beads my possessions willow	shath neshuli nadleshwtl nilshutl enshuya 42. yh (variant bedzeyh xwyh bedrayhdwga'	mountain teepee it is swollen it swelled up leave it be of y) caribou winter, spruce roots
dech'et ch'echena' ch'e'oł bech'o' dhech'eł 41. y yu' siy'i k'wy' tth'eya	stump he is eating away from him it is torn beads my possessions willow mosquito	shath neshuli nadleshwtl nilshutl enshuya 42. yh (variant bedzeyh xwyh bedrayhdwga' seyh	mountain teepee it is swollen it swelled up leave it be of y) caribou winter, spruce roots his lungs health
dech'et ch'echena' ch'e'ol bech'o' dhech'el 41. y yu' siy'i k'wy'	stump he is eating away from him it is torn beads my possessions willow	shath neshuli nadleshwtl nilshutl enshuya 42. yh (variant bedzeyh xwyh bedrayhdwga'	mountain teepee it is swollen it swelled up leave it be of y) caribou winter, spruce roots his lungs
dech'et ch'echena' ch'e'oł bech'o' dhech'eł 41. y yu' siy'i k'wy' tth'eya	stump he is eating away from him it is torn beads my possessions willow mosquito	shath neshuli nadleshwtl nilshutl enshuya 42. yh (variant bedzeyh xwyh bedrayhdwga' seyh	mountain teepee it is swollen it swelled up leave it be of y) caribou winter, spruce roots his lungs health
dech'et ch'echena' ch'e'oł bech'o' dhech'eł 41. y yu' siy'i k'wy' tth'eya yoyekoyh	stump he is eating away from him it is torn beads my possessions willow mosquito	shath neshuli nadleshwtl nilshutl enshuya 42. yh (variant bedzeyh xwyh bedrayhdwga' seyh ttheleyh	mountain teepee it is swollen it swelled up leave it be of y) caribou winter, spruce roots his lungs health
dech'et ch'echena' ch'e'oł bech'o' dhech'eł 41. y yu' siy'i k'wy' tth'eya yoyekoyh 43. g	stump he is eating away from him it is torn beads my possessions willow mosquito northern lights	shath neshuli nadleshwtl nilshutl enshuya 42. yh (variant) bedzeyh xwyh bedrayhdwga' seyh ttheleyh 44. k	mountain teepee it is swollen it swelled up leave it be of y) caribou winter, spruce roots his lungs health arctic ground squirrel
dech'et ch'echena' ch'e'oł bech'o' dhech'eł 41. y yu' siy'i k'wy' tth'eya yoyekoyh 43. g gath	stump he is eating away from him it is torn beads my possessions willow mosquito northern lights king salmon	shath neshuli nadleshwtl nilshutl enshuya 42. yh (variant bedzeyh xwyh bedrayhdwga' seyh ttheleyh 44. k kwska	mountain teepee it is swollen it swelled up leave it be of y) caribou winter, spruce roots his lungs health arctic ground squirrel
dech'et ch'echena' ch'e'oł bech'o' dhech'eł 41. y yu' siy'i k'wy' tth'eya yoyekoyh 43. g gath ts'edzegaga	stump he is eating away from him it is torn beads my possessions willow mosquito northern lights king salmon chickadee	shath neshuli nadleshwtl nilshutl enshuya 42. yh (variant bedzeyh xwyh bedrayhdwga' seyh ttheleyh 44. k kwska beka'	mountain teepee it is swollen it swelled up leave it be of y) caribou winter, spruce roots his lungs health arctic ground squirrel chief, rich man his foot
dech'et ch'echena' ch'e'oł bech'o' dhech'eł 41. y yu' siy'i k'wy' tth'eya yoyekoyh 43. g gath ts'edzegaga begona'	stump he is eating away from him it is torn beads my possessions willow mosquito northern lights king salmon chickadee his arm	shath neshuli nadleshwtl nilshutl enshuya 42. yh (variant bedzeyh xwyh bedrayhdwga' seyh ttheleyh 44. k kwska beka' bekan'	mountain teepee it is swollen it swelled up leave it be of y) caribou winter, spruce roots his lungs health arctic ground squirrel chief, rich man his foot its beaver lodge

