

# DENA'INA KENAI KEY WORDS

FEDOSIA SACALOFF, BERTHA MONFOR, PETER KALIFORNSKY

EDITED AND RECORDED BY JAMES KARI



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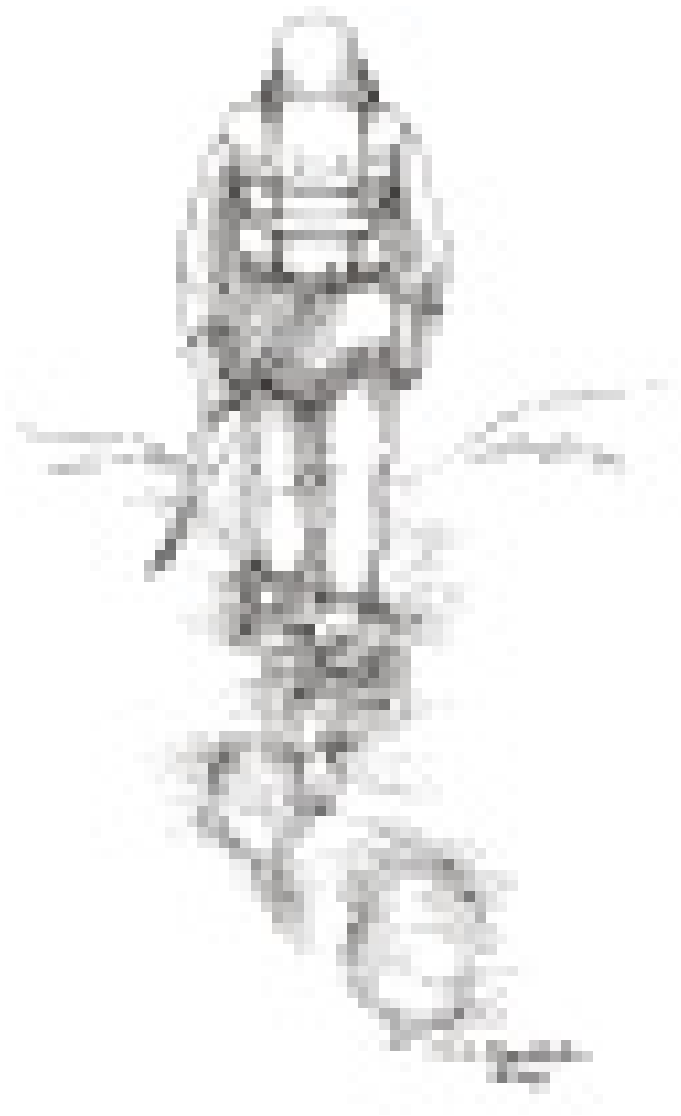
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## Acknowledgement

Dena'inaq' Titaztunt means 'where a trail begins in the manner of the people' in the Dena'ina language of Cook Inlet, Alaska. This is a publication series for learning materials and stories in Alaska Dene languages. The series features short publications, sometimes with sound files, that are printed on demand. The logo was drawn by James Grant Sr. of Tanana.







## Dedication

This work is dedicated to the memory of three expert speakers of the Kenai dialect of the Dena'ina language, Bertha Monfor, Fedosia Sacaloff, and Peter Kalifornsky. Bertha, Fedosia, and Peter were my first teachers of the Dena'ina language. I truly enjoyed our fellowship and work.

Bertha Sacaloff Mammaloff Monfor, b. in Seldovia in 1907, d. in Kenai in 1974; Peter Kalifornsky, b. in Kalifornsky Village in 1911, d. in Kenai in 1993; Fedosia Kalifornsky Sacaloff, b. in Kenai in 1922, d. in Kenai in 1989.



Fedosia Sacaloff, Bertha Monfor, and Peter Kalifornsky, elders of the Kenaitze Indian Tribe, at the Wildwood Transfer Ceremony in Kenai, April 1974. Photo Courtesy of the Monfor Family.

Recording credits:

1 to 22 recorded by Fedosia Sacaloff

23 to 37 recorded by Bertha Monfor

38 to 44 recorded by Fedosia Sacaloff

45 to 64 recorded by Peter Kalifornsky

**Companion audio recordings available [kenaitze.org/DLI](http://kenaitze.org/DLI)**

## Introduction

These sets of words were compiled and recorded in the winter of 1973-74 in Kenai when I was first working on the Dena'ina language on a fellowship from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

For this edition, download or stream the audio from Kenaitze's web page.

The sets of words are grouped to illustrate the sounds and the writing system of the Kenai dialect (or Outer Cook Inlet dialect) of Dena'ina.

In Exercise 0 the Dena'ina alphabet is presented with one example. Exercises 1 through 64 have ten or so examples of a sound or pair of sounds. You can play the slides in any order. Here are some suggestions on ways to play the slides.

Basic exercises:

Overview of alphabet: 0

Vowel sounds: 55-58

Consonants (basic inventory): 1-5, 8-9, 11-13, 15-19, 21, 23-26, 28-31, 33-34, 36-38, 40, 42

Intermediate exercises:

Comparing 2 or 3 sounds: 6-7, 10, 14, 20, 22, 27, 32, 35, 39, 41, 46-54, 59-62

Stress system: 63-64

*NOTE: When using the first printing edition, play the audio on a computer as a Powerpoint slide show. Play the file "Kenaikeywords." Click on the speaker icon to hear the sets of words. The speakers say each word in the set twice. You can practice saying or writing the words.*

## Consonants

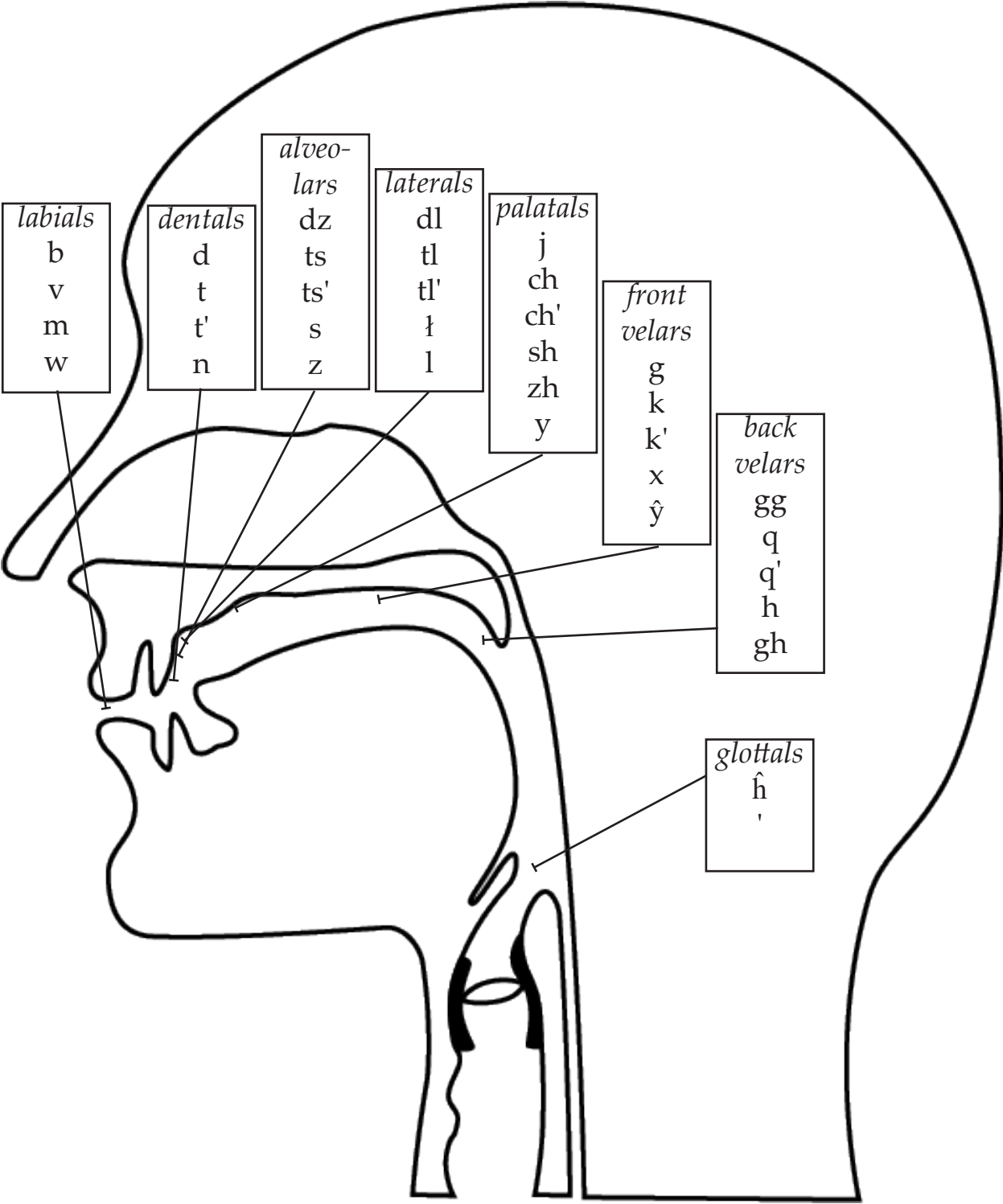
Manner of Articulation	Place of Articulation										
	Labial	Labio-Dental	Alveolar/Dental	Lateral	Post Alveolar	Front Velar	Back Velar/Uvular				
Stops	(b) [b]	Z	(d) [d] (t) [t <sup>h</sup> ] (t') [t']			(g) [g] (k) [k <sup>h</sup> ] (k') [k']	(gg) [q] (q) [q <sup>h</sup> ] (q') [q']	(')	[ʔ]		
Affricates			(dz) [tʒ] (ts) [ts <sup>h</sup> ] (ts') [ts']	(dl) [dl] (tl) [tl] (tl') [tl']	(j) [tʃ] (ch) [tʃ <sup>h</sup> ] (ch') [tʃ']						
Fricatives			(v) [v] (z) [z] (s) [s]	(l) [l] (ʃ) [ʃ]	(zh) [ʒ] (sh) [ʃ]			* (Ÿ) [y] (x) [x]	(gh) [ʁ] (h) [χ]	(h)	[h]
Nasals	(m) [m]		(n) [n]								
Glides/ *Approximate											
Voiced	(w) [w]									* (Ÿ) [w]	
Voiceless	(hw) [ɰ]										

