TUBUGHNA ELNENA

THE TYONEK PEOPLE'S COUNTRY
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by

Max and Nellie Chickalusion

Alaska Native Language Center
University of Alaska

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Written by Max and Nellie Chickalusion
Edited by Jim Yari

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Ndaha tiyush dit?
Ent'î Tubughnen tgheshuk, suk'î qayeh qighilat.
Una, Tubughnen ch'tudañi.
Yada q'u ch'tuñî?
Ent'î, tanbi ch'tuñî shît'i.
Yagheli shît'i ch'tudañi.
Hendeda liq'a k'a chich'tuñî.
Ndaha tiyush dit?
Benka'a tgheshuṭ shiti', nenhī?
Aa' shi k'a Benka'a tgheshuṭ.
Yada q'u ihu tghil'iṭ?
Shagela ihu tghel'iṭ shiti'.
K'inaq'i ten natnaytun da?
Aa' k'inaq'i ten shatnaytun.
Yagheli ch'tudañi.
Ndaha tiyush dit?
Tuk'eleh Bena tgheshuk shit'i, nenhti?
Aa' shi k'a Tuk'eleh Bena tgheshuk.
Yada q'u ihu tghil'it?
Telaghi ihu tghel'i re shit'i.
K'inaq'i ten natnaytun da?
Aa' k'inaq'i ten shatnaytun.
Yagheli shit'i ch'tudãmi.
Ndaha tiyush dit?
Chuqan Baydli Bena tgheshuʃ shit'i, nenht i?
Aa'. Yada q'u ihu ch'tul'iʃ?
K'enuy'a ihu ch'tul'iʃ shit'i.
Iyni negh k'ilan da?
Aa' iyni shegh k'ilan.
Yagheli shit'i ch'tudañi.
Ndaha tiyush dit?
Ch'ubetnu tgheshu't shiti, nenht i?
Aa' shi k'a Ch'ubetnu tgheshu't.
Yada q'u ihu tghir'il?
qi'aka'a ihu tghel'iz shiti.
Tahbi' negh k'ilan da?
Aa' tahbi' shegh k'ilan.
Yagheli, ch'tudami.
Ndaha q’u tiyush?
Nt’i K’idazq’eni tgheshuľ shit’i. Nenht i?
Aq’, K’idazq’eni nek tgheshuľ.
Yada ihu ch’tul’iż?  
Qunsha ihu ch’tul’iż.
Quggiż negh naydlu da?
Aq’ quggiż shegh naydlu.
Ugha, K’idazq’eni ch’tudažni.
Ndaha tiyush dit?
Ent'i Ch'elehtnu teshnash shit'i.
Una ch'itunani.
Yogheli, Ch'elehtnu ch'tunani. Yoda q'u ch'tu'k?
Liq'aka'a ihu ch'tul'i. 
Yogheli shit'i.
Ndaha tiyush dít?
Ent'i Nadudilitnu teshlash shit'i, nenhti?
Aad' shi k'a Nadudilitnu teshash shit'i.
Yada q'u ihu tghil'įx?
Dniği ihu tghel'įx shit'i.
Yegheli Nadudilitnu ch'tunani.
Nhendeda dniği chich'tućiįx.
Lyni ch'u sbinitš ch'u balgas ch'u mashina negh k'ilan da?
Aad' gas k'a shegh qilan.
Ndaha tinosh dit?
Qezdeghnen tghesnakh shit'i. She'k tghina'k da?
Aa' Qezdeghnen ne'k tghesnakh.
Yada q'u ihu ch'htnu'k'i?k?
Suk'i qayeh ihu ch'htnu'k'i?k.
Ugha, Qezdeghnen ch'tunani.
Ndaha tinash dit?
Nt'i Qelghin tghesnašt shit'i.
Nenhti, shek tghinašt do?
Ad' Qelghin nek tghesnašt.
Yada q'u inu ch'tul'izk?
Nt'i gtsagheš'ti inu ch'tul'izk shit'i.
Yagheli Qelghin ch'tunani.
Ndaha tinash dit?
Ent'i Banqach'agh teshnash shit'i, nenhiti?
Aa' shi k'a Banqach'agh teshnash shit'i.
Yada q'u ch'tuž'ik?
Ent'i chuq'ush ch'u giz'in ch'tuž'ik shit'i.
Yagheli balgas ch'u mashina negh k'ilan da?
Aa' gas k'a shegh qilan.
Yagheli Banqach'agh ch'tunani.
Ndaha tinash dit?
Ent'i Nughiltu teshnash shit'i, nenhti?
Aa' shi k'a Nughiltu teshnash shit'i.
Yada q'u ihu tghil'įż?
Ent'i qunshi ihu tghel'įż.
Yagheli, iyni ch'u sbinit negh k'īlan da?
Aa' iyni ch'u sbinit shegh qīlan.
Yagheli Nughiltu ch'tunani.
Naaha tinash dit?
Susnikaq' teshnash shit'i. N enhti, she' tghinaq da?
Aa' Susnikaq' ne' tgheshnaq.
Yada q'u ch'tu'iq?
N'ti k'eghaya ch'tu'iq shit'i.
Yagheli Susnikaq' ch't'unani.
Ndaha q'u tiyush?
N't'i Dghelishla teshush sh't'i, nenhti?
Aa' ne' tgheshuł.
Yada ihu ch'tul'iž?
Shq'uža ihu ch'tul'iž.
N'iyna qilan da?
Sh'iyna qilan.
Yagheli. Dghelishla ch'tudæñi.
Ndëha tìnasht dit?
Kahnu teshnasht shilt'. She' tighnaž du?
Aa' Kahntu než tghesnaž.
Yada ç'u ch'tuš'iz ?
N't'i naž dnyai nuch'dnuž'it.
Ugha, yaghell, Kahntu ch'tunani.
DENAI'NA PLACES