45. k'		46. x	
k'iyh	birch	xał	pack
wk'at	eddy	xeneth	raft
k'o'	arrowhead	tax	underwater
dadhk'wn'	it is burning	wxtrex	you pl are crying
beth k'et	on the riverbank	ch'wx	quill
47. gh		48. h	
ghesghał	I am packing it	ohoya	oldsquaw duck
beghala'	his pack	hał	trap
bech'wgha'	its quills	behala'	his trap
ghini'i	maggots	si hiy'	who me

goheyh

coffee

49. ' or zero (not written if word initial)

afterwards

oyh snowshoes se'oya' my snowshoes belo' his hand yenghil'an' he looked at it

tl'oghwnh

ete'a daddy ts'egel' sore eyes

IV. Lower Tanana Conversational Practice

Tape Side B: 7:25-17:35, recorded by Peter John in December, 1973

1) ch'udhadhiltth'onh	you listen
iget xedotr'exwydol'ixde ch'udhadhiltth'onh	listen to this lesson
ch'udhadhiltth'onh	listen
xedotr'exwydatl-'an'de ch'udhadhiltth'onh	listen to what we teach
ch'udhadhiltth'onh	
xedotr'exwydatl-'an'de ch'udhadhiltth'onh	
2) dhwxdo	you (pl) sit down
dhwxdo	
dhwxdo	
3) k'ah denodideni	you say it again
k'ah denodideni	
k'ah denodideni	
4) doddhwxneh	you (sg) be quiet
doddhwxneh	
doddhwxneh	
5) ne'wxdhet	you (2) stand up

6) ne'indhet	you (sg) stand up
ne'indhet	
ne'indhet	
7) oni'	come in
oni'	
oni'	
8) dega'	get away
dega'	
dega'	
9) ch'edenh ninwxdał	you (pl) go to another place, get away
ch'edenh ninwxdał	
ch'edenh ninwxdał	
10) jo ninwxdał	you (pl) come here
jo ninwxdał	
jo ninwxdał	
11) ne'wxdax	you (pl) stand up
ne'wxdax	
ne'wxdax	

12) doddhwxneh	you (pl) keep quiet
doddhwxneh	
doddhwxneh	
13) k'at xwnoch'exidayh	repeat it again
k'at xwnoch'exidayh	
k'at xwnoch'exidayh	
14) dadhwltth'i	you (pl) sit down
dadhwltth'i	
dadhwltth'i	
15) ch'udhadhwltth'onh	you (pl) listen
ch'udhadhwltth'onh	
ch'udhadhwltth'onh	
16) do'it'anh?	what are you (sg) doing?
do'it'anh?	
do'it'anh?	
17) ndan'	nothing
ndan'	
ndan'	

18)	
xwdoch'exwydadhetl-'an'	I am teaching
xwdoch'exwydadhetl-'an'	
xwdoch'exwydadhetl-'an'	
19)	
dadhwltth'i	you (pl) sit down
dadhwltth'i	
dadhwltth'i	
20)	
ch'udhadhwltth'onh	you (pl) listen
ch'udhadhwłtth'onh	
ch'udhadhwltth'onh	
21)	
daniyoyh	you come in
daniyoyh	
daniyoyh	
22)	
do'it'anh?	what are you sg doing?
do'it'anh?	
do'it'anh?	
23)	
ndan'	nothing
ndan'	
ndan'	

24) dhido you (sg) sit down dhido dhido 25) oni' come in oni' oni' 26) do'wxt'anh? what are you (pl) doing? do'wxt'anh? do'wxt'anh? 27) ndan' nothing ndan' ndan' 28) dadhwltth'i you (pl) sit down dadhwltth'i dadhwltth'i 29) k'wda notghesdoł I will go back now k'wda notghesdoł k'wda notghesdoł

30)	
niłdhoxw ne'eł ghesdo'	I stayed with you a long time
niłdhoxw ne'eł ghesdo'	
niłdhoxw ne'eł ghesdo'	
31)	
ęhę'	okay, yes
ęhę'	
ęhę'	
32)	
basi' xuzrunhts'e ne'eł ghesdo'	thank you for a nice stay
basi' xuzrunhts'e ne'eł ghesdo'	with you
basi' xuzrunhts'e ne'eł ghesdo'	
33)	
k'wda tinotr'etodedeł	we will go back out now
k'wda tinotr'etodedeł	
k'wda tinotr'etodedeł	
34)	
ęhę'	okay, yes
ęhę'	
ęhę'	
35)	
xuzrunhts'e ne'el tr'edigheltth'i'	we stayed nicely with you
xuzrunhts'e ne'el tr'edigheltth'i'	
xuzrunhts'e ne'eł tr'edigheltth'i'	