## Vowels

Full	i	a	u
Reduced		e	

**NOTE:** Although there are only four vowels in De-na'ina, these four vowels can make varying sounds depending upon their neighboring consonants.

Dena'ina Alphabet

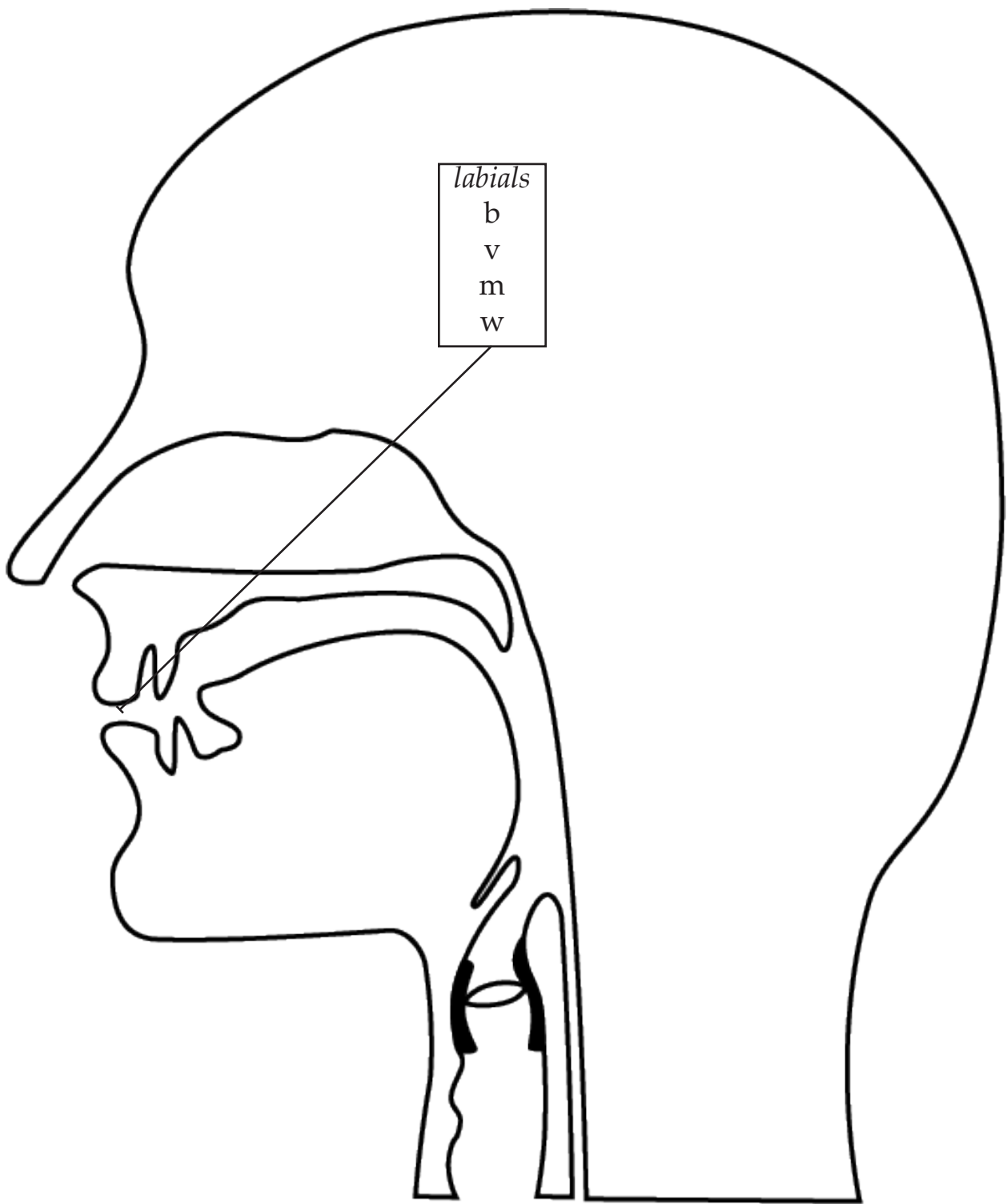


## Dena'ina Alphabet

The Dena'ina Alphabet, in alphabetical order, presented with one example by FS, PK, or BM

'	sh'izhi	my name	(BM)	Glottal stop (apostrophe)
a	tał	mat	(PK)	
b	baba	dry fish	(FS)	
ch	chada	grandfather		
ch'	ch'da	blanket		
d	daz'i	fire		
dl	jaldlih	s/he is laughing		
dz	hudzegh	it has been raked		
e	eñen	land, ground		
g	gega	berry		
gg	ggagga	brown bear		
gh / h	ghilyuts	it snowed		
	hagi	basket		
ĥ	ĥadada	wait! (not recorded)		
i	tl'it	rope, line		
j	jaljadi	wild geranium		
k	kił	young man, boy		
k'	łik'a	dog		
l / ł	chi'el'ul	I am playing		
	łi	glacier		
m	miłni	water		
n	neł	wedge		
q	qanchi	porcupine		
q'	q'ua	goodbye		
t	tinitun	trail		
t'	t'ash	charcoal		
tl	hetł	sled		
tl'	chitł'	snow (on ground)		
ts	betsen	his flesh		
ts'	ts'ełq'i	one		
u	nuł	sleep		
w	ch'wala	spruce		
x	ts'ix	mosquito		
y	yil	day's journey		
ŷ	suŷ	sand		
z / s	sez	belt		
	izin	gun		
zh / sh	shani	summer		
	ezhi	it is cold		

## The Labial Sounds (1 to 3)



## The Labial Sounds (1 to 3)

### 1. b (or w)

ben	lake
niban	s/he arrived swimming
bashdla	ulu knife
tubugh	beach
jabila, jawila	rainbow
nqeba	rabbit (1st version, cf. 3 below)
baba	dry fish
nubes	dragging pack, travois
ben bugh	lake shore
quzełbil	I hoisted it up

