



# Full Featured Language Instruction Online Course & Mobile Application

# Haida Language

[haida.intelligentlanguagetutor.com](http://haida.intelligentlanguagetutor.com)

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**SFU**

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY  
FIRST NATIONS LANGUAGE CENTRE

FIRST NATIONS LANGUAGES IN THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY:  
LOOKING BACK, LOOKING FORWARD



OLD MASSETT VILLAGE COUNCIL THE SKIDEGATE HAIDA IMMERSION  
PROGRAM (S.H.I.P.)



Conseil de recherches en  
sciences humaines du Canada

Social Sciences and Humanities  
Research Council of Canada

Canada

# The Project

Indigenous language communities have pointed to the need for new digital learning tools for small languages based on solid linguistic and pedagogical ground, and at the same time embedded in local knowledge, culture and protocol. This contribution demonstrates a delivery platform for such applications using the example of Haida (Xaad Kil/Xaayda Kil), represented by the Northern Dialect spoken in Old Massett and Southeastern Alaska, and the Southern or Skidegate Dialect. Through text, sound and image the introductory level digital Haida language tutor integrates sequenced communicative content – conversation and short narrative based on some 250 vocabulary items – with grammar content, and includes student exercises and assessment tools. The project is a collaboration between the partner Haida language organizations, and Simon Fraser University's First Nations Language Centre and the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Digital Media Lab, and it is funded by a partnership grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada. Additional apps for several other First Nations languages are in progress.



This introductory Haida online learning tool is based on the guide **Dii Tawlaang** - lessons of conversational Haida developed by Dr. Jordan Lachler, with the addition of further language and culture content developed by the Old Massett and Skidegate groups. The language content was recorded in the three dialects using the voices of speakers and advanced learners of the language. The developers thank Old Massett elders Claude Jones, Lawrence Bell, Primrose Adams, the Skidegate SHIP elders and Ben Young for lending their voices and knowledge to this project.

## The Content: Haida Language Level 1

### Unit 1 (Lessons 1 - 6)

Topics: Asking how someone is doing, asking for name, negative, 1st, second, 3rd person pronouns

### Unit 2 (Lessons 7 - 12)

Topics: Conversation about Relatives: grandparents, parents, aunts, uncles and friends

### Unit 3 (Lessons 13 - 17)

Topics: Haida people and neighbouring nations. Skidegate, Alaskan and Massett Haida. The two moieties – Eagle and Raven

### Unit 4 (Lessons 18 - 22)

Topics: Places in the community; the verb hlGanggula (to work)

### Unit 5 (Lessons 23 - 26)

Topics: more work places. Introducing oneself in a paragraph; introducing someone else

### Unit 6 (Lessons 27 - 32)

Topics: Living in different villages and cities; the postpositions -gu and k'uhl; talking about grandchildren, parts of Old Massett and a tour of Old Massett

### Unit 7 (Lessons 33 - 40)

Topics: giinii "used to", asking about "how long", the postposition -an "for" someone; numbers with months, years, numbers of children, plurals of relatives