36) basi'

thank you

basi'

basi'

V. ŁUK'A K'ONEYA' -- FISHING WORK

Told by Evelyn Alexander on February 26th, 1991; transcribed by Jim Kari; proofread with Isabel Charlie; Tape Side B: 17:40-25:00

Dey' ti lo k'w łuk'a ntayełta'i uko tr'el'anh.

In the late spring, we catch the fish which come with increased waters.

Buko tatr'etr'enil'o.

We hold a dipnet in the water for them.

Xoldon'ti xeldi' tabil iyegu tenhti lo k'w tatr'eghelneyh.

Sometimes we then set a net in the ice.

Exwtełdi' yegu tsabaya ntayełta'i, ch'ulkoya ntayełta'i, dots'exdi ntayełta'i, deya łuk'a dedadleyo ts'en' lo k'w ntayełta'.

Then there are whitefish, which come in with the water; pike, which come in; suckers, which come in,

or whatever various fish that come with the water.

Eyi uko chu yegu xwn'a tatr'etr'enil'o.

For those fish also, we hold out a dipnet there in the stream.

For those jish also, we hold out a alphet there in the stream

Exwteldi' yegu tsabaya el xa'el tr'etr'oko'.

Also we used to dipnet for the whitefish.

Dey' ti benot tu k'ah dent'ayi łuk'a.

In the spring, the fish meat is watery.

Iyega' iyega' xwghw xeldi' yegi nikanatr'elyayh ts'en' k'w tr'et'oth.

Therefore we bring them to shore and cut them up.

Ts'ek'w ch'ulkoya dhegwni tr'eghonh.

Also, we make dry pike.

Tsabaya dhegwni tr'eghonh.

We make dry whitefish.

Dots'exdi dhegwni tr'eghonh.

We make dry suckers.

Iyegu iyegu dradlay go xeldi' notr'edenzriyh ts'en' tr'elgwnh.

Those little round whitefish, we score them across and dry them.

K'wda tr'ełgwnh tl'oghwnh chuk'w notr'eltrik ts'en' notr'ediyh.

Then after we dry them we soak them and eat them.

Bek'otr'ilniyh xoldon' tildi' teya' ethgwna texeldi' kwnits'e tr'elt'ath ts'en' notr'ediyh, luk'a, luk'a dedadleyo ts'en'.

Sometimes we cook them too and if they are not too dry, we roast them by the fire and eat them, the fish, the various fish.

K'wda sanidret sanidret k'wda yegu August yelo k'wda łuk'a yinodededex. Then in midsummer or midsummer August, the fish fatten up.

Iyga lochu k'wda łuk'a uko chuk'u iga' łdi' k'wda tsabaya.

Then we fish for salmon, and also whitefish too.

Łdi' k'wda tr'et'oth ts'en' tr'ełgwnh ts'en'
k'eth ninotr'elyayh.

Then we cut and dry them and we put them away.

K'wda xwyh nołto' xeghwnh.

Then we save them for winter.

Xwyhts'en' September lo'ots'en' luk'a lek'ox.

In the fall time, the fish are really fat.

Everything ch'ulkoya, dots'exdi, tsabaya, dradlaya, xolexga, ntsu luk'a, Tenena ti xeldi' nulaghi, nothdlaghi uko tr'el'anh.

Then we go to the Tanana River for everything - pike, suckers, whitefish, round whitefish, humpback whitefish, broad whitefish, chum salmon, and coho.

Ixwyeldi' xoldon'ti ch'enok'eth tr'eghonh.

Sometimes we split them with the backbone on.

Tr'et'oth ts'en' dhegwni tr'eghonh.

We cut them and make dry fish.

Iyi chuk'u iyi chuk'u beko gwnhti
kwnits'e tr'elt'ath ts'en' notr'ediyh.

Then also, when the outer side is dry,
we roast them by the fire and eat them.