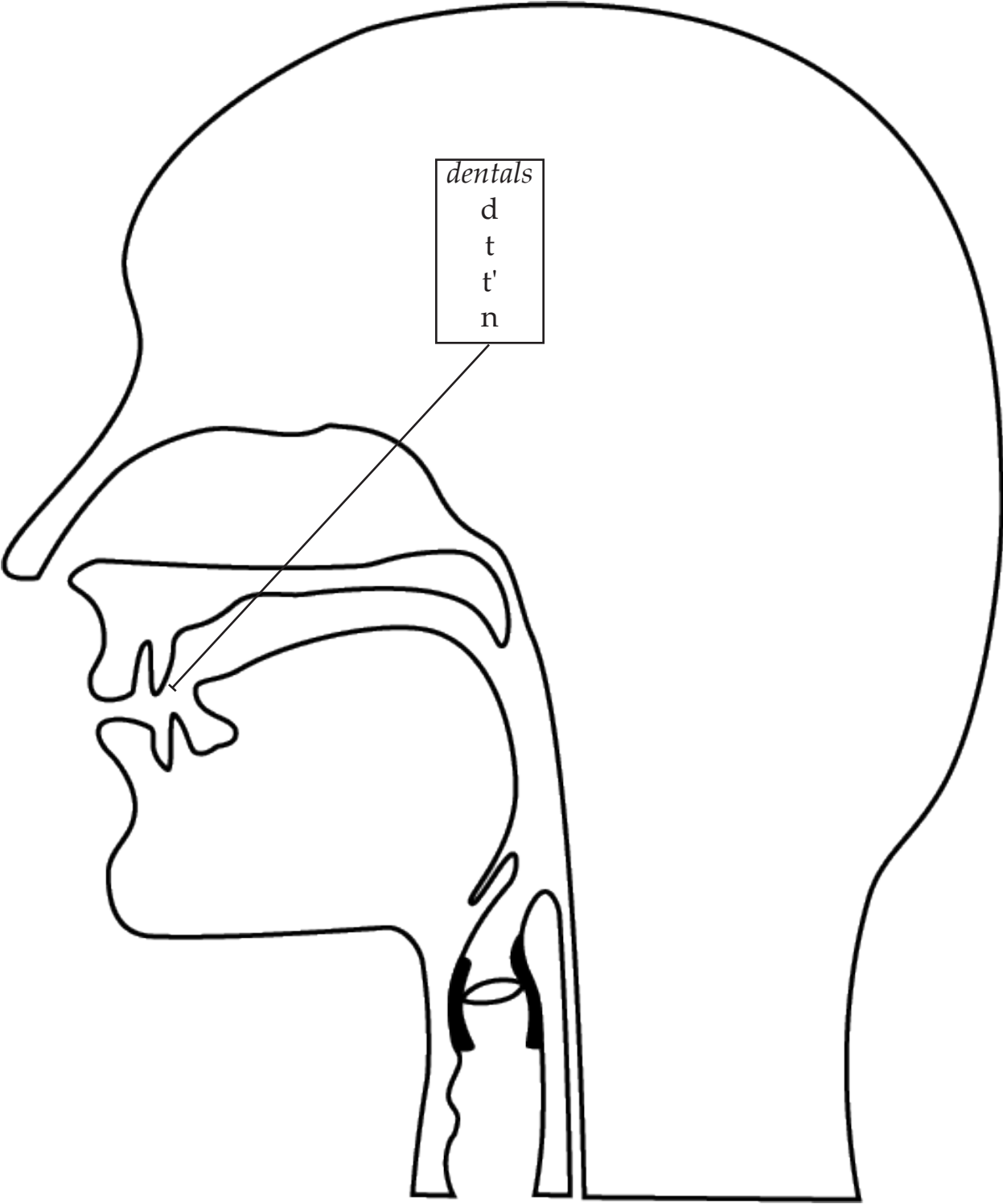
### 2. m

miłni	water
mesi	great horned owl
k'eltem	it thundered
dem	fly, blowfly
k'emama, k'emam'a	breast
dujemi	common loon
tema	slush ice
dneldemi	music
shqaluts'ema	my little finger
delggema	willow ptarmigan

### 3. w

tahwił	net
qwida	their friend
ch'wala	spruce
ki ggwa	a little more
jilihwa	kelp cod
k'washggatl'a	hard white birch fungus
nqwa	rabbit (2nd version)
k'weq'	its track
qwadeq	in between them
łik'a ggwa	puppy
k'wis	stomach, seal stomach used as float

The dental sounds (4-10)





## The dental sounds (4-10)

### 4. d

dił	dust
daz'i	fire
ch'da	blanket
dasgedi	smoke
idashla	wolverine, 'little friend'
shedegga	my collarbone
dghini	s/he said
qadudanshesh	I heard it
shunkda	my mother
yudi	golden eagle

### 5. n

nen	you
ełkun	it's raining
nk'eła	mouse
k'enut'	fish meat
nunigi	fog
kinłmesh	push the end
sin	star
shani	summer
dghini	s/he said
dghinni	you said

## (Intermediate exercise, comparing two sounds)

### 6. dn or tn

dnigi	moose
dnansht'in	I stole it
dnun	s/he is drinking it
k'etnun	he's drinking
dninl'an	you look at it
ch'dnil'an	we look at it
nudnulnił	it is flying
dnulał	s/he is carrying them (rocks)
taghetneq	s/he is tired
k'dnełghiq'	s/he is snoring

### 7. dn (or tn) vs. n

nulał	s/he is carrying them (berries)
k'enulał	s/he is carrying sth. (berries)
nunulał	s/he is carrying them (berries) around
nudnulał	s/he is carrying them (rocks) around
q'andnulnik	s/he flew around
q'annut'uk	s/he was carrying it around
naghıłdes	it (line) is heavy
dnaghıłdes	it (rock) is heavy

### 8. t

ten	ice
nuti	salt, ocean
tinitun	trail
tutnalgıt	it is the sound of rain
tiqedełt	menstrual hut, toilet
tałent	swift current
Shk'ituk't	Old Village at Kenai
shteya	my strength
Talıñ Ch'ıltant	Polly Creek village, lit. 'where we found a whale'
tali	wave, wake

