

Web Dictionary Tutorial

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This document explains how to use the web dictionaries available for several dialects of Dakelh. The information in each dictionary is specific to the dialect, but the dictionaries all have the same interface.

1 The Basics

The first thing you see will be the splash page, which contains information about the contributors, statistics on the current contents, links to related resources and so forth.

Enter Dictionary

Contributors

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Other Resources

[Grammatical Information](#)
Online, part of this package. This is the document to which the dictionary links to provide explanations of grammatical categories, terms and notation.

[Introduction to the Sound System](#)
An explanation of the sounds of Lheidli dialect and the writing system, with audio.

[Listening Exercises](#)
Listen to audio, write it down as best you can, then reveal the hidden answer and compare.

[Grammar Sketch](#)
A pocket-sized booklet summarizing grammar. Also contains a chart of the CLC writing system. 48 pages.

[Mini-Dictionary](#)
A small, simple English-Carrier dictionary aimed at parents and caregivers of young children who want to support them in their language classes. It begins with an introduction to the grammar. 32 pages.

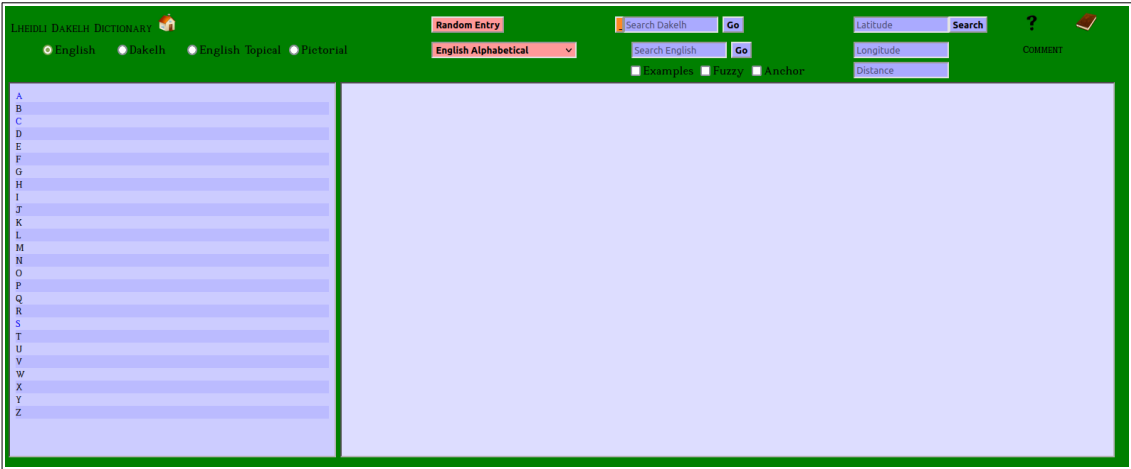
[The Carrier Language: a brief introduction](#)
A book about the Dakelh language, recommended as background for those learning the language.
A list of resources for the language, in general and for specific dialects.

Generated Wednesday, April 27 2022 at 20:33 PDT using software updated on Saturday 23 April 2022 at 18:56 PDT and Javascript code updated on Tuesday 09 February 2021 at 13:57 PST with the morphophonemic annotation module updated on Monday 23 August 2021 at 12:06 PDT.

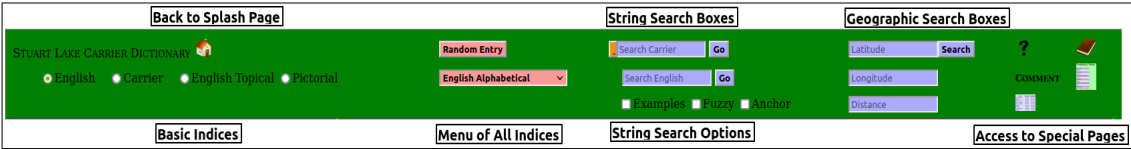
Adverb	103
Conjunction	14
Demonstrative	17
Interjection	36

Entries	6,670
with example	1,914 28.7%
with image [x = 1.06 per entry]	266 4.0%
with phonetic image	2 0.0%

