Alberta College of Art and Design
2018 Dene Language Revitalization Course

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Commentary

The Tsuut'ina language is a unique Dene Language that has weathered the test of time. It was the most stable language of the Dene dialects. The proper pronunciation of tones is the most critical aspect of Tsuut'ina. There are three tones probably four (the fourth tone is a extra high tone). The word for horse: ḟstlī, ḟ am: ḟstlī, ḟ am tasting: ḟstlī the non-speaker will hear only one word. Loss of toning will mean an introduction of slang and other forms of intrusion on a language that has remained pure and stable. The effects on the morphology lexicon, syntax and semantics will be the next signs of language loss.

Tsuut'ina has words that will never be translated ḟnāgōo the closest English translation is “I have deep empathy for you.” There are other words but this word is so profound that the receiver of this word experiences comfort when it is spoken.

In the past, I have tried immersion. The support for immersion must be present 24/7. In Tsuut'ina there are only 29 speakers in the world, of that 29 there are less than 14 that can assist in any supportive form. The answers to some of the questions when asked are not provided by the speakers or a substitute word is used i.e. sweetgrass ṭl'úw ṭlītsīnī, ṭl'úw tsīn, ṭūt'ūwī ṭlītsīnī more likely it is the later is the word from a linguistic and cultural point of view. Linguistically the word ṭl'úw appears in all three words and culturally sweetgrass is considered a medicine. There is much more to the language. I use these examples to show the variations that toning has on the semantics.

The best way to retain Tsuut'ina is the written form. If English is your first language, you need to have a written record of words for future reference. A recall of words or sentences that are verbally taught daily is difficult to absorb and retain.

Language has given me a unique identity over the years. It has taught me that Tsuut’ina is not a language of aggression, it is a language of balance, it is a language that keeps a persons dignity intact and can express difficult and serious matters in a different way. It is a language of prayer and humility. It has a complex structure of expression that will make you visualize the event as it happened in story telling. It is a language of respect for one another. Ceremonial events have more meaning in Tsuut’ina. Prayer language differs slightly with the endings of the words in prayer. When I pray I am pleading with the Creator for well being and balance.

I am a fluent speaker and my Tsuut’ina is true immersion. I heard the language everyday when I play, wake up, before I go to school, when I get home until I go to bed, all weekend, summertime and school holidays. I am a firm believer that immersion cannot work with a limited amount of speakers. We have been doing immersion since the early 1970s in Tsuut’ina and we never produced a single fluent speaker. The funding was never enough and the teachers had to develop their own lesson plans on a daily basis. In my late forties, I went back to university to learn more about linguistics and the assumptions that were made about Tsuut’ina. At that time, I thought I knew everything that needs to be known about Tsuut’ina. The instructors that I had helped me to understand the fundamentals of language. I applied those principals to Tsuut’ina and found out that there was so much more to learn. I transcribe and translate Tsuut’ina material. I have worked in culture and language in all my employment history. I am currently the Language Commissioner for the Tsuut’ina Nation and my job is to ensure the integrity of Tsuut’ina language.

Bruce Starlight
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Tsuut’ina Language Places of Articulation.

There are 32 consonants and 4 vowels in the Tsuut’ina Language. The following 10 illustrations are a representation of where your tongue sits when you are speaking the Tsuut’ina Language. This serves as a guide to help the reader better understand how to speak the Tsuut’ina Language.
t, d, s, dz, n, l, ł
g, ʔ (glottal)
# Nonsense Words to associate morphemes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vowels</th>
<th>i</th>
<th>a</th>
<th>o</th>
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<td>du</td>
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<td>ya</td>
<td>yo</td>
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<td>gho</td>
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<td>ma</td>
<td>mo</td>
<td>mu</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ni</td>
<td>na</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>nu</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Tsuut’ina Tadisdli

Iyaho Ito

Sōghānít’ā èèè

Sīsgākā ōghānít’ā èèè

Gwānístłīn dīyī dzínīsà

Xát’ā yīnísīn

Xát’ā níts’ī îskād
“will ask” Non Past

I will ask.
Youˢᵍ· will ask.
He/She/It will ask.
We will ask.
Youᵖˡ· will ask.
They will ask.
Someone will ask.