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**9. t'**

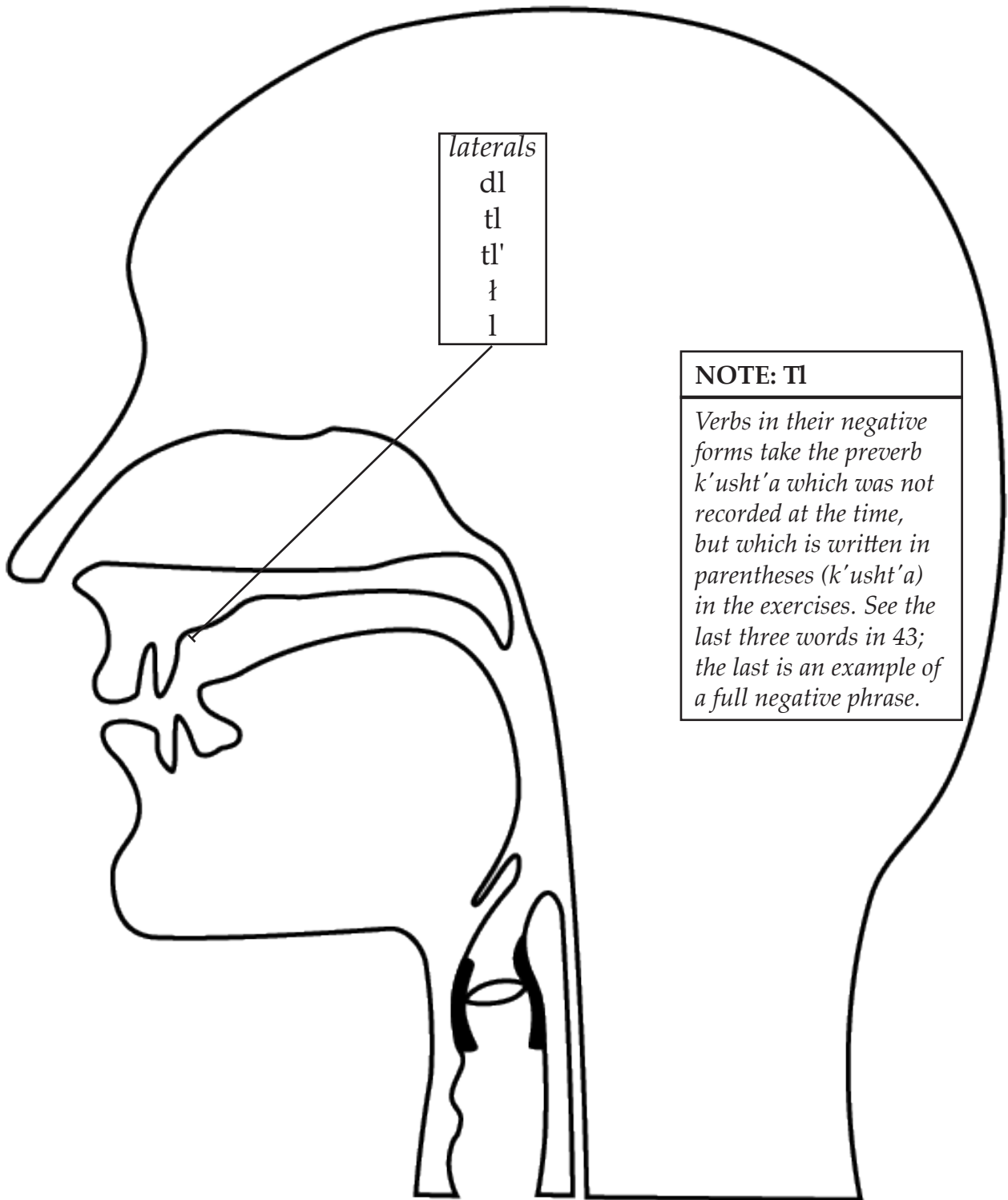
t'ash	charcoal
k't'u	feather
k'enut'	fish meat
k'ezet'	liver
t'etni	it is making noise
qit'a	it seems, maybe
tilt'it	suck it in, swallow it
q'ut'en	morning
t'enl'an	you are doing it
t'qughilkegh	it is a big place

---

**10. t vs. t'**

tinitun	trail
k't'un	leaf, plant
zitan	lay down
t'esht'an	I am doing it
det'eh	nest
hiteh	among glaciers
k'tuht'et'	s/he will suck on sth.
dghildit	it is narrow
t'ildit'	it got narrow

## The lateral sounds (11-16)



## The lateral sounds (11-16)

### 11. dl

nudlet	it is ripe
tudla	driftwood
jaldlih	s/he is laughing
dazdlu	things are there
nudlaghi	silver salmon
tahdluda	algae
bidleq'	his laughter
nusdlan	it changed again
qatnadlent	it is steep
dazdli	bed

### 12. tl

tleq'	wet rain, wet snow
tlaghenduda	tomcod
hetl	sled
tiltlut	you jump
utlen	his brother-in-law
k'dettleq'	s/he is slurping it (liquid)
ełtlih	I am smearing it (with grease)
(k'usht'a) ghistle	it is not there, it does not exist
luqdeltleđi	hand towel
tultleł	he'll jump

### 13. tl'

tl'adu	yesterday
atl', (ał)	deadfall trap
tl'eghesh	bloodsucker, leech
tl'it	rope, line
tl'aq'	night
tsitl', chitl'	snow (on ground)
nusdatl'na	ghosts ('people who have returned')
jahtl'in	pitch
tl'is	blunt-headed arrow
k'tl'ech'	gall, black fish blood

---

**14. tl vs. tl'**

(k'usht'a) nu'itghatl'	it is not dark
ush ghetl	fine snowshoe webbing
tlegh	oil, grease
tl'egh	sedge, wide grass
itleh	you smear it
utl'eh	his/her waist
tuttleł	s/he'll jump
tuttl'eł	s/he'll throw them (sand, rice)
tl'aq'	night
tleq'	wet rain, wet snow

---

**15. l**

lega	tree squirrel
ts'ilbi	porpoise
neli	steambath
tel	socks, foot wrappings
dagheldel	it is red
lach'u	true, truth
naqeli	falltime, autumn
qil	it's bad, no good
ch'enlahi	hand game, gambling game
elnu	lazy person

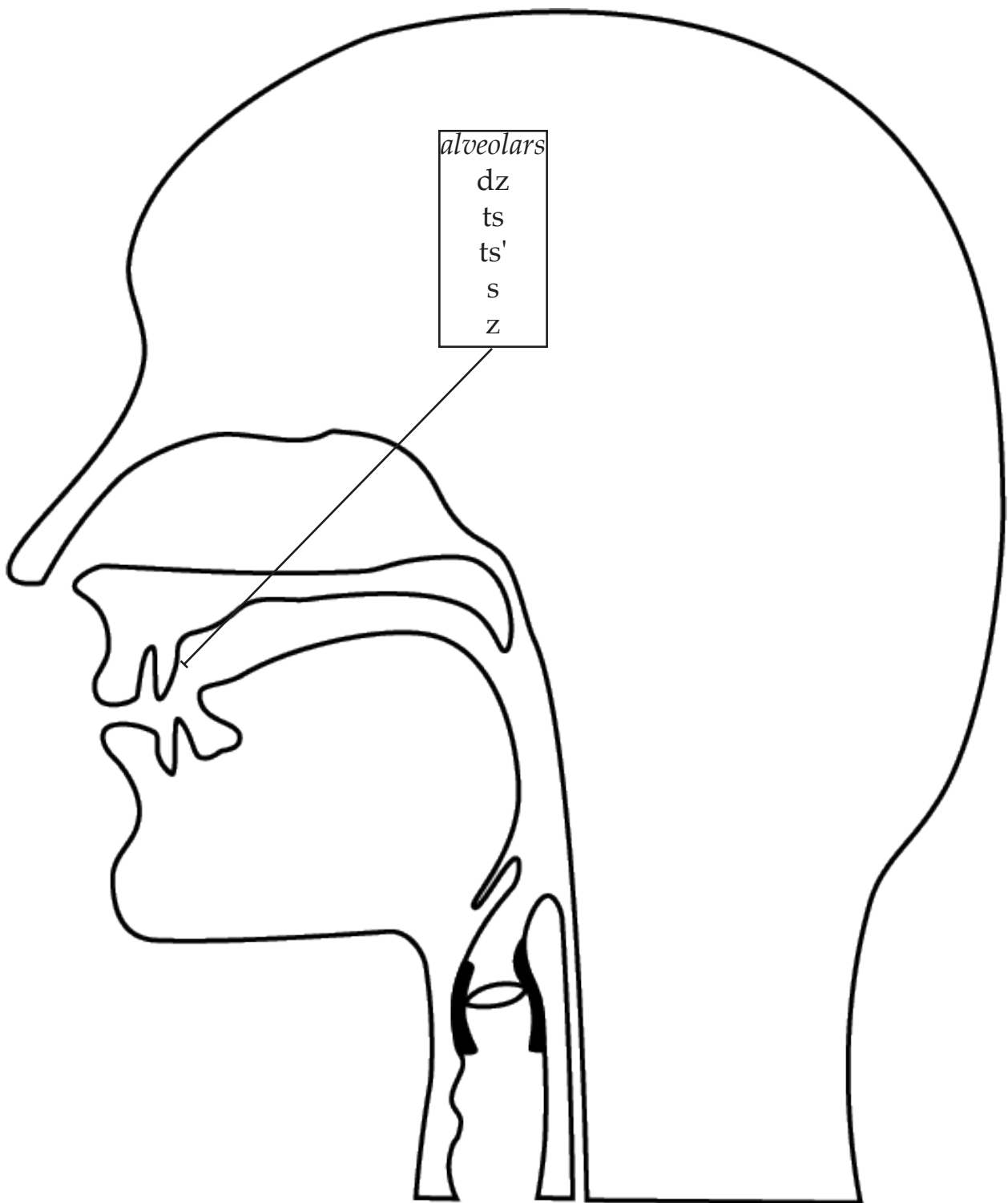
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**16. ł**

li	glacier
eł	spruce bough
dali	bald eagle
hał	pack
kił	young man, boy
łtaqul'i	eight
ełkiz	I have it (a fabric)
łkiz	it (fabric) is there
quleł	swampy ground
łch'iwa	whirlwind