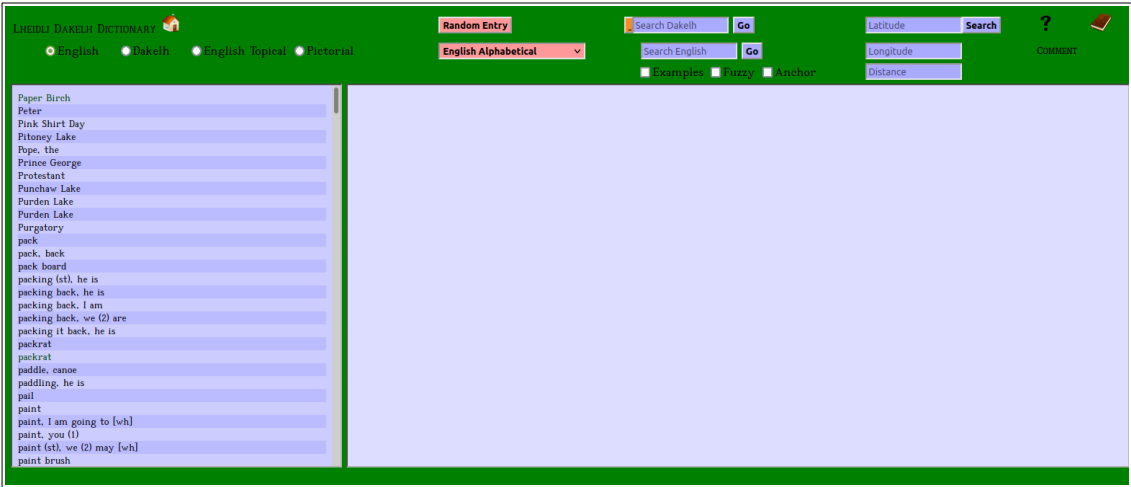
To enter the dictionary, click on Enter Dictionary. The result will look like this:



Here is an explanation of the various areas of the dashboard:



The panel at the left contains the English Alphabetical index. Clicking on a letter changes that panel to the list of words whose English gloss begins with that letter. Here we have chosen “P”.



Clicking on an entry brings up that entry in the main panel to the right of the index. Here we have selected “packrat”.

dlooncho dloon•cho ཇུམ N pack rat, Bushy-tailed Wood Rat

Play **Play** **Play** **Play** **Play** **Play**

Scientific name: *Neotoma cinerea*

Examples

(1)

Duneyaz	dlooncho	sulhgooh.
boy	pack rat	he trapped

The boy trapped a pack rat.

#004506

(2)

Dlooncho	chuntohyoh	ts'uzdla-i	ts'iyawh	wheyule	'ink'ez	yulh	t'o	'ul'lh.
pack rat	cabin	which we (3+) leave [mdo]	all [abstract]	he carries away [mdo]	and	with him	nest	he makes [CUSTOMARY]

The pack rat carries away things we leave in the cabin and makes its nest with them.

#005157

If we want to look up a Dakelh word, we select the Dakelh Alphabetical index.

LIBRARY DAKELH DICTIONARY

☐ English ☒ Dakelh ☐ English Topical ☐ Pictorial

Random Entry Search Dakelh Go Latitude Search ?

Dakelh Alphabetical Search English Go Longitude COMMENT

Examples Fuzzy Anchor Distance

A
B
CH
CH'
D
DL
DZ
DZ'
E
G
GW
GH
H
I
J
K
K'
KH
KW
KW'
L
LH
M
N
O
OO
P
R

Here we have selected “N” and then selected **noostel** from the list of words beginning with “n”.

STUART LAKE CARRIER DICTIONARY

☐ English ☒ Carrier ☐ English Topical ☐ Pictorial

Random Entry Search Carrier Go Latitude Search

Carrier Alphabetical Search English Go Longitude

Examples Fuzzy Anchor Distance

Play **Play** **Play** **Play** **Play** **Play** **Play** **Play** **Play** **Play**

Scientific name: *Gulo gulo*

Examples

(1)

Noostel	khunai	tube	bewhunujut.
wolverine	animal	very	it is fierce.