Beyena' xeldi' notr'edenzriyh ts'en' tr'elgwnh.

We score and dry the backbones too.

Teya ethgwna ts'en'

k'w xoldon'ti freezer yitr'elayh ts'en' xwyhti notr'ediyh.

Also if they are not too dry,

sometimes we put them in the freezer and eat them in the winter.

Notr'eltrik ts'en' notr'ediyh.

We soak them and eat them.

Ts'e k'wda k'wda xwyhts'en' k'wda exwyi enik'atr'ilniyh tl'oghwnh, lo k'w chu k'wda dedetiyh tl'oghwnh chu k'wda njethtr'elyax.

And then in the fall, after we have finished working on the fish

And then in the fall, after we have finished working on the fish, and after it freezes, then we jig with hooks.

Iga' xeldi' ch'ulkoya ya' tr'uljoth.

Then we jig only for pike.

Xoldon'ti idi' tenh t'ox tsabaya ghw tabagha tabii totr'eghelneyh.

Then sometimes, we set a net on the shore under the ice for whitefish.

Tenh t'ox tabii totr'elayh.

We set nets under the ice.

Iyi yexeldi' k'wda luk'a yegu ch'exwk'a no'idedali, xoldon'ti tsabaya ch'exwk'a nodedek, ch'ulkoya el. Sometimes the salmon come last, or sometimes the whitefish come last, or the pike.

Xwyhts'en'ti dots'exdi detr'etl-'ana tu no'udech'il texwya'. In the fall, we don't catch suckers, unless the water is high. Tu no'udech'il texwya' lo dots'exdi xulanh. There are suckers only when the water is high.

Bets'iga' xeldi' lek'ox.

Its guts are fat then.

Eyeldi' k'w dent'a ts'en' tr'e'ol.

Then we eat them like this.

Tsabaya k'una' chuk'w dent'a ts'en' tr'e'ol. We also eat whitefish eggs.
Bets'iga' xeldi' tr'elt'ath.
We roast the guts.
Ch'ulkoya ts'iga' xeldi' tr'elt'ath.
We also roast pike guts.

Xoldon'ti netha' tr'edenlayh ts'en' notr'edonh. Sometimes we put them on the fire and eat them. Xwzru'u!
They are delicious!

Iga' k'wda xwyhts'en' k'wda dedetenh tl'oghenh lo k'wda ch'ulkoya uko njethtr'elyax. Then in the fall, after it freezes, we jig for pike with hooks.

Igu tenh k'e ldi' tr'entr'edetthal yegu wk'at.

There on the ice we chop water holes at the eddies.

Ixw tixeldi' k'w buko njethtr'elyax.

We jig for them there too.

Njeth eł igi' jeth łdi' tr'eghighonh. We make hooks, those hooks. Ts'e yigu one or two tr'ułjoth ts'e

k'w yi ch'ulkoya benbeda' benbeda' xatr'elt'wdhi yegu jeth atr'ughekoyh. And if we hook one or two,

we cut out the pike bellies (under the fin) and sew them onto the hook (as bait).

Ixwtildi' k'w ch'ulkoya sometimes lots you can catch about a hundred. Then sometimes you can catch a lot of pike, about one hundred. Yegu tonojethtr'e'oyh ts'en' lo k'w ch'ulkoya yulyil. Then we set a hook in the water and the pike takes it. Yegu bets'wxwda'ona. They are the lucky ones.

Ixwyeldi' k'w tr'engheltenh ts'e tr'edhdlo.

Then we freeze them and keep them.

K'w yegu xwyh luk'a noghenoyi k'at ti notr'ediyh.

Also in the winter, when we crave fresh fish, we eat them.

Luk'a eł nitr'eghedenoyh.

We stock up on fish.

Ts'e lo k'w k'wda k'wda k'eth nixeyelayh.

And then also, we store them.

K'wda November yi do'ena' lo k'w k'wda łuk'a exdeneyh. Then after November, we stop fishing then.
Tenh t'ox łuk'a ghw nexelneyh ti.
They work for fish under the ice.

Long time xeldi' nonoxwxwghiltsiyh.

They built weirs for a long time (since ancient times).

Xwtsil t'ot k'w xwtsil t'ot k'w luk'a dexeghil'an'.