## The alveolar sounds (17-23)





## The alveolar sounds (17-23)

### 17. dz

nu'idził	it is getting warm
udzasq'a	his lungs
hudzegh	it has been scraped, raked
nuqidzil	it got warm
k'kidza	fur, feathers
ts'anu'idzet	s/he woke back up
qtudzel	s/he will chop, mow an area
yits'adadzet	s/he got scared
beł qededzili	scythe
k'qnutudzeł	she will become barren

### 18. ts

betsen	his flesh
dghiltsuz	it is big in girth
tsiken	knot in wood
nghesdets	I twisted it
gantsa	high bush blueberry
tinel'ets	s/he went out
yeghitsatl'	s/he was chopping it
ntutseł	s/he will sit down

### 19. ts'

ts'ix	mosquito
ts'ełq'i	one
nłts'ah	you lick it
tults'et	it (boat) moved, sailed
ch'dalts'i	we are staying
ts'iz'u	it (direction) is straight
tets'	cane
ts'igek'a	blueberries
luts'egh	ring
dghelbits'	it is round

---

**20. ts vs. ts'**

stsits'ena	my skull
dnaghelts'en	it (rock) is hard
dnagheltsen	s/he is fat, I am fat
ts'itsatna	ancestors
uts'ila	his forearm
utsilu	his tongue
tsidiq'	summit, top
ts'ideq	straight up
ghı̄yuts	it snowed
quzeltuts'	I rolled it up

---

**21. s**

sin	star
k'eyes	skin
sus	pass
dasgedi	smoke
skint'uh	area under a tree
seł	footwear
seq'	burp
k'ewis	belly
qenunes	the best, the most
ses	ridge
sadi	let it be

---

**22. ts vs. s**

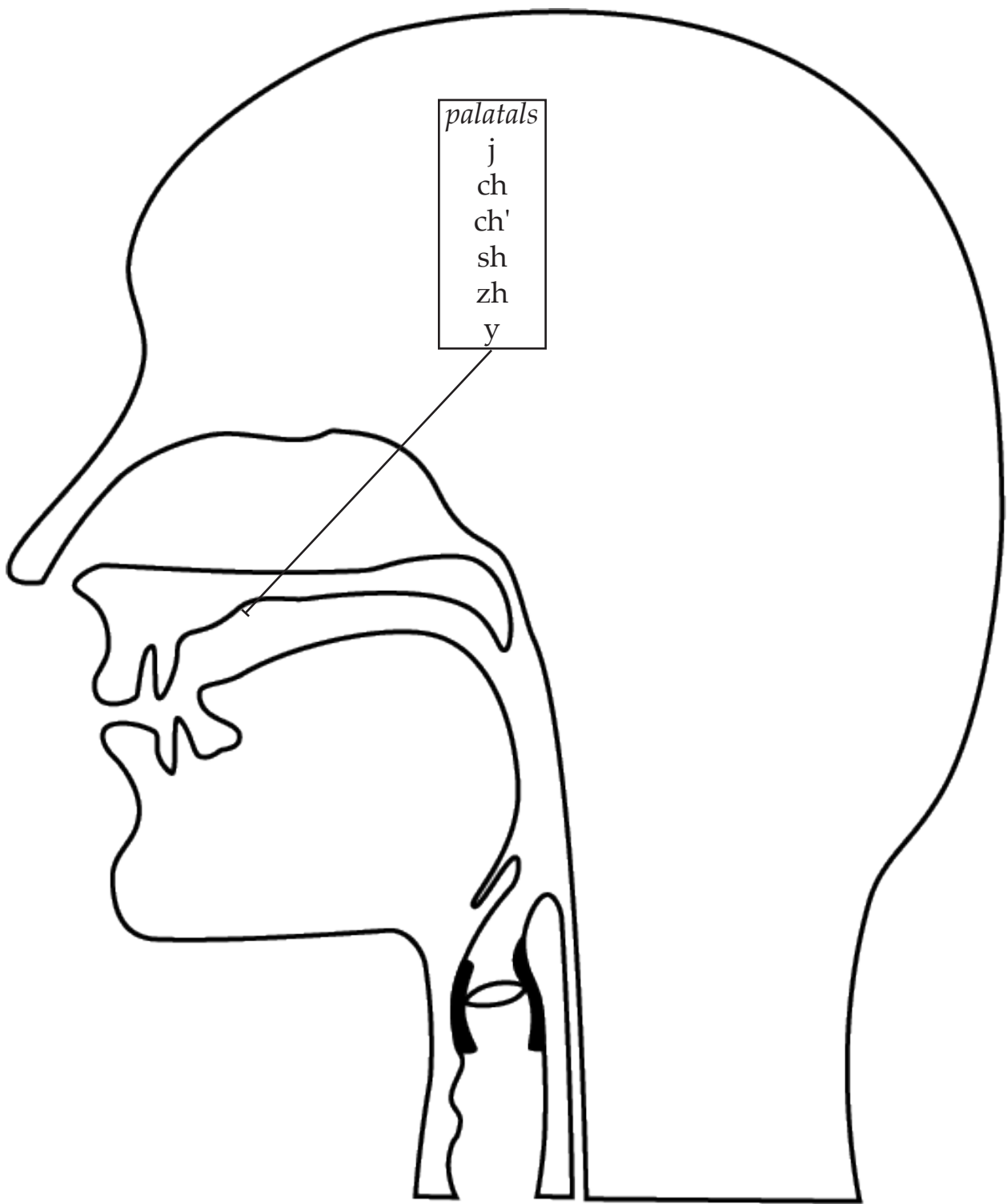
dindel'as	s/he is putting on shoes
dindul'ats	s/he put on shoes
k'entsis'a	pit, seed
stsa'a	my daughter
sasiq'	my shoulders
hq'estsiq'	lake outlet
hultsan	s/he is fasting
san	s/he is standing
ełyus	it is snowing
ghı̄yuts	it snowed

---

**23. z**

taza	sea lion
daz'i	fire
sez	belt
k'ezahden	leader
nu'ełził	I am warming it up
hzila	moss fire
dghelzel	s/he tends to sweat
nudilzit	it (the days) got longer
zagh	s/he is scraping it
izin	gun

## The palatal sounds (24-30)



## The palatal sounds (24-30)

### 24. j

jani	day
k'jech'a	kidney
k'eshdlaji	boiled food
shjegha	my ear
zeļeļ	I got bruised, ruptured
njah	you smear it (with pitch)
elgheji	skin boat
dgheljema	red-neck clam
k'iljesh	you dance
jaljadi	wild geranium

### 25. ch

chada	grandfather
bach	seagull
chayu	tea
chuļ	chinook wind
eļach	I am cooking it
deshchin	I am hungry
chuchuna	copper
tuļchuda	muskrat
shchuti'a	my stomach
chik'ish	hat

### 26. ch'

ch'da	blanket
lich'a	bitch, female dog
naghelch'i	beads
ch'u	and
gech'	mittens, gloves
ch'qizhnesh	s/he is crazy
ch'aduch'	how, what
neļch'en	on both sides
heļch'	evening
dghinļt'ich'	you peeled it

---

**27. ch vs. ch'**

chik'a	wood
k'ench'ik'a	intestine
chitl'	snow (on ground)
inlch'itl'	you got bent out of shape, got ornery
ełch'ish	dark, hard birch fungus
shchish	my knee
bach	sea gull
dach'	thus, in this way
k'ełch'ezhi	maggots
k'delchezh'a	moose gut ("book")

---

**28. sh**

shani	summer
shlik'a	my dog
hesh	rose
ishitl'	it fermented
k'eljesh	s/he is dancing
ush	snowshoe
q'ilesh	willow
tuch'enash	we move to the water
shehi	gaff hook
yuqush	northern lights

