

9. Future (Excerpt from Eggleston, 2013)

The future form has a range of possible meanings. Among them are these translations: 's/he will do it; s/he is going to do it', or 'it will happen'. Examples are *akgwaxáa* 's/he will eat it' and *kukahóon* 'I will sell it'. Especially in the second person, but also in the third and fourth person, the future can be used prescriptively (as a command or suggestion to do something), as in *gageetóow* 'you are to read it' or 'you should read it'; and *gaxduxáa* 'it should be eaten'. The prescriptive use of the future is found in instructions for making something (recipes, for example), or explanations of how something should be done (such as performing rites) (Leer 1991). The future can also be a way to translate the English 'can'. For example, *I tuwáa ksagwéini kgeetóow* 'you can read it if you like'. In order to give the meaning 'can', the future is usually accompanied by some kind of conditional phrase such as *I tuwáa ksagwéini* 'if you like' (Leer 1991).

The future form is characterized by the future prefix string *ga-u-ga-* and the -I form of the classifier (*sa-, s-, sha-, sh-, la-, l-, Ø-, or da-*). The future prefix string contracts with the different subject prefixes in different ways. To illustrate, look at the future paradigm in (197a-f) below, where the contractions produced by combining the future prefix string with each of the subject prefixes are given in bold type. Note also the -I classifier *da-*.

(197a) <i>kukadashóoch</i>	'I will strength-train (by bathing in cold water)'
(197b) <i>gagidashóoch</i>	'you will strength-train'
(197c) <i>guxdashóoch</i>	's/he will strength-train'
(197d) <i>gaxtudashóoch</i>	'we will strength-train'
(197e) <i>gaxyidashóoch</i>	'you all will strength-train'
(197f) <i>gaxdushóoch</i>	'someone will strength-train'

It is important to know that there are variations for most of the subject prefix plus future prefix combinations. For example, sometimes the first person singular future subject prefix is *kuka-* and sometimes it is *kkwa-*. Factors that influence the shape of the contractions are: 1) the presence of a vowel-final thematic prefix (*ka-, tu-, ji-*, etc.) or a preverb ending in a vowel (*kei, yei, yoo*, etc.), and 2) the shape of the classifier, specifically whether or not the

classifier has a vowel. For comparison with the paradigm above, another is given below, again with the subject prefix plus future prefix combinations in bold. The verb given in (198a-f) below has the thematic prefix *x'a-* and the (-I) classifier *Ø-* while the above paradigm has no thematic prefix and the (-I) classifier *da-*. Note the differences between the subject prefix plus future prefix combinations between the two paradigms.

- | | | |
|--------|------------------------|----------------------------|
| (198a) | <i>x'akkwawóos'</i> | 'I will ask him/her' |
| (198b) | <i>x'akgeewóos'</i> | 'you will ask him/her' |
| (198c) | <i>ax'akgwawóos'</i> | 's/he will ask him/her' |
| (198d) | <i>x'agaxtoowóos'</i> | 'we will ask him/her' |
| (198e) | <i>x'agaxyeeuwóos'</i> | 'you all will ask him/her' |
| (198f) | <i>x'agaxduwóos'</i> | 'someone will ask him/her' |

Please refer to the future prefix combination chart in Appendix D to see the full range of combinations of the future prefix string and each of the subject prefixes with different thematic prefixes and classifiers.

In addition to the future prefix string *ga-u-ga*, some verbs require another element in the future tense. All *ga* conjugation verbs require the preverb *kei* and *ga* conjugation verbs require the preverb *yei* in the future tense. Examples are given in (199a-200b). The imperative form is given in (a) of each set below to show the conjugation prefix of the verb.

- | | | |
|--------|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| (199a) | <i>Igak'éi!</i> | 'Be good!' |
| (199b) | <i>kei kgwak'éi</i> | 'he/she/it will be good' |
| (200a) | <i>ga.éex'</i> | 'Invite him/her!' |
| (200b) | <i>yei akgwa.éex'</i> | 's/he will invite him/her' |

9.1 Stem Variation in the Affirmative Future

The affirmative future is among the easiest to conjugate in Tlingit, with respect the verb stem. With the exception of invariable roots, all verbs have long high stems in the

affirmative future. Verbs with invariable roots have the same stem in the future mode as in the perfective, imperfective, imperative, and so on. Below are examples of two verbs with invariable roots. Note that in the first, the stem is consistently short and high *-núkts* throughout the paradigm, and in the second, the stem is always long and low *-tseen*. Neither verb has a long, high stem in the future form and this is because the roots are invariable.