In this book we talk about fifteen Denai'na placenames in the Tyonek area. So far we have recorded more than seventy-five place-names around Tyonek. These names are very ancient and they are a very important record of where and how the Denai'na lived in Cook Inlet.

Here is an explanation of the names in this book. See how the words -tnu 'creek', ben or -bena 'lake', dghelay or dghili 'mountain' nen 'land', and -kaq 'river mouth' are very common in Denai'na names.

Many Denai'na placenames are so ancient that people now do not know what they mean. Ch'ubetnu, the name of the Chuit River, is one name like this.

A lot more could be said about each of these names. Tyonek elders know many fascinating stories that took place at some of these locations.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Denai'na Name</th>
<th>Translation</th>
<th>English Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>-tnu</td>
<td>river, creek</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nughiltnu</td>
<td>flows-down-river</td>
<td>Beluga River</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ch'elehtnu</td>
<td>fish-run-river</td>
<td>Roberts Creek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nadudiltlu</td>
<td>forks-out-river</td>
<td>McArthur River</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ch'ubetnu</td>
<td>?-river</td>
<td>Chuit River</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kahtnu</td>
<td>river-mouth-river</td>
<td>Kenai River</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Den'ina Name</td>
<td>translation</td>
<td>English Name</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------</td>
<td>---------------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ben</td>
<td>lake</td>
<td>Bunka Lake</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benka'a</td>
<td>lake-big</td>
<td>Second Lake</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuk'eleh Bena</td>
<td>fish-run-water lake</td>
<td>small unnamed lake east of second lake</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chuqan Baydli Bena</td>
<td>beaver house in it lake</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nen</td>
<td>land</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tubughnen</td>
<td>beach land</td>
<td>Old Tyonek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qezdeghnen</td>
<td>point land</td>
<td>Kustatan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-kag'</td>
<td>river mouth</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Susnikag'</td>
<td>sand river mouth</td>
<td>Susitna River</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kahtnu</td>
<td>river-mouth-river</td>
<td>Kenai River</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dghilii, dghelay</td>
<td>mountain</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dghelishla</td>
<td>mountain-little</td>
<td>Mt, Susitna</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>other names in Tubughna Eznena:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bangach'agh</td>
<td>? open-bay</td>
<td>Little Jack Slough</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qelghin</td>
<td>popped up</td>
<td>Kalgin Island</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K'idazq'eni</td>
<td>burning-inside</td>
<td>Mt. Spurr</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Dena'ina words that tell directions and locations are called LOCATIVES. This map shows five locatives for directions from the Bartlett School in Tyonek.
To ask "Where is Qezdeghnen?" (or some other place) in Dena'ina, we say,

Qezdeghnen ndaha q'u qilan?

