

## Acknowledgements and Project History

The process of documenting the Tlingit verb paradigms contained in this database has a long history, with contributions from many different people and funding sources. The project can be divided into four distinct phases.

### Phase I

In the 1990s [Dr. Richard Dauenhauer](#) and [Nora Marks Dauenhauer](#) began documenting conjugated forms of Tlingit verbs as a necessary step toward completing the Intermediate Tlingit text book. Calling the project Principal Parts, they documented 30 complete Tlingit verb paradigms which would serve as the basis for the grammar lessons in Intermediate Tlingit. In time, Principal Parts took the back burner as they completed several other important Tlingit language publications. When I ([Keri Eggleston](#)) arrived on the scene in search of a project and a mentor, Richard and Nora generously passed this project on to me, sharing all of their project files and data, and orienting me to their process. I am forever grateful to them for the opportunity to do this work and for their kind mentorship.

### Phases II & III

To continue this project, a grant was secured from the [National Science Foundation](#) and the [National Endowment for the Humanities](#) through their Endangered Language Program from 2005-2008. This phase of the project involved documenting 230 more verb paradigms and was conducted through the [Sealaska Heritage Institute](#).

Funding for the next phase of the project, which resulted in the collection of another 300+ verb paradigms and the creation of a website containing this data, came from the [Administration for Native Americans](#) and was conducted through the [Goldbelt Heritage Foundation](#) in 2008-2009. The resulting website can be found at:

<http://www.goldbeltheritage.org/verbs/verbs/tlingit/1>

In order to document the verb forms contained in this resource, regular meetings were held with a core group of fluent elders in Juneau. This project would not have been possible without these talented individuals (listed here in alphabetical order), who served as regular consultants to the project at some point between 2005 and 2009: [Lillian Austin](#), [Irene Cadiente](#), [George Davis](#), [Anna Katzeek](#), [David Katzeek](#), [Anita Lafferty](#), [John Marks](#), [June Pegues](#), and [Helen Sarabia](#).

I am in awe of these individuals for their intimate knowledge of their Tlingit language despite a history that would have it otherwise. Each of these elders brought a unique and valuable skill to the project. Words cannot express the honor and gratitude I feel for having had the opportunity to work with each of them.

Other fluent speakers have contributed on occasion in a variety of contexts including the following: during immersion retreats and Summer Kusteeyí Programs held by Sealaska Heritage Institute; during my visits to Sitka or Yakutat; occasionally joining our regular project meetings in Juneau; or by answering questions over email. I thank all of those who contributed in this manner, listed here in alphabetical order: [Lorraine Adams](#), [Mary Anderson](#), [Bessie Cooley](#), [Vida Davis](#), [Ruth Demmert](#), [Lena Farkas](#), [William Fawcett](#), [Clarence Jackson](#), [Paul Jackson](#), [Nellie Lord](#), [Ethel Makinen](#), [John Martin](#), [Alfred McKinley](#), [Irene Paul](#), [George Ramos](#), [Walter Soboleff](#), [Theodore Valle Sr.](#), [Frank White](#), and [Fred White](#).

I am extremely grateful to [Dr. Jeff Leer](#) of the Alaska Native Language Center in Fairbanks, Alaska, who served as an expert consultant to this project throughout the duration. Dr. Leer tirelessly answered questions, especially in the early stages of the project as I became oriented to the complex world of Tlingit verbs. He attended regular teleconference meetings with me where he shared his knowledge of the Tlingit verb system and greatly enhanced my ability to carry out this project.

It is important to note that any errors contained within this resource are my own and should not reflect on any of the individuals named above.

Support during elicitation sessions with elders was provided by [Dionne Cadiente-Laiti](#) and [Edward Hotch](#) of Goldbelt Heritage Foundation and [Donald Gregory](#) of Sealaska Heritage Institute. They provided transportation for elders, traditionally prepared foods, and general support for every meeting. I thank them for their important contributions and for their kind attention to elders' needs throughout the project.

The [Goldbelt Hotel](#) provided in-kind meeting space during the 2008-2009 project year. Thanks to [John Archambeau](#) and [David Hays](#) for preparing the meeting space and for providing coffee to elders.

[Dr. Alice Taff](#) took the lead role in producing audio recordings of fluent speakers pronouncing verb forms for a sample five verbs contained in the Goldbelt Heritage Foundation website mentioned above. These audio files are uploaded to the corresponding verb entries and serve to illustrate the vision for a resource complete with audio samples for every verb. [Hans Chester](#) assisted Dr. Taff in this effort and I thank them both for their contributions. Dr. Taff additionally provided valuable input at critical times during the project and her support has been much appreciated.

[Dr. Jordan Lachler](#) and [Sean Burke](#) developed the font used for the Tlingit text in this resource which contains a specially designed underlined small capital letter G, making the underline much easier to read than is the case in standard fonts. I thank them for giving us permission to use this font for this project.

[Jeremy Andrews](#) of [Tag1 Consulting](#) designed the database found on the Goldbelt Heritage Foundation website mentioned above which contains the 575 or so verb paradigms documented up to 2009. I am most grateful to him for his creativity, persistence, and responsiveness in tailoring the database to the needs of the project.

#### Phase IV

In 2014 I received a fellowship from the National Science Foundation to document an additional 500 verb paradigms, each with example sentences, over a two-year period. The [Sealaska Heritage Institute](#) funded the elder language consultants during this phase, and the [Central Council of the Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska](#) funded a research assistant, [Andrew Williams](#), for the first half of the project, as well as supplying audio recording equipment. I am very grateful for these organizations' contributions, as it would not have been possible to accomplish the project goals without them.

Three elders served as consultants during this phase: [George Davis](#), [Lillian Austin](#), and [Florence Sheakley](#). I thank them for their continued dedication to the project, flexibility in meeting times, and constant good humor.

[Andrew Williams](#) took the lead role in making and managing audio recordings of each documentation session with the elder consultants during his time as research assistant. He also donated a high-quality external hard

drive to the project for safely backing up all audio recordings. I thank him for his important contributions and generosity.

For this phase of the project, it was necessary to build a new online database that could be continually updated from my local database as I documented new verbs in order to disseminate the information to the language community. [Alan and Karen Buseman](#) of the [Summer Institute of Linguistics](#) took this critical but unfunded component on, spending hours upon hours of their own time designing the website according to the project needs. I am forever indebted to them for their incredible generosity, kindness, and tenacity. Without their help, I would not have been able to make this information so readily available to the community that it is intended for, and I cannot thank them enough.

Kúnáx gunalchéesh ldakát yeewháan! (Thanks very much to all of you!)

-Keri Eggleston  
February, 2016