“ASK WITH IS IT”

Will I not ask?
Will youˢᵍ· not ask?
Will he/she/it not ask?
Will we not ask?
Will youᵖˡ· not ask?
Will they not ask?
Will someone not ask?

“WILL ASK HIM/HER/IT” Non Past

I will ask him/her/it.
Youˢᵍ· will not ask him/her/it.
He/She/It will ask him/her/it.
We will ask him/her/it.
Youᵖˡ· will ask him/her/it.
They will ask him/her/it. Someone will ask him/her/it

“**I WILL ASK HIM/HER/IT LATER ON**”  **Non Past**

I will ask him/her/it later on later on. You\(^{sg}\) will not ask him/her/it later on. He/She/It will ask him/her/it later on. We will ask him/her/it later on. You\(^{pl}\) will ask him/her/it later on. They will ask him/her/it later on. Someone will ask him/her/it later on.

“**ASK ANOTHER PERSON**”  **Non Past**

I will ask you\(^{sg}\). You\(^{sg}\) will ask me. He/She/It will ask me. We will ask you\(^{sg}\). You\(^{pl}\) will ask me. will ask me. Someone will ask me.

“**WILL ASK THEM**”  **Non Past**

I will ask them. You\(^{sg}\) will ask them. He/She/It will ask them. We will ask them. You\(^{pl}\) will ask them. They will ask them. Someone will ask them.
“ASKED”  Past

I asked.
You\textsuperscript{sg.} asked.
He/She/It asked.
We asked.
You\textsuperscript{pl.} asked.
They asked.
Someone asked.

“FINISHED ASKING”  Past

I finished asking
You\textsuperscript{sg.} finished asking
He/She/It finished asking.
We asking finished asking.
You\textsuperscript{pl.} finished asking.
They finished asking.
Someone finished asking.

“ASKED HIM/HER/IT”  Past

I asked him/her/it.
You\textsuperscript{sg.} asked him/her/it.
He/She/It asked him/her/it.
We asked him/her/it.
You\textsuperscript{pl.} asked him/her/it.
They asked him/her/it.
Someone asked him/her/it.

“ASKED THEM”  Past

I asked them.
You\textsuperscript{sg.} asked them.
He/She/It asked them.
We asked them.
You\textsuperscript{pl}. asked them.
They asked them.
Someone asked them.

```
\textbf{“BE ASKING”  Progressive}
```

I am asking/about to be asking.
You\textsuperscript{sg}. are asking.
He/She/It is asking.
We are asking.
You\textsuperscript{pl}. are asking.
They are asking.
Someone is asking.

```
\textbf{“ASKING HIM/HER/IT”  Progressive}
```

I am asking him/her/it.
You\textsuperscript{sg}. are asking him/her/it.
He/She/It is asking him/her/it.
We are asking him/her/it.
You\textsuperscript{pl}. are asking him/her/it.
They are asking him/her/it.
Someone is asking him/her/it.

```
\textbf{“ASK HIM/HER/IT AGAIN AND AGAIN”  Repetitive}
```

I ask him/her/it again and again.
You\textsuperscript{sg}. ask him/her/it again and again.
He/She/It ask him/her/it again and again
We ask him/her/it again and again
You\textsuperscript{pl}. ask him/her/it again and again
They ask him/her/it again and again
Someone asks him/her/it again and again

- Ùjídiiyäskîd.
- Ùgüjidiyiskîd.
- Ùgûs’iđiyiskîd.

- Ùdîiyiskîl.
- Ùdîiyiskîl.
- Ùdîiyiskîl.
- Ùdîiyiskîl.

- Ùdîyâskîl.
- Ùdîyâskîl.

- Ùgîdîiyiskîl.
- Ùgîdîiyiskîl.

- Ùt’s’iđîyiskîl.

- Ùmîdîiskîzh.
- Ùmîdîiskîzh.
- Ùmîdîiskîzh.