Qezdeghnen (or Kustatan) is down Cook Inlet from Tyonek, so a good answer would be:

Qezdeghnen yuduch' qilan.
(Kustatan is down the Inlet.)

Here is a chart of the fifteen Dena'ina placenames in this book according to their direction from New Tyonek.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>yuduch' (down the Inlet)</th>
<th>yun'ech' (up the Inlet)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tubughnen</td>
<td>Ch'ubetnu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ch'elehtnu</td>
<td>Nughitnu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nadudiltlu</td>
<td>Dgelishla</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qezdeghnen</td>
<td>Susnikaq'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qelghin</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Banqach'agh</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

bun'ech' (inland from the Inlet, up in back of the village)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Benka'a</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chuqan Baydli Bena</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuk'eleh Bena</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K'idaq'eni</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Kahtnu                  |
Ask each other this question:

(A Dena’ina location) ndaha q’u qilan?

Answer with one of the locative words in this sentence:

(A Dena’ina location) (locative word) q’u qilan.
1 Where are you going?
Well, I'm going to Old Tyonek where the old village was.
Come on, let's go to Old Tyonek.
What will we do?
Well, we'll set a fish net.
Good, let's go.
Maybe we'll catch a salmon.

2 Where are you going?
I'm going to Bunka Lake, how about you?
What will you go after?
I'll go for trout.
Do you have a fishing pole?
Yes, I have a pole.
Good, let's go.

3 Where are you going?
I'm going to Second Lake, how about you?
Yes, I'll go to Second Lake too.
What will you go after?
I'll go for rainbow trout.
Do you have a fishing pole?
Yes, I have a pole.
Good, let's go.

4 Where are you going?
I'm going to Chuqan Baydli Bena, how about you?
Yes. What will we go for?
We'll go for beaver.
Do you have a gun?
Yes, I have a gun.
Good, let's go.

5 Where are you going?
I'm going to Chuitit River, how about you?
Yes, I'll go to Chuitit River too.
What will you go for?
I'll go for king salmon.
Do you have a net?
Yes, I have a net.
Good, let's go.

6 Where are you going?
Well, I'm going to Mt. Spurr, how about you?
Yes, I'll go with you to Mt. Spurr.
What will be go for?
We'll go for ground squirrel.
Do you have snares?
Yes, I have snares.
Come on, let's go to Mt. Spurr.
7 Where are you going?
Well, I'm going to Roberts Creek.
Come on, let's go (by boat).
Good, let's go to Roberts Creek. What will we do?
We'll go for king salmon.
That's good.

8 Where are you going?
Well, I'm going to McArthur River, how about you?
Yes, I am going to McArthur River too.
What are you going for?
I'll go for a moose.
Good, let's go to McArthur River.
Maybe we'll catch a moose.
Do you have a gun, shells, boat, and motor?
Yes, and I have gas.

9 Where are you going?
I'll go to Kustatan. Will you go with me?
Yes, I'll go to Kustatan with you.
What will we look for?
We'll look for the old village.
Come on, let's go to Kustatan.

10 Where are you going?
I'll go to Kalgin Island.
How about you, will you go with me?
Yes, I'll go to Kalgin Island with you.
What will we go for?
We'll go for seals.
Good, let's go to Kalgin Island.

11 Where are you going?
I'm going to Little Jack Slough, how about you?
Yes, I too am going to Little Jack Slough.
What will we do?
We'll gather butter clams and razor clams.
Good, do you have a boat and motor?
Yes, and I have gas too.
Good, let's go to Little Jack Slough.

12 Where are you going?
I'm going to Beluga River, how about you?
Yes, I too am going to Beluga River.
What will you go for?
I'll go for beluga.
Good, do you have a gun and shells?
Yes, I have a gun and shells.
Good, let's go to Beluga River.
13 Where are you going?
I'm going to the mouth of the Susitna, will you go with me?
Yes, I'll go to the Susitna with you.
What will we do?
We'll gather eggs.
Good, let's go to the Susitna.

14 Where are you going?
I'm going to Mt. Susitna, how about you?
Yes, I'll go with you.
What will we go for?
We'll go for whistlers.
do you have your gun?
I have my gun.
Good, let's go to Mt. Susitna.

15 Where are you going?
I'm going to Kenai, will you go with me?
Yes, I'll go to Kenai with you.
What will we do?
We'll see our relatives again.
Come on, good, let's go to Kenai.