Websites for Dene texts:
Deg Xinag, Witsuwit’en, Kwadacha

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Texts: why and how?

- Basic documentation for a language
  - cf. modern text corpora
- How best to prepare and disseminate?

θ'i i la' tsa' tçu dzen' tçu el tcı le ke he dlini t'a e t'a xa'.

Again once Beaver too Muskrat too brothers of each other were. Then
tù we na he ṣet' he na ti hüß t'a ṣe ri nal la' ge be li θ'i nal la' -
lake they lived at one time the oldest fast he swam. Also he was fast.
hi t'a e t'a xă' tsa' a di ne tec' se ga nun ne tün nũ was i
Then Beaver spoke. "Your tail to me loan. I want to see,"
he ni bō nūg ga a yel ni e θa e ts'ūn ne ga na was tā ile' he ni
he said. His older brother spoke to him. "Long time to you I will not lend it,"
he said.
e kō de θa e i le' hō ts'ūn el xă' na wō tā he ni e kō tsa' bō na-
"Well, not long time during (?) each other we will lend," he said. Then Beaver
his older brother

Beaver and Muskrat were brothers living together by a lake. The
oldest could swim very fast. Beaver said to Muskrat, the older brother,
"Lend me your tail; I want to try it." "No, I will not lend it to you, for
any length of time," Muskrat replied. "Well then, we will exchange tails
for a short time," Beaver said.

Goddard, Pliny Earle. 1912. Texts and analysis of Cold Lake dialect, Chipewyan.
New York: The Trustees [of the American Museum of Natural History].
Goddard, Pliny Earle.

- 1904. 'Hupa Texts.' University of California Publications in American Archaeology and Ethnography 1:89-368.
Print texts for Dene languages, cont.


1. The Child of Water as told by Lawrence Mithlo

   At the beginning the Creator

   (1.1)[1]

   ’Îtsésî Bik’ehgo’ündání gólín’a.

   Dájjik’eh bédaagojísi.

   ’Ákoo Isdzánádlleeshé ‘ildó gólmá’a.

   At the beginning the Creator[1] existed.
   Everyone knows about him.
   And White Painted Woman[2] also existed.
Print texts for Dene languages, cont.


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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ts'eqko Adzęzaa Yii Nàwoo</th>
<th>The Old Woman in the Moon</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Francis Zoe godi nàhtsjj</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Ts'eqko** sii ts'eqko whel. Dò någedèe gonadqgod watsqgod nådè. Dò ginpibbà nàwëqàa wegha wégáat'jì-le, bànikò nùbbe wile nàda chéko.

**Tsjeqqo** was very old and lived in a small teepee apart from the main camp. She could not see the other teepees, but if the wind stopped...
Writings by native speakers

- Jones, Eliza, ed. 1979. *Chief Henry Yugh Noholnigee (The Stories that Chief Henry Told)*. Fairbanks: ANLC.
Print texts for Dene languages, distributed with media


Websites for Dene texts


- etext.lib.virginia.edu/apache/index.html

- comments from online perusers ([http://amertribes.proboards.com/thread/361/chiricahua-mescalero-apache-texts-online](http://amertribes.proboards.com/thread/361/chiricahua-mescalero-apache-texts-online))

  - “Since Apache language is tonal, without audio make almost no sense.”

  - “It would be really helpful for someone at Mescalero to put some basic spoken Apache words on the Internet. I do not believe that this harms the tribal tradition - I think that it helps tremendously.

  - I agree ... it is very difficult to get any idea of what the spoken words sound like - just from the phonetic symbols in these books.”

1. The Child of Water as told by Lawrence Mithlo

At the beginning the Creator

(1.1) [1]

İtsêší Bik’ehgo’ündán góliná’a.
Dájik’eh bédàagoji.
’Akoó Isdzánádeeshé ‘ildó góliná’a.

At the beginning the Creator[1] existed.
Everyone knows about him.
And White Painted Woman[2] also existed.

(1.1) Linguistic Notes

1. ‘İtsêší ‘at the beginning’. İtsé ‘the first, the beginning, first’ [part.], -şí ‘from’ [pp.]
My own work with texts

Deg Xinag (Alaska)

Kwadacha Tsek’ene (B.C.)

Witsuwit’en (B.C.)

6. Tdjö'xwúllík; or, The Injured Wife's Revenge.¹

Kai qōyu'rz qo’dúo’n, trūn’ni’, nihlo’kai nū’qo’dút. Vwù village small there was, they say, man and wife lived. Her kaiñ’, trūnní, qo’نع-dý’ñíta. Qawwāge’gē’úkai² q’hltdí husband, they say, was a great hunter. Their children now vāqā gūdíhlt’un no’útnnù tci’dlúkai yī’à’n qedlā’n. Tsrù’qno small two boys only were. River qwût’dō’í tō’tco’q k’ú tsrù’qū’dúxai’o’idú. Vwù kaiñ’ q’hltdí mouth [door] sea upon where it emptied. Her husband, then,

There was once a little village, they say, where there lived a man and his wife. The man was a great hunter. Two small boys were all the children they had. They lived at the mouth of a river, where it emptied upon the sea. So, then, the husband was a great hunter. In the

Yamoria

Yamoria was possibly the greatest medicine power person when the world was new. This story tells how this special man came to be.