- Ùmîdâskîzh.
- Ùmîdâskîzh.
- Ùmîdâskîzh.

- Ùgîyidîiskîzh.
- Ùgîyidîiskîzh.
- Ùgîyidîiskîzh.

- Ùnàmîts’iđîiskîzh.
I ask them again and again.
You[^g] ask them again and again.
He/She/It asks them again and again.
We ask them again and again.
You[^pl] ask them again and again.
They ask them again and again.
Someone asks them again and again.

**“MIGHT ASK YOU[^pl]/US”**  Non Past

I might ask you[^pl].
You[^g] might ask us.
He/She/It might ask us.
We might ask you[^pl].
You[^pl] might ask us.
They might ask us.
Someone might ask us.

**“WILL NOT ASK HIM/HER/IT AGAIN AND AGAIN”**  Repetitive

I will not ask him/her/it again and again.
You[^g] will not ask him/her/it again and again.
He/She/It will not ask him/her/it again and again.
We will not ask him/her/it again and again.
You[^pl] will not ask him/her/it again and again.
They will not ask him/her/it again and again.
Someone will not ask him/her/it again and again.
“ASK”, “WILL HAVE ASKED HIM/HER/IT”  

I will have asked him/her/it after awhile

Noun Phrase  ask

Handle Verbs

blanket
my blanket
on
on a blanket

Handle Verbs-Non Past

“is on a blanket”  Non Past

1). It is on a blanket (granular substance)
   • Tààlk’à sìjààzh.
2). It is on a blanket (vessel with content/s)
   • Tààlk’à sîkón.
3). It is on a blanket (rope/several objects)
   • Tààlk’à sîlō.
4). He/she/it is sleeping on a blanket (human/animal)
   • Tààlk’à sîtín
5). It is on a blanket (stick-like object/sackful)
   • Tààlk’à sîtsùùz.
6). It is on a blanket (cloth-like object)
   • Tààlk’à sîʔōn.
7). It is on a blanket (solid stone like object/default)
   • Tààlk’à sîʔōn.

“was on a blanket”  Past

1). It was on a blanket (granular substance)
   • Tààlk’à yîjààzh.
2). It was on a blanket (vessel with content/s)
   • Tààlk’à yîkôn.
3). It was on a blanket (rope or several objects)
   • Tààlk’à yîlō.
4). It was on a blanket (stick-like object)
   • Tààlk’à yîtón.
5). It was on a blanket (cloth-like object)
   • Tààlk’à yîtsús.
6). It was on a blanket (solid stone like object/default)
   • Tààlk’à yîʔōn.
carry it, give to him/her/it active (granular)

“CARRY (GRANULAR SUBSTANCE)”  Non Past

I will carry it (granular substance).
You[^] will carry it (granular substance).
He/she/it will carry it (granular substance).
We will carry it (granular substance).
You[^] will carry it (granular substance).
They will carry (granular substance).
Someone will carry it (granular substance).

“CARRIED (GRANULAR SUBSTANCE)”  Past

I carried it (granular substance).
You[^] carried it (granular substance).
He/she/it carried it (granular substance).
We carried it (granular substance).
You[^] carried it (granular substance).
They carried it (granular substance).
Someone carried it (granular substance).

“CARRY HOME (GRANULAR SUBSTANCE)”  Non Past

I will carry something home (granular substance).
You[^] will carry something home (granular substance).
He/she/it will carry something home (granular substance).
We will carry something home (granular substance).
You[^] will carry something home (granular substance).
They will carry something home (granular substance).
Someone will carry something home (granular substance).

“WILL HAND/GIVE SOMETHING TO HIM/HER/IT (GRANULAR SUBSTANCE)”  Non Past

I will hand/give something to him/her/it (granular substance).
You[^] will hand/give something to him/her/it (granular substance).
He/she/it will hand/give something to him/her/it (granular substance).
We will hand/give something to him/her/it (granular substance).
You*pl· will hand/give something to him/her/it (granular substance).
They will hand/give something to him/her/it (granular substance).
Someone will hand/give something to him/her/it (granular substance).