(201a) <i>linúkts</i>	'he/she/it is sweet'	(imperfective)
(201b) <i>wulinúkts</i>	'he/she/it was sweet'	(perfective)
(201c) <i>kei gux<u>lan</u></i>	'he/she/it will be sweet'	(future)
(202a) <i>litseen</i>	'he/she/it is strong'	(imperfective)
(202b) <i>wulitseen</i>	'he/she/it was strong'	(perfective)
(202c) <i>kei gux<u>lat</u></i>	'he/she/it will be strong'	(future)

Table 34 below illustrates that regardless of root shape or conjugation prefix, all variable roots have long high stems in the affirmative future.

Table 34. Stem Variation in the Affirmative Future

Basic Stem Shape ↓	Ø	na, ga, ga
CVV	CÝV akgwaxáa 's/he will eat it' O-S-Ø-xaa~ (Ø act) 'for S to eat O'	CÝV akakgwaháa 's/he will plant it' O-ka-S- Ø-haa~ (na act) 'for S to plant O'
CVV ^h	CÝV aguxsatáa 's/he will steam it' O-S-s-taa ^h ~ (Ø act) 'for S to boil, steam O'	CÝV gugatáa 's/he will sleep' S-Ø-taa ^h ~ (na act) 'for (singular) S to sleep'
CVVC	CÝVC aguxsaxóok 's/he will dry it' O-S-s-xook~ (Ø act) 'for S to dry O'	CÝVC akgwaxáash 's/he will cut it' O-S-Ø-xaash~ (na act) 'for S to cut O with knife'
CÝVC	CÝVC aguxsawáat 's/he will raise him/her' O-S-s-wáat~ (Ø act) 'for S to raise O'	CÝVC yei aguxlasháat 's/he will hold it' O-S-l-sháat~ (ga act) 'for S to hold, retain O'
CÝVC'	CÝVC' aguxsa.áat' 's/he will chill it' O-S-s.-áat'~ (Ø act) 'for S to make O cold'	CÝVC' akgwá.óos' 's/he will wash it' O-S-Ø-.óos'~ (na act) 'for S to wash O'

9.2 Negative Future

Now let's look at the negative future. The negative future translates as 's/he won't do it; s/he isn't going to do it' or 'it's not going to happen'. The negative future is formed by adding the negative particle *tlél/tléil*, and like the affirmative future, requires the -I form of the classifier. The only difference between the affirmative and negative future (besides the presence of the negative particle *tlél/tléil*), will be the tone on the verb stem for some verbs. For other verbs, the two forms are identical.

9.2.1 Stem Variation in the Negative Future

Verbs with variable roots always have the basic stem form in the negative future. For all open roots, this means long low stems. For closed roots, there are two possibilities. CVVC roots have long low stems. CÝVC and CÝVC' roots have long high stems, as these never have

long low stems. An easy way to determine what the stem will be in the negative future then, is to look at the form given in the theme at the top of each verb entry on the CD. Remember that the form given in the theme is always the basic stem form. (See Chapter 3 for a review of this topic). In the table below, notice that the stem of each verb in the negative future is the same as that given in the basic stem shape column. The future prefix combination chart in the appendix will help you determine the rest of the verb word for any given subject prefix. Table 35 below summarizes stem variation in the negative future for each basic stem type.

Table 35. Stem Variation in the Negative Future

Basic Stem Shape ↓	Ø	na, ga, ga
CVV	CVV tlél akgwaxaa 's/he won't eat it' O-S-Ø-xaa~ (Ø act) 'for S to eat O'	CVV tlél akakgwahaa 's/he won't plant it' O-ka-S- Ø-haa~ (na act) 'for S to plant O'
CVV ^h	CVV tlél aguxsataa 's/he won't steam it' O-S-s-taa ^h ~ (Ø act) 'for S to boil, steam O'	CVV tlél gugataa 's/he won't sleep' S-Ø-taa ^h ~ (na act) 'for (singular) S to sleep'
CVVC	CVVC tlél aguxsaxook 's/he won't dry it' O-S-s-xook~ (Ø act) 'for S to dry O'	CVVC tlél akgwaxaash 's/he won't cut it' O-S-Ø-xaash~ (na act) 'for S to cut O with knife'
CÝVC	CÝVC tlél aguxsawáat 's/he won't raise him/her' O-S-s-wáat~ (Ø act) 'for S to raise O'	CÝVC tlél yei aguxlasháat 's/he won't hold it' O-S-l-sháat~ (ga act) 'for S to hold, retain O'
CÝVC'	CÝVC' tlél aguxsa.áat' 's/he won't chill it' O-S-s-.áat'~ (Ø act) 'for S to make O cold'	CÝVC' tlél akgwa.óos' 's/he won't wash it' O-S-Ø-.óos'~ (na act) 'for S to wash O'