---

**29. zh**

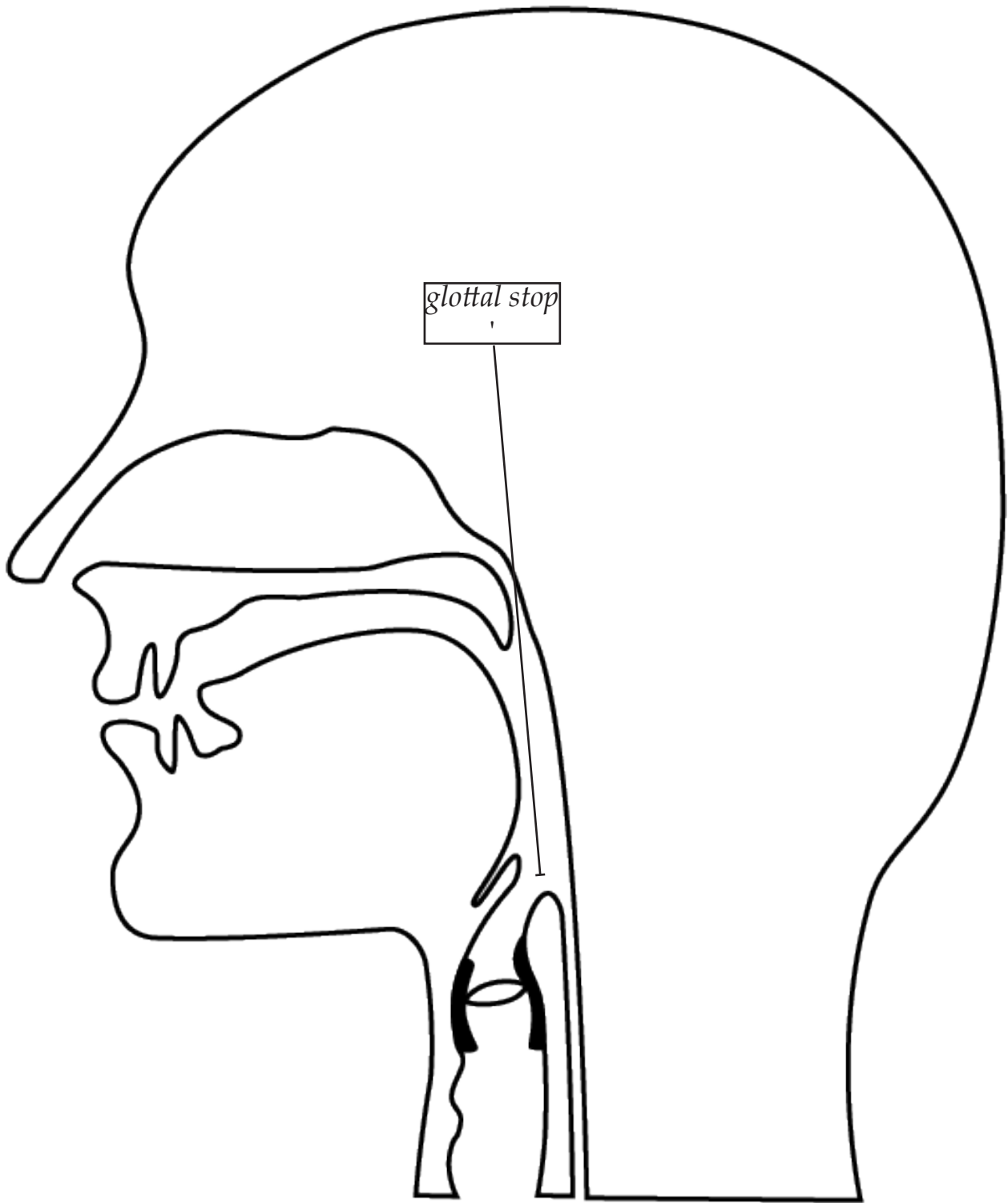
zhez	s/he is sipping it
be'izhi	his/her name
k'izhak'i	knife
k'ghazha	egg
(k'usht'a) k'eljezh	s/he is not dancing
qeluzhun	ten
gizha	camprobber
bak'ilzhaÿi	crooked knife
dghezha	needlefish
lggezh	it is forked

---

**30. y**

yił	day's journey
yenałjeh	s/he punched him
hey	winter
ezt'ayi	roasted meat, fish
shyiga	my shadow, my spirit
k'iygha	bone marrow
k'enuy'a	beaver
daghil'tiy	s/he is strong
nuydełq'un	I built a fire
yudi	golden eagle

Glottal stop (apostrophe) (31-32)





## Glottal stop (apostrophe) (31-32)

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### 31. '

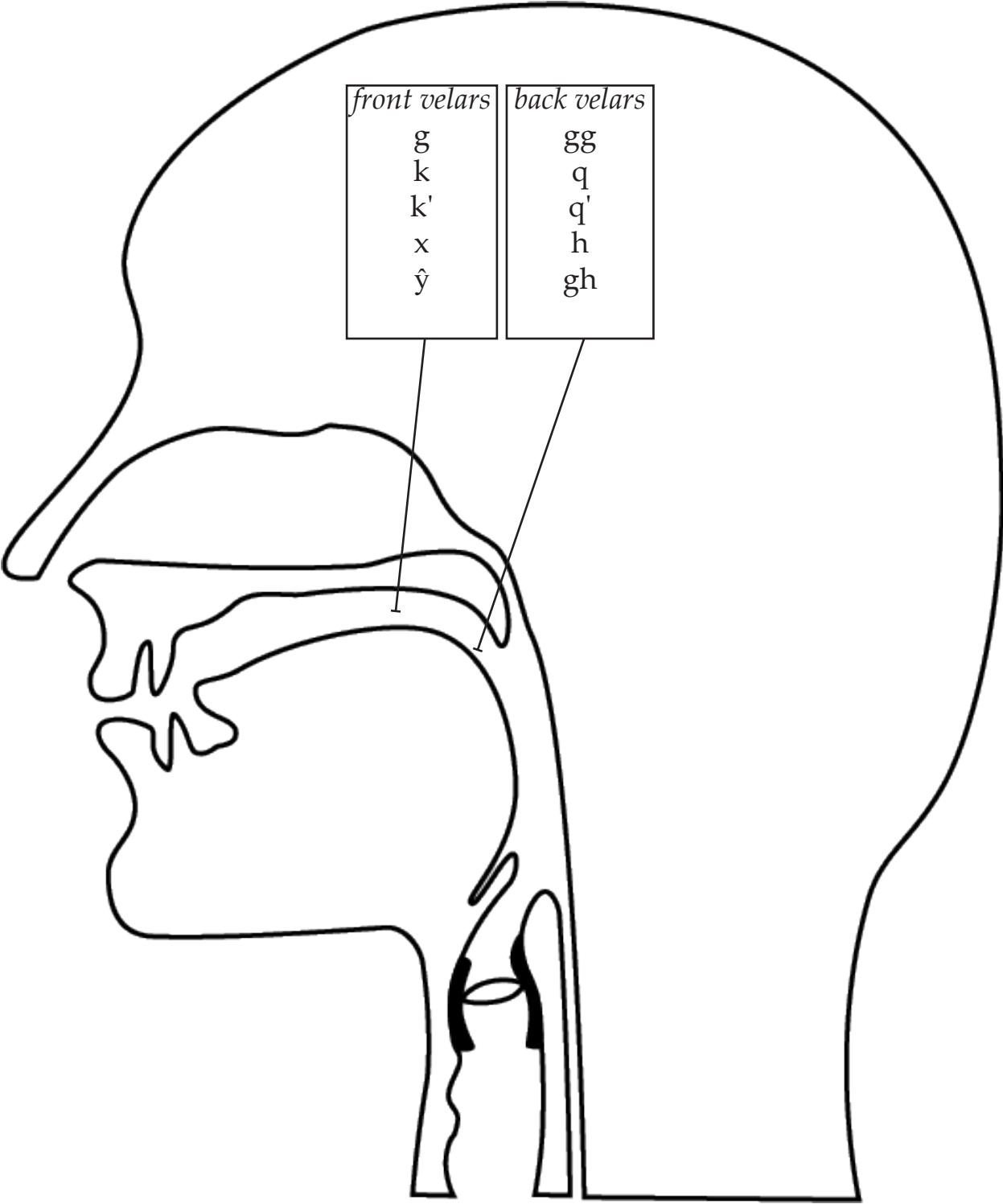
ni'i	sun
sh'izhi	my name
taz'in	fishtrap
chi'el'ul	I am playing
(k'usht'a) is'e	it is not there
bekuqeyegh'a	his guts
n'eł'a	your spruce boughs
k'un	animal den
sdin'a	house log
shi'a	my son

---

### 32. ' vs Ø (glottal stop vs. no glottal stop)

tałin	whale
ch'nał'in	crab
k'eł'ech'	s/he sneezes
ełech	s/he urinates
ghini	that one
ghin'i	maggots, fly eggs
nughun'i	fresh meat or fish
k'eghuni	war

Front and back velars (33-52)



## Front and back velars (33-52)

### 33. g

gega	berry
gundi	this person
gini	this thing
nunigi	fog
ezga	it's dangerous
lega	tree squirrel
eshtgech'	I'm ticklish
el'egen	shaman, medicine man
shagela	trout
dugul	axe

### 34. gg

ggagga	brown bear
ggugguyni	raven
ggis	wild celery
gganałggi	mussels
ghenalggen	it is dry
chaggesh	fire tongs
itgguy	it turned white
k'gget'	joint
shggeja	my scar
gganilchit	you (sg.) stand up!
gganelchit	you (pl.) stand up!