“WILL HAND IT TO HIM/HER/IT (GRANULAR SUBSTANCE)”  Non Past

I will hand/give it to him/her/it (granular substance).
You*§· will hand/give it to him/her/it (granular substance).
He/she/it will hand/give it to him/her/it (granular substance).
We will hand/give it to him/her/it (granular substance).
You*pl· will hand/give it to him/her/it (granular substance).
They will hand/give it to him/her/it (granular substance).
Someone will hand/give it to him/her/it (granular substance).

“HANDED/GAVE TO HIM/HER/IT (GRANULAR SUBSTANCE)”  Past

I handed/gave something to him/her/it (granular substance).
You*§· handed/gave something to him/her/it (granular substance).
He handed/gave something to him/her/it (granular substance).
We handed/gave something to him/her/it (granular substance).
You*pl· handed/gave something to him/her/it (granular substance).
They handed/gave something to him/her/it (granular substance).
Someone handed/gave something to him/her/it (granular substance).

“HANDED IT TO HIM/HER/IT (GRANULAR SUBSTANCE)”  Past

You*§· handed/gave it to him/her/it (granular substance).
He/she/it handed/gave it to him/her/it (granular substance).
We handed/gave it to him/her/it (granular substance).
You*pl· handed/gave it to him/her/it (granular substance).
They handed/gave it to him/her/it (granular substance).
Someone handed/gave it to him/her/it (granular substance).
“CARRYING IT INSIDE (GRANULAR SUBSTANCE)”  Past

I am carrying it in (granular substance).
You⁸ are carrying it in (granular substance).
He/she/it is carrying it in (granular substance).
We are carrying it in (granular substance).
You² are carrying it in (granular substance).
They are carrying it in (granular substance).
Someone is carrying it in (granular substance).

“HOLDING IT UP (GRANULAR SUBSTANCE)”  Progressive

I am holding it up (granular substance).
You⁸ are holding it up (granular substance).
He/she/it is holding it up (granular substance).
We are holding it up (granular substance).
You² are holding it up (granular substance).
They are holding it up (granular substance).
Someone is holding it up (granular substance).

“HOLD IT UP AGAIN AND AGAIN (GRANULAR SUBSTANCE)”  Repetitive

I pick it up again and again (granular substance).
You⁸ pick it up again and again (granular substance).
He/she/it picks it up again and again (granular substance).
We pick it up again and again (granular substance).
You² pick it again up and again (granular substance).
They pick it up again and again (granular substance).
Someone picks it up again and again (granular substance).

carry it, hand to

“CARRY (VESSEL WITH CONTENT/S)”  Non Past

I will carry it (vessel with content/s).
You⁸ will carry it (vessel with content/s).
He/she/it will carry it (vessel with content/s).
We will carry it (vessel with content/s).
You\textsuperscript{pl}· will carry it (vessel with content/s).
They will carry it (vessel with content/s).
Someone will carry it (vessel with content/s).

“CARRIED IT (A VESSEL WITH CONTENT/s)”  \textbf{Past}

I carried it (vessel with content/s).
You\textsuperscript{sg}· carried it (vessel with content/s).
He/she/it carried it (vessel with content/s).
We carried it (vessel with content/s).
You\textsuperscript{pl}· carried it (vessel with content/s).
They carried it (vessel with content/s).
Someone carried it (vessel with content/s).

“I will hand/give something to him/her/it (vessel with content/s)” \textbf{Non Past}

I will hand/give something to him/her/it (vessel with content/s).
You\textsuperscript{sg}· will hand/give something to him/her/it (vessel with content/s).
He/she/it will hand/give something to him/her/it (vessel with content/s).
We will hand/give something to him/her/it (vessel with content/s).
You\textsuperscript{pl}· will hand/give something to him/her/it (vessel with content/s).
They will hand/give something to him/her/it (vessel with content/s).
Someone will hand/give something to him/her/it (vessel with content/s).