They gathered fish below the weirs too.

Dats'en' lo k'w dexwghit'a' k'odi xeldi' xwtsil adoch'editonh ts'en'. That is how they did it but now the weir is forbidden.

Xe'a xwtsil tr'ultsil ts'en' xathdinh xulanh.

We are not allowed to make fish weirs.

Eth chox lo xwtsił ndoyet taxeghił'o'.

They put a big fishtrap into the opening of the fish weir.

Eyi łdi' łuk'a beyidenelgwk tiłdi' k'u ts'iłk'enh yan' łuk'a detl-'ana.

If the trap is full of fish, then one person can't handle it all.

Nildraxeyelayh.

They divide them up.

Łuk'a nilgho xeltayh.

They share fish with one another.

Dats'en' lo dexot'an'.

That's how they did it.

Ts'ilk'enh luk'a nchoghi etht'ana because luk'a nilgho xoltayh.

No one person had excessive fish because they shared with each other.

Yegu begheni xaxudhtrothna ghw łuk'a dexeghił'an' ts'exa'eł. They fished for the people who were having a hard time. Dats'en' ło dexughit'a' long time ago [yegu de'onh]. That was how it was a long time ago.

VI. Lower Tanana Place Names in the Fairbanks Area

The Athabaskan people of the Fairbanks area spoke the Chena dialect of Lower Tanana. The Chena dialect, which was very close to that of Minto and Nenana, has been extinct since 1976 when Laura Anderson passed away. On the other hand, the language in the upstream direction of Salcha, which is today spoken only by Eva Moffitt, is quite distinct from both the Chena and Minto-Nenana dialects as well as from the Tanacross and Ahtna languages.

These place names were contributed by the late Laura Anderson, the late Teddy Charlie, the late Bessie Barnabus, the late Matthew Titus; and by Peter John, Howard Luke, and Eva Moffitt. The names in part III are mainly in the territory of the Salcha band. These names are selected from more than seven hundred Lower Tanana place names collected to date by the staff of the Alaska Native Language Center.

A. Below the mouth of the Chena River

Tena Don'a Tanana Valley, lit. 'upriver trail'

Tth'itu' Tanana River, lit. 'major river, straight water'

Dinadhi Denali, Mount McKinley, lit. 'the tall one'

Duł No', Duł Toteth No' Wood River, lit. 'fuel river, fuel portage river'

Liltanh No' creek from Clear Creek Butte, lit. 'dead dog creek'

Ch'eyona' T'wx Clear Creek Butte, lit. 'bald eagle nest'

Nich'ilax No' Salchaket Slough, lit. 'fish stop to spawn-creek'

Tobo Bena' small lake two miles up Salchaket Slough, lit. 'swan lake'

Ch'eno' Xwdochaget Ddhela' Chena Ridge, lit. 'mouth of river of something-mountain'

Beghw Tr'etreghi bluff below mouth of Rosie Creek, lit. 'the one we cry for'

Tu Nelkwn' No' Rosie Creek, lit. 'clear water ck'

Sresr Yona' bluff above mouth of Rosie Creek, lit. 'ram sheep'

K'wth Tthula' village site below mouth of Chena, lit. 'neck tongue'

Ch'eno' Xwdochaget Rust Creek and mouth of Chena River, lit. 'mouth of something's stream'

B. The Chena River drainage

Ch'eno' Chena River, lit. 'river of something (game)'

Jega Tr'uneyayhdenh flat west of Chena River at south end of Chena Pump Road, lit.

'where we pick berries'

Toka' Bena' southmost lake north of end of Chena Pump Road, 'grebe lake'

Tu Del'anhde Chena Pumphouse, lit. 'where water is gathered'

Troth Yeddha' ridge at University of Alaska, lit. 'Indian Potato (hedysarum alpinum) ridge'

Niyułk'at, Yuł K'at Ddhela' camp at College Hill lit. 'overnight camp'

Troth Ghotthit Geist Road-Fairbanks Street area, lit. 'below Indian potato'

Troth Yeddha' Xwn'a Deadman (or Noyes) Slough, lit. 'Indian potato ridge stream'

Ninots'iyhleyayhde canoe landing on Deadman Slough, lit. 'where canoes are left'