Yamoria

Dene ḥī sì sûré bezjko natsē xahwe weda k’ē borēta Yamoria hēredi. Ṭeyi sì ṭareyōné dene nahkw’uwe bezjko nātse lāni k’ē begho gots’ede.

Yamqozhaa

Yamqozhaa ts’edi sii done wegondi ḥo t’ē. Dī nē mowheza ts’edi t’a Yamqozhaa ts’edi.

Done nechā awets’edi. Wegodi sii ēkanī nīnā. Eyi nē k’ē ̱iwe
1. The First Louse

čídá?ácé,1 ya·, ?á·do·2 gā·gi·, ?fínda tąži·, ?fínds

At the very first, Louse, also Crow and Turkey and Chipmunk and Owl, they had come together, they say.2 Then Coyote came running to them, they say. And Coyote spoke thus, they say. Turkey, he referred to him, they say.

pp. 16-17

1:1. čídá 'very'; ?ácé 'first'.

1:2. ?á· 'there'; -dó· 'from'.

1:3. hazéi 'squirrel'; -cós· 'narrow'; -i·, a relative en-
clitic.

How best to prepare and disseminate texts?

- Media must be provided
- Media must be matched to text somehow
- Text must include free translation nearby
- Text must include basis for free translation
- Text must not be overly time-consuming to prepare
Linguist-style Interlinear Glossed Text

- 3-line IGT
  - Line 1: source language
  - Line 2: word glosses
  - Line 3: free translation
- Line 1 and 2 alignment via LaTeX
- Word rather than morpheme glosses

Example:

**Line 1:** Qay xichux xidhu’onh tr’i’ne.
- village
- big
- there is
- it is said

There was a big village.

**Line 2:** Sraqay yozrye yit xididlh’e, chilqay diniyhin
- children
- young pl.
- there
- they lived
- boys
- four people

**Line 3:** Xividadr yit gelixsnalin.
- their younger sister
- with
- five people

There there lived a family of five people, four boys and their younger sister.

Another example:

**Line 1:** Qay xi-chux xi-dhu-’onh tr’i-’ne.
- village
- AR-big
- AR-CNJ-3D.is
- impersonal.SBJ-says

There was a big village.

**Line 2:** Sraqay yozr-ye yit xi-di-d-l-th’e, chilqay diniy-hin
- children
- young-PL
- there
- 3PL.SBJ-THM-CNJ-THM-PL
- stay
- boys
- diniy-in
- xivi-dadr
- yit
gelixsnalin.
- four-HUM.PL
- 3PL.PSR-younger.sister
- with
- five-HUM.PL

There there lived a family of five people, four boys and their younger sister.
Yit xiłdi diggan’ithdongh.
there then she got up
‘She got up then.’

Diggan’ithdongh ts’in’ niłq’adž xinił’anh.
she got up all over she looked around
‘She got and looked all over.’
Text preparation work flow

- Free translation (by bilingual native speaker), saved as .txt
- Easy transcription (by linguist) added, saved as .tex file
- Difficult transcription (native speaker+ linguist) filled in
- Word glosses filled in (linguist)
- LaTeX formatted (linguist)
- First proofreading (linguist)
- Second proofreading (native speaker+linguist)
- Lexical checking, text correcting, recording of new lexicon (native speaker+linguist)
- Processing of lexical recording, text correcting, adding new lexicon to lexical database (linguist)
Dissemination

- Scripts written by University of Washington graduate student Joshua Crowgey
  - LaTeX > Html conversion
  - Sound-text linking capability ("annotation")
- Further refinements by graduate students Ajda Gokcen and Sara Ng
- Annotation by graduate student Jiahui Huang
Deg Xinag text website

- http://depts.washington.edu/degxinag/
- Current content
  - Chapman texts (resspoken)
  - Belle Deacon texts (previously published, unpublished)
  - Elma Nicholas text
  - Gileg
- Future content
  - shorter texts from Hargus fieldnotes
  - mixed English, Deg Xinag recordings
Kwadacha Tsek’ene text website


**Current content**
- Mike Abou
  - Local environment, personal history
  - Nuts’oodalh legends

**Future content**
- Mike Abou personal histories
- Mike Abou + Louie Tomah conversations
- Edna McCook narrative
Witsuwit’en text website

- Current content
  - Bilingual nativity play
- Future content
  - Climate and environmental narratives, 2007-2010
  - Interviews
  - Speeches
  - Biographies
Reactions

- overwhelming positive
- but need to be able to stop audio and listen again
Comparison with other multimedia websites

- *IJAL Texts Online* series
  (http://www.americanlinguistics.org/?page_id=1578)

- Dena’ina Qenaga (http://qenaga.org/)

I welcome your feedback and suggestions.