“I will hand it to him/her/it (vessel with content/s)”  \textbf{Non Past}

I will hand it to him/her/it (vessel with content/s).
You\textsuperscript{sg}· will hand it to him/her/it (vessel with content/s).
He/she/it will hand it to him/her/it (vessel with content/s).
We will hand it to him/her/it (vessel with content/s).
You\textsuperscript{pl}· will hand it to him/her/it (vessel with content/s).
They will hand it to him/her/it (vessel with content/s).
Someone will hand it to him/her/it (vessel with content/s).
"GAVE SOMETHING TO HIM/HER/IT (VESSEL WITH CONTENT/s)"  Past

I handed/gave something to him/her/it (a vessel with content/s).
Youˢ· handed/gave something to him/her/it (a vessel with content/s).
He/she/it handed/gave something to him/her/it (a vessel with content/s).
We handed/gave something to him/her/it (a vessel with content/s).
Youʰ· handed/gave something to him/her/it (a vessel with content/s).
They handed/gave something to him/her/it (a vessel with content/s).
Someone handed/gave something to him/her/it (a vessel with content/s).

• Mōghânīskòn.
• Mōghànīkòn.
• Yōghânīkòn.
• Mōghānāàkòn.
• Mōghānāskòn.
• Gīyōghāgīnīkòn.
• Mōghàtsʰīnīkòn.
tútákàtanidlijí  
sandpiper

itł'áàdzí  
in the morning

itł'áàdzii  
morning

wúnáásdina  
across the river

ák'óò iyíst'à  
early morning

mitł'úlà  
his/her/its rope

xìsyísà / xìsyísi  
before evening time

gudich'ulà  
rolling hills

iik'òyí  
bull, steer

xàl  
whip

dimóhí  
the one that is going to war

Ásch'ásyàtí  
Christmas
Ásch'ásyàlì yìk'a gwàdànàlìn
upon Christmas each and every one be happy

tláát'áà nahóghá tádisdli
I will be praying for all of you

tútákà gutíshí ch'át'ághà
November

ináchigúk'á
buffalo beans; the tear duct in your eyes

sùnàkáá
falling stars; mushrooms

ishùshî
shimmering light of the star

nisk'agudzághà
the ears of the ground; crocus

diitl'idzí
sorrel horse

disgòshí
black horse; something that is black

móghatsìtsuwí
dark brown horse with a light yellow patch on the nose

mik'usk'aá diik'ází
strawberry roan (red mane)

mik'usk'áà diigáyí
palomino
michàdisgòshí
buckskin

istlí didlíshí
zebra

mizìts'ìgudísúlí
lion

dichààsgughóní
mountain lion

ichitositíní / mìlòdikòdí / isgááká / ninàghá / shásh
bear
The Girl Who Married a Star

Diní yíná àkiná ìt'áakúwá ìsíná
This-person people two-persons girls it-must-have-been
These two girls were sitting

ìt'áyi digighstł'òghà ts'òghà gîsdó-là.
night their-own-home outside-at they-are-sitting-it-was.
one night outside of their teepee.

Tłık'ázá ìsíná xâní-là,
One-only it-must-have-been this-is-how-she-is-saying-it-was,
One of them said to her friend,

"Ädí," isní-là,
"Friend,"-(firmly-speaking) she-said-it-was,
"Friend," she said to her

"Nûwí sú dòó màgùnikínì iláádâà-jú
Over-there star here it-like-pretty may-it-be-also.
"That star over there is very beautiful.

sìkolà áyínà dòòt'ìyi.
my-husband he-may-become here-precisely ".
I wish that it would become my husband."

Ítł'ádzi ìsíná
In-the-morning it-must-have-been
The next morning,

kù ts'i gidist'óoz-là.
fire-wood towards they-walked-casually-it-was
the two girls went out to get wood for the fire.

Kù ágìshììnì īgùst'ìyà ìsíná
Wood it-they-are-making all-of-a-sudden it-must-have-been
As they were making the fire-wood suddenly,
īsgiyá k'áłàshà yōghānàyiyā-là.
young-man handsome her-to-to-a-point-he-walked-it-was.
a handsome young man walked up to her.

Díní ts'idótsā xání-là.
This-person girl this-is-how-she-is-saying.
The girl said,

"Xàt'á ánitíí?" yisní-là.
"How-is-it you-are-doing?" to-him-she-says-it-was.
"What are you doing?" she asked him.

Díní ĭsgiyá ĭi ĭwāt'iyí xání-là,
This-person young-man the and-then this-is-how-he-is-saying-it-was.
The young man then said,

"Níts'iʔást'ií nànìshā.
You-towards-I-will-become to-a-point-I-walked.
I have come to court you.

Nōghāná tāyīsts'iłigu
You-never-mind up-I-am-floating-like-that,
I was up in the sky, minding my own business.

"Sìkòlā áyīnā!"
"My-husband it-may-become!"
You said, 'I wish he could become my husband.'

"Dōō sisdíníí dōsà át'ā
"Here to-me-you-said-you-did. For-that-reason it-is
You said to me. That is the reason

nīts'i nākànìshāʔi." you-towards downwards-I-walked-I-did." I have come down to you."

Ūwāt'iyí ĭsīnā
And-then it-must-have-been
After,
"Nîts'îł."
this is how to her he says it was you your eyes close
he told her to shut her eyes.

Her friend mouth to a point carry (kissed) it was And then
The young woman kissed her friend goodbye. And then,

she closed her eyes it was.
then closed her eyes.

"Nîwà iyîdíʔás," yîsnî-là.
"Now you lift up your eyes to see," to her he says it was.
"Now open your eyes again," she was told.

She lifted her eyes to see during that time it must have been
When she did so,

she had been spiritually taken to a different world

It was earth in the sky.

Long time it became it was their child there became it was.
After a long time, she and her husband had a child.

After a while,

his own wife this is how to her he is saying it was.
her husband said to her,
"Dīyí xànigádí xóy
This out-you-will-dig wild-turnup
These wild turnips you are digging,

xāní ts'ònà tō nādiyíʔō dōó
buffalo dung among up-it-is-protruding here
there is one here that protrudes from the buffalo dung

īyísí xàyígádí ɪgʉł.
beware out-you-will-dig do-not.
Be careful that you not dig it up.

Xānídā dízá ɪsílā
This-is-how-after-a-time her-own-child him-with
Some time later,

tɫídídilsh-là. Xóy
about-she-walks-it-was. Wild-turnip
as the woman was walking with her son,

xàdàgígàd-là.
out-each-and-every-one-they-were-digging-it-was.
they were each and every one digging up wild turnips.

Dīnī ts'ídó tsītł'á dóó xāsní-là,
This-person boy little his-own-mother this-is-how-to-her-he-is-saying-it-was,
The little boy said to his mother,

"Dīyí sōghā xànigád."
"This me-for out-you-dig!"
"Dig this one up for me."

Ách'á xāní ts'ònà tō nādiyáʔó-là.
It-just-so-happened buffalo dung among up-it-was-protruding-it-was.
the one that was protruding from the buffalo dung.
Móó yích'ó áńí-là.
His-mother him-against she-was-saying-it-was
The boy's mother refused,

Ts'idó ŭ yóghá idóghâniyîtsày-là.
Boy the to-her-detriment unceasingly-he-began-crying-it-was.
but her son started to cry unceasingly.

Átlṭ'ă isînă yóghá xàyîyîgád-là.
Finally it-must-have-been him-for out-it-she-dug-it-was.
Finally, she dug it up for him.

Xàní ts'ònà ŭ xàdâʔón-là.
Buffalo dung the off-she-took-it-was.
She removed the buffalo dung.

Xóy ŭ xàyîgàd-là.
Wild-turnip the out-she-dug-it-was.
She dug out the wild turnip.

Ígüst'íyà nîsgúnisì kúyîyîʔâdzí ínîdzà
Suddenly earth-direction in-she-looked during-that-time
As soon as she did so, she could see the earth through the hole

xàt'a màs k'áts'i ts'ididiyìdił-là.
amazingly hoop on-to some-people-in-sequence-all-were-walking-
playing)-it-was.
She was amazed. People were playing the hoop game.