### 35. g vs. gg

talgguk	s/he ran
nik'dulguk	it is embedded, stuck in
dasgedi	smoke
ges diggedi	small snowshoe drill
aliggi	plate, dish
hagi	grass basket
dghilggech'	it is short
gech'	mittens, gloves
lagu	let it be
k'gguts'a	fish scales

---

**36. gh**

ghelja	moon
ghin	that one
ighaz	s/he got itchy, horny
yeh t'ugh	ceiling
(k'usht'a) nu'iłghatl'	it is not dark
k'eghech	boat ribs
yaghidghach	s/he bit it
tubugh	beach
niłghu	level, even
miłni yagh'a	water container

---

**37. h**

hagi	basket
heł	club
hun	mold
tayeh	under water
ts'ah	sinew thread, thread
ch'enlahi	the hand game
deshnih	I say
sht'uh	my place
hzila	heat, moss fire, warm ground
danhtun	you pl. moved it (stick)

---

**38. x**

ts'ix	mosquito
sax	wart
bejex	caribou
ux	poor thing, pity
ełchix	I make it; I smell it
k'ezhax	wood shavings
qatsitsexen	dreamer
juxna	Finlander
k'duk'ich'exa	diaphragm, partition in lungs
nch'ixa	your hair

---

**39. h vs. x**

ux	poor thing
uh	fern root
chix	ochre paint
chih	s/he cries
sah	s/he stands
sax	wart
nu'ihjeh	you pl. are running
bejex	caribou
beł qelzhixi	wood polishing stone
shhi, shehi	gaff hook

---

**40. ŷ**

suŷ	sand
qaniłch'eŷ	it's windy
(k'usht'a) yeshayŷ	s/he isn't carving it
nuzdeljuŷ	I am clumsy
tiqinestseŷ	I broke trail
(k'usht'a) nutnelyayŷ	s/he is not growing it
k'itseŷi	fire poker
k'iljaŷ	it (moon) is shining
natsinestseŷ	I dreamt of you
chik'a zuŷa	wood ashes

---

**41. gh vs. ŷ**

luts'egh	ring, finger ring
(k'usht'a) yests'eŷ	I'm not pinching him
qadich'eŷ	it's windy
dghich'agh	s/he had his mouth open
miłni yagh'a	water container
(k'usht'a) nuk'tnelyayŷ	it is not growing
nuzdeljuŷ	I am clumsy
tubugh	beach
(k'usht'a) ilzhaŷ	it is not carved
(k'usht'a) eztizhagh	you are not spitting

---

**42. k**

kił	young man, boy
kazhna	lynx
shkut'	my stomach
tukash	melted snow water
sukdu	old story, legend
nkets'	your thumb
tik'teh	into the woods
tughaznik	s/he arrived by vehicle
ki	more
q'angheltak	I carried him around

---

**43. k'**

k'eh	porcupine quill
k'den'a	baby seal
k'ezek'	birch sap
k'ech'	dirt, filth
chik'ish	hat
niłk'uch'	variously, in different ways
ch'k'tulqat	we will eat
k'eshtuk'	I am sliding
(k'usht'a) tesnak'	s/he is not moving camp
k'usht'a	no, not, negative marker
k'usht'a h'ilnigh	s/he was not afraid (full negative verb)

---

**44. q**

qil	bad
qanchi	porcupine
chaqilin	fermented fish
duyeq	chief
uqan	its lodge, beaver's lodge
tl'iniqin	needle
ntaldaq	s/he is sleeping
yeqech'	thus, in this way
niłqunda	tomorrow
nqeba	rabbit

---

**45. q'**

q'ua	goodbye
q'in	roe, fish eggs
shq'uła	marmot
bejiyiq'	his hearing
Naq'eltani	God
tl'uduq'	elevated bank
tuq'ets'	spring water
k'q'uya	red salmon
tl'aq'iq'	all night
q'antutbash	s/he will swim around





## Comparisons (46-54)

### 46. k vs. q

ken	flat, meadow
shqen	my husband
qichika'a	big old lady
qichiqa	old ladies
ełqish	I spear it (customarily)
ełkish	it rains (customarily)
Sqilant	Kenai Lake village site
skint'uh	area under a tree
tuzqun	still water
tułkun	it will rain

### 47. k' vs. q'

q'u	enough, that's all
k'u	too, also
(k'usht'a) nutnisdghik'	s/he did not get sick on grease
dnełghiq', k'tnełghiq'	s/he is snoring
łik'a	dog
łuq'a	salmon
ełneq'	floor
(k'usht'a) nuqelnek'	s/he did not tell (a story)
k'eyich'a	bull moose
k'dnelq'ich'	it is squeaking

### 48. k vs. k'

k'usht'a	no, not, negative marker
kisht'a	more, again
ghesik	I am numb
(k'usht'a) ezghesik'	I'm not numb
yitułkeł	s/he'll take it
dnilk'eł	it rips, tears
chik'ish	hat
nkish	rose hip
k'ıłkedi	steel trap
(k'usht'a) ełkik'	it doesn't rain

---

**49. q vs. q'**

qinazdli	wild rice, Kamchatka lily
q'in	roe, fish eggs
quzu	s/he went upward
q'uch'a	enough, that's all
delggiq	it (bear) is roaring
k'denghiłghiq'	s/he snored
qes	cold, cough
q'es	cloud
q'uł	whetstone
tughequł	s/he is carrying it (water in container)

---

**50. Final velars: nV+k, k', q, q'**

nuqelnek	s/he tells, narrates
shnik'	my nostril
biniq'	his back
binik	steambath switch
naneq	stone lamp
k'dnalneq'	s/he choked on it
(k'usht'a) qezelnek'	I don't remember
chigheshtnaq	I was sick
hgheshnak	I talked
(k'usht'a) ezteshnak'	I'm not moving, leaving

---

**51. mixed velars: gg, g, q, k, q', k'**

ggek	hard wood
ggukdel	sandhill crane
biniq'ak'	his anger, temper
bekaq'a	his ribs
k'enqena, [k'enq'ena]	dentalia shells
nqeqa	it (area) is shaking, trembling
chiqinik	thanks, thank you
yehqagh	to there, that far
dukaq'	door
nudnetk'ugh	I warmed it up (liquid)

---

**52. more mixed velars**

qałnigi	stone
hq'aghdeq	in between
gu q'u	right here
gu k'u	here too
quggił	snare
ggih	worm, insect
k'ggukena	blubber
ts'igek'a	blueberries
(k'usht'a) eztelgguk'	I'm not running
dnaghelggugh	s/he's spoiled