The wolverine is a very fierce animal.

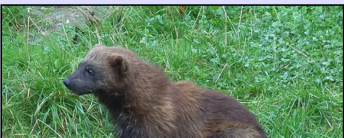
#000145

(2)

Noostel	nyoo	tsayilh	'ahoolhdzin	yuwulhnih.
wolverine	that [non-human]	trap	always	he is wary of

The wolverine is usually wary of traps.

#005228



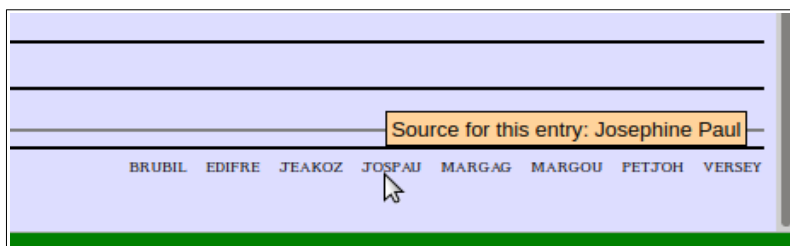
In this entry at the top is the Dakelh word, first as normally written in the Carrier Linguistic Committee writing system, then again in the CLC system but with the syllables broken out, and then in the Dakelh Syllabics. These are followed by the abbreviation for the syntactic category, in this case N for “Noun”, and then by a gloss, a short definition.

On the next line are ten Play buttons. Pressing one of them will play an audio recording of **noostel**. If you hover over one of the buttons, a tooltip will pop up giving the name of the speaker and the name of the

audio file. In the next section we have some additional information, in this case the Latin scientific name. Then we have an example sentence, with word-by-word glosses as well as a full translation. The number below the example sentence is a link to the example's own entry page, which contains additional information, including the source of the example. This is followed by a picture of a wolverine. Clicking on this will open a page in another tab showing just the image, usually enlarged.



The next section contains a link to a list of words on the same topic. If you want to check out other animals, you could click on this link. This is followed by two external links, to web pages with additional information about wolverines. The last section has three parts. The house icon at the left is a link that will take you back to the dictionary's splash page. This is particularly useful for people who have gone directly to this entry rather than entering the dictionary through the front door. The icon following it is for bookmarking the page. Clicking on it copies the url of the entry into the clipboard. This is useful because most tools that save a url will save the url of the dictionary as a whole, not that of the specific entry.



The last section contains abbreviations for the sources for this entry, in this case, the names of eight speakers. Hovering over a source abbreviation brings up a tooltip expanding the abbreviation.

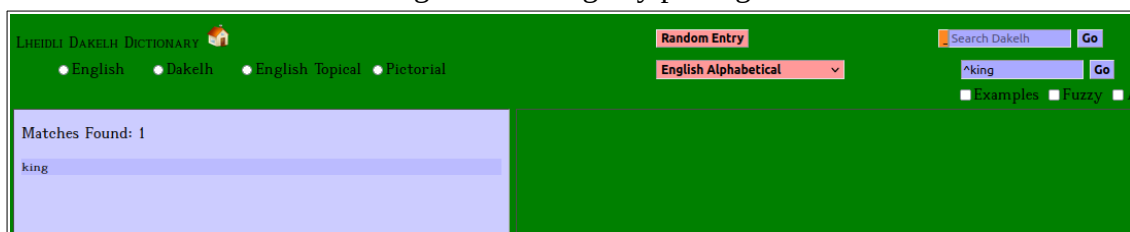
You can get more information about using the dictionary by clicking on the question mark icon at the upper right of a dictionary page. This will take you to the user's manual. Clicking on the book icon instead takes you to a grammar sketch. Many entries have links from abbreviations and technical terms to sections of this same grammar sketch.

2 String Search

You can search the dictionary by asking for Dakelh or English words that match a pattern that you enter. In the simplest case, this is just a plain string. Here we have asked for all the English entries that contain the string "king".