Dînîsk'ă ŭ k'ánągîyínīsʔàaz-là.
Her-own-land the completely-on-again-like-she-looked-it-was.
She stared at the land where she lived.

Át'iyî gûts'í isînă
Here-precisely there-from it-must-have-been
At that point,
ītsīy-là. K'ànǐtsày-là ñwāt'iyi ịsīnā
she-is-crying-it-was. Finished-she-cried-it-was and-then it-must-have-been.
she began to cry. When she finished crying

nágidîst'óóz-là. Nînágînit'óóz-là.
home-they-casually-walked-it-was. Home-again-they-casually-walked-
(arrived)-it-was.
they went home. They got home

Xânidā ịnídzà ịsīnā
This-is-how-after-a-time during-that-time it-must-have-been
A little later,

mîkòlà nînànlô-là.
her-husband home-again-he-something-carried-it-was.
his husband came home with food,

Mîkîlà xâyîsnî-là,
Her-husband this-is-how-to-her-he-says-it-was.
Her husband said to her,

"Xât'â yîtsâyî ík'â-gù?
"Amazingly you-cried tracks-like
"I can see that you have been crying.

Dù?ánîsdîsîìí ịlàà?
not-you-it-I-said was-it-not-so."
Did I not warn you not to dig up that root?

Üwāt'iyi ts'îkâ ị î xânî-là,
And-then woman the this-how-she-is-saying-it-was.
Then the woman replied,

"Dînî-làà tîyâ yôghâ ịts'îyî üwāt'iyi xóy
"This-person-it-was-so very-much of-it he-is-crying and-then wild-
turnip
This person was crying very hard.
The wild turnip that was protruding from the manure.

When I dug it up for him,

I could see my relatives again.

And then her husband invited other stars to his teepee.

He said to them, "Go hunting"

"Each-and-every-one-of-you-go-hunting!"

They killed a lot of buffalo

and brought back many hides which they gave to him.
Ts'ásáyiyist'óós-là.
Straight-way-it-he-cut-it-was.
He cut them into long strips,

K'ãts'ásáyiyist'óóz-là.
Finished-straight-way-it-he-cut-it-was.
When he finished cutting them into strips,

"Ūwāgà," îsní-là.
"And-well," he-says-it-was.
"That's fine!," he said.

Üwât'iyî îsînâ
And-then it-must-have-been
After that,

ts'ïk'á ìí dîzá ìsîlă iyîsdlá
woman the her-own-son him-with skin
The woman, along with her son,

dîkôli kîdà gîmîts'îyîstín-là.
it-is-rough-the-one-(rawhide) into them-someone-put-it-was.
were put into a rawhide sling.

Gîmîk'ágûts'îyîstľ'ûn-là.
Them-over-all-like-someone-them-tied-it-was.
They laced them up completely.

Úwât'iyî dát'iyî xóy xàyîgàdî
And-then this-precisely wild-turnip out-it-was-dug-the-one
And then, the wild turnip she dug up,

gûk'å înó ìí gûts'î gîmîts'îdistín-là.
there-on hole the there-towards them-someone-carried-it-was.
left a hole. They carried them there.
Iyisdlá t럴ú ii áxádàts'ídǐyǐsghá-là.
Skin rope the one-after-another-each-and-every-one-together-someone-it-put-it-was.
They then tied the ropes together into one long strip

Úwàt'iyi iśīnā
And-then it-must-have-been
And then,

doō înó ii
here hole the
down through the hole.

nàkà nàgǐmǐts'ídisdlùw-là.
downwards down-them-someone-it-gradually-descends-by-rope-it-was.
they began lowering the boy and his mother.

Dōō nǐsгúyīghá ii
Here there-under the
Down below,

Màs k'āts'ídǐdīyǐdīl-là.
Hoop upon-all-were-walking-it-was.
some young people were playing the hoop game.