---

**53. CCC (consonant clusters)**

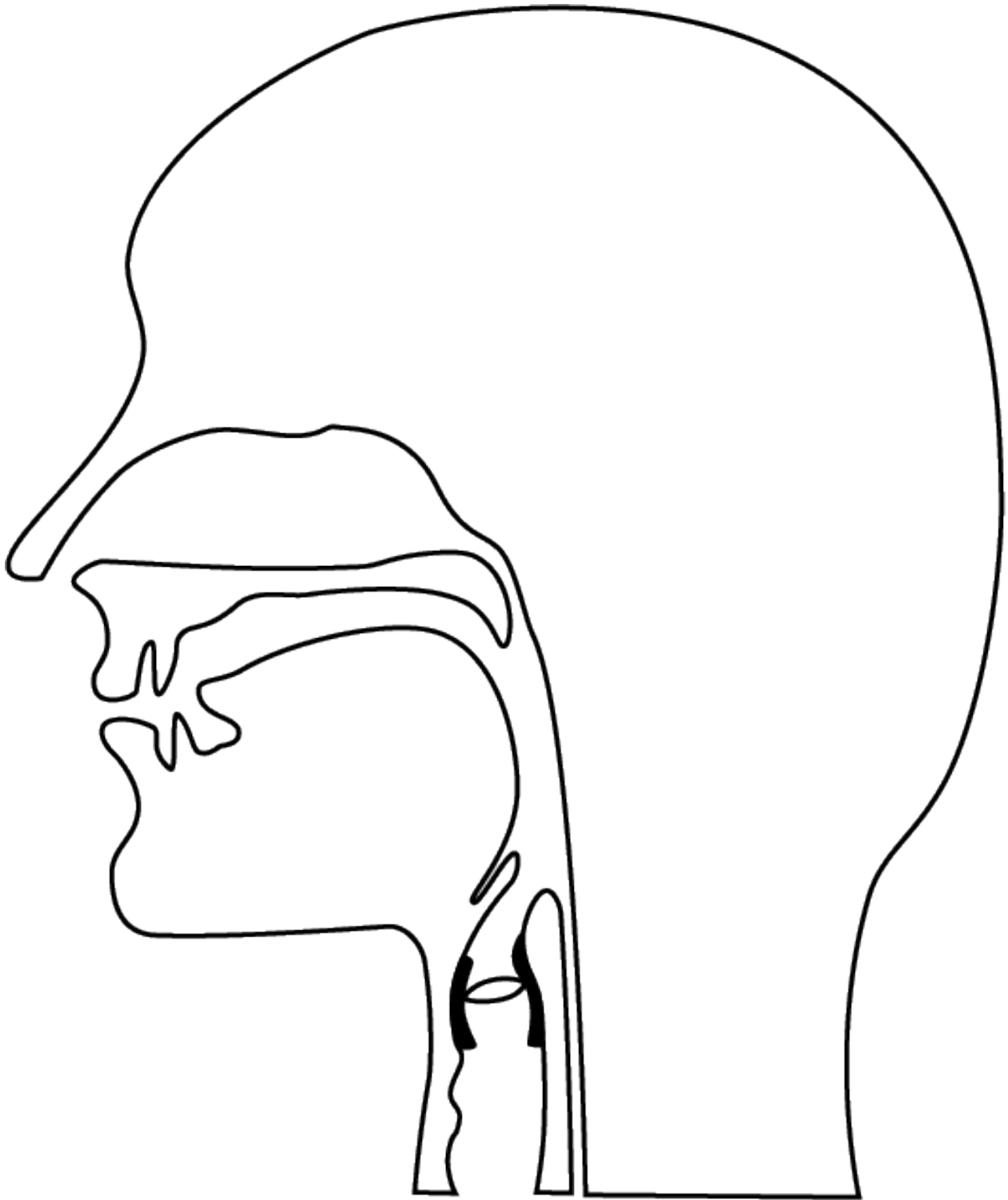
nk'ggi	porcupine (Seldovia term)
ch'k'tntułghiq'	s/he'll snore
nqdeq'en	it is burning
binzel'a	his pulmonary artery
ch'hghinak	we talked
duhqdeldih, duhhdeldih	they are learning
ch'k'ghilu, t'ch'k'ghilu	we had snares set
k'ehtnun	you pl. are drinking
denıkegh	they are big
niłnustkez	it is tied together

---

**54. CC vs. Ce (cluster vs. Ce)**

dghınez	it is long, s/he is tall
degghınez	it was long, tall
tinldush	you go out
tinel'ets	s/he went out
elden	I know it
lden	s/he knows it
gheshtnu	I am working
ghgheshtnu, ghegheshtnu	I worked
tagheshtneq	I am tired
taghgheshtneq	I was tired

The Vowels: i, a, u, e (55-62)



## The Vowels: i, a, u, e (55-62)

### 55. i

miłni	water
tl'it	rope, line
ghini	that thing
dnigi	moose
chix	ochre, red paint
chih	s/he cust. cries
ighi	so, well
dagh'i	spoon
k'ebis	stomach
q'in	roe, fish eggs

### 56. u

guni	horse
hun	mold
ni'u	month
q'ua	goodbye
itgguy	it got white
duni	beard, whiskers, baleen
tubugh	beach, shore
ggugguyni	raven
nuł	sleep
ugha	let's go, hurry

### 57. a

tał	mat
ggagga	brown bear
dagheldzel	it (board) is thick
bashla	ulu knife
k'da	horn
adada	daddy, uncle
t'ash	charcoal
itaghełtał	I'll find him
gantsa	huckleberry
lagu	maybe

---

**58. e**

heɫ	club
el'egen	shaman
daghheldel	it is red
(k'usht'a) zelche	I am not making it
eshchegh	I am crying
degheɫkegh	I was big
neɫ	wedge
eɫnen	land, ground
tage	poor thing
idgheɫq'en	I kept it burning







## Vowel Comparison (59-62)

### 59. e vs. a

ezge	brave, tough
ezga	it is dangerous
kazhna	lynx
t'desne	he is not saying
degheḥkegh	I was big
daghilkegh	it (stick) is big
nugheshjagh	I got healed
shjegha	my ear
qayeh	village
k'qeya	axe chips

### 60. whispered e (voiceless e)

qeḥqetl'	I am, s/he is chopping in an area
delqes	s/he is coughing
janteh	daytime
shkets'	my thumb
beḥ k'teḥqet'a	woodpecker
qetnitulqesh	s/he will bounce it
nunk'detgheshdecheḥ	I'll put a hat on
shqatetl'	my heel
tiquḥsex	s/he breaks trail
yizteḥ	s/he kicked it once

### 61. C'i vs. gh'iy [ ]

dagh'iy	spoon
tan'i	fish weir
nughun'i	fresh meat or fish
shengh'iy	my head
buḥ'i	his excitement
tagh'iy	paddle
ghin'i	maggots, fly eggs
qigh'iy	sandbar
qil'i	evil
daz'i	fire

## Vowel Comparison (59-62)

### 62. i vs. ey vs. iy

biluhi	case, sheath
hey	winter
gheyuʃ	s/he is walking
nghiyu	s/he kept walking
(k'usht'a) iyul	s/he did not walk
eyu	louse
nuti	salt, ocean, salt water
daghiltey	s/he is strong
dghelggey	it is white
aliggi	plate, dish

## Stress (63-64)

### 63. stress patterns: V(owels) elevated pitch on stem or on full prefix vowel

yetúłtał	s/he'll bring him
yítúłtał	s/he'll find him
chích'úl'ul	we played
chích'úl'úl ni	let's play
ezhí	it's cold
ízhi	name
gheshchégh	I cried
ghíchegh	s/he cried
bénqel'á	his stuff, belongings
nábenqel'á	our stuff

### 64. CghV vs. CV, with stress markings

teshnásh	I move
tgheshnáł	I will move
telggúsh	s/he starts to run
tghelggésh	I will run
tghítetl'	you will kick it rep.
ítíghíteł	you will kick it once
dghelǵés	it is heavy
degheǵés	it was heavy
tghelǵíł	I will make it
dígheshchin	I was hungry



Kenai Dena'ina Key Words  
By Fedosia Sacaloff, Bertha Monfor & Peter Kalifornsky  
Edited by James Kari





Work on the Dena'ina Kenai Keywords started in 1973 and is a revised edition of the initial 2004 publication. This resource highlights the Outer Inlet Dena'ina dialect. These keywords showcase Fedosia Sacaloff, Bertha Monfor, and Peter Kalifornsky's individual varieties of the Outer Inlet Dena'ina language. Practicing these keywords helps the Dena'ina language learner become more familiar with the Dena'ina writing system. Learning the Kenai Keywords is an important part of learning the Outer Inlet dialect.



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