Tr'exwghodegi Troth Yeddha' Bena' Smith Lake, lit. 'upper Indian potato lake'

Tr'exwghotthidi Troth Yeddha' Bena' Ballaine Lake, lit. 'lower Indian potato lake'

Ch'exongw Notodh'ode Noyes Slough, lit. 'upland waterway'

Tr'achenhnil'ode flat in downtown Fairbanks area, lit. 'where a flat extends out'

Ch'elot'udze' Yex early Middle Tanana River name for the town of Fairbanks, lit. 'bark house', (named for cabins made of unpeeled spruce logs)

Sresr Ddhela' Ester Dome, lit. 'black bear mountain'

Tok'a Sedha' ridge north of Farmers Loop-Yankovich Rd., lit. 'timbered valley ridge'

K'iyh Ddhel ridge from Birch Hill-Gilmore Dome, lit. 'birch mountain'

K'iyh Ddheł No' Little Chena River, lit. 'birch mountain river'

Beth Iljoyhdenh hill with beacon at Fort Wainwright, lit. 'where the bank slides'

Toteth Todaghi'oyi Chena Slough, Badger Slough, lit. 'waterway that extends across portage'

Ch'eno' Donga' upper Chena River area, lit. 'river of sth. uplands'

Xwdodli Nik'a Goldstream Creek, lit. 'cold enters-river'

Bedzeyh T'ox No' Xwtl'ot Murphy Dome, lit. 'beneath caribou creek-headwaters'

Xwdodli Nik'a Xwtl'ot upper Goldstream Valley, Fox area lit. 'cold enters-river headwaters'

Dradlaya Nik'a Chatanika River, lit. 'round whitefish river'

Chi Chage No' location uncertain, possibly a branch of the Chena river, lit. 'point mouth river'

Otho No' South Fork of Chena River, lit. '? river'

Ch'eno' Tu Nadheldenh Chena Hot Springs, lit. 'river of something-where there is warm water'

Dotthwgha location uncertain, caribou fence site near Chena Dome, lit. 'calf caribou' Xotughi'odenh Chena Dome or Far Mt., lit. 'where water comes up from below';

C. Above the mouth of the Chena River

Dotron' T'wx Byer's Island, lit. 'raven nest'

Dotron' T'wx No' slough south of Wenrich Island, lit. 'raven nest creek'

Thoyh Tl'esr No' Mud Slough from South Cushman south toward airport, lit. 'muddy creek'

Ts'iyh Tent portage between Tanana and Chena Slough in North Pole area, lit. 'canoe trail'

Xwchay Xwt'an Ch'eno' site, location uncertain, in North Pole area, lit. 'river mouth people's river'

Ghedanileni No' Moose Creek, lit. 'stream of current that flows against a place'

Ddheł Ghedanileni Moose Creek Bluff, lit. 'mountain that current flows against'

Tu Nelkwn' No' Clear Creek, lit. 'clear creek'

Nidhayh No' Dry Creek, lit. 'gravel creek'

Luge Bene' Blair Lakes ?, lit. 'fish lake'

Denigi Ddhele' hill at Blair Lakes, lit. 'moose mountain'

Noda'oyi hill, location uncertain, possibly Blair Lakes hill; or near Chena confluence lit. 'the one that is extended across'

Xwdegoya Nige McDonald Creek, lit. 'new born creek'

Ses No' Bear Creek, lit. 'black bear creek'

Deghiloyi Ddhela' Alaska Range, lit. 'range mountains'

Notuzrax Mts. Hess and Deborah, lit. 'water that forks down'

Bosotl'odi Mount Hayes, lit. 'the one with the sun behind it'

Chuddhe Ddhele' Boondocks Hill, lit. 'down feathers mountain'

Tso' Ten No' Little Salcha River, lit. 'beaver trail creek'

Nechuyh No' creek at head of South Fork of Chena River, lit. 'rosehip creek'

Nechuyh No' Ddhela' hill at head of Little Salcha River, lit. 'rosehip creek mountain'

Tthach'udegat Ddhela' Salcha Bluff, lit. 'rock that is poked-mountain'

Soł Chaget, Sol Chaget, Troth Chaget Salcha village site, mouth of Salcha River, lit.

'? mouth'

Sol Chage No' Salcha River, lit. '? mouth river'