Dǐní ts'idó iśīnā
This-person boy it-must-have-been
One of the boys,

mǐnák'ā dàgūdīts'īnǐ ọghà
his-eyes-on each-one-like-it-was-gummy it-for
whose eyes were too gummy to play the hoop game,

màs k'ā gúgò tàlāsītīn-là.
Hoop on there-beside on-his-blanket-he-is-lying-it-was.
was sleeping on his blanket near the others.
Xānīdā ínídžà iśīnā,
This-is-how-after-a-time during-that-time it-must-have-been
After a while,

"Nūwī dīt'ągùnā
"Over-there what-it-must-be
"I wonder what that is

nàkàdist'sidįį? isní-là.
downwards-it-is-falling," he-said-it-was.
falling!" he said.

Dzálósì dàts'inásįńi
Upwards each-and-every-one-some-people-are-looking
When the others looked up,

ínídžà iśīnā.
During-that-time it-must-have-been
During that time,

"Ìchìdùwà-gù," ısts'iní-là.
"It-is-nothing-like," it-someone-to-him-is-saying-it-was.
"There is nothing there," someone said.

"Átł'adīsi- Nìihits'iįts'idinájà," isní-là.
"Truthfully-I-am-saying us-towards-someone-is-coming," he-said-it-
was.
"What I say is true," said the boy. "It is getting closer and closer to us."

Màʔị digāʔó-là.
Him-like turned-on-their-backs-it-was.
Then like him, they turned over on their backs.

Náts'inįtįsh-là.
Again-and-again-someone-all-lying-down-it-was.
the others all lay down
Gūtľ’is mīnāk’ā ts’inił-lə.
Dirt his-eyes-on someone-sprinkled-plenty-it-was.
However, they made fun of him and sprinkled dirt into his eye.

"Nīnāgūsdládzà ɨsà,"
Your-eye-there-it-is-gummy perhaps-iy-is
"Maybe it is your eyes,

ìsts’iñoš-lə.
it-someone-to-him-kept-saying-it-was.
someone kept on saying to him.

"Átlässi ɨsınš-lə.
"Truthfully-I-am-saying," he-keeps-saying-it-was.
"No. I am telling the truth," he replies to them.

Xānídā máʔi
This-is-how-after-a-time him-like
After a while, like him

nàdàgìnistíní íńdzà isínà
again-each-and-every-one-they-lay-down during-that-time it-must-have-been
they all lay down again

ts’áʔín-lə nikàtsidists’idī.
Someone-saw-it-it-was downwards-someone-is-falling
they saw the object dropping downwards.

Ùwât’iyi isínà
And-then it-must-have-been
And then

"Ts’idí miyâghá tādàstsús," 
"Blanket her-under up-you-each-and-every-one-put-(cloth-like),"
“Put up a blanket under her,”
ts'iní-là.
someone-is-saying-it-was.
someone said

Ts'idí miyághá tâts'idistsùùz-là.
Blanket her-under up-someone-puts-it-was.
They hold a blanket up for her.

Xánídä ínídžà isinä
This-is-how-after-a-time during-that-time it-must-have-been
After that

ts'ídí īī kídá gàts'id-là.
blanket the into they-(2)-fell-it-was.
the two people fell into the blanket.

Dàmíts'idistsásí ínídžà isinä ách'á
Open-someone-pulled-quickly during-that-time it-must-have-been it-
so-happened
They undid the hide very quickly.

ts'idótsā īī-là.
girl the-it-was.
and discovered it was the girl.

úwà-gù xàʔi nàkà nágìnít'óodz-là.
Now-like this-is-how downwards again-they-walked-(descended)-it-
was.
And that is how the woman and her son came back to earth again.

Ts'idó ts'ítl'á īī isinä
Boy little the it-must-have-been
The little boy

ítł'áyi it'iyi násnūshá-łà.
night then-precisely upwards-he-shines-it-was.
shone at night.
Christmas Prayer

Iyaho Itoo

Diyi Asch’asyali

Yik’a Gwadanisalinaa analahaa.

Niihsgaka dzinisa k’adanisaat’a aa guwaniyaadał

Niihigunaha ii wusa guja gula.

Nohoghanit’a aa

Xát’ā yínísīn

Xát’ā níts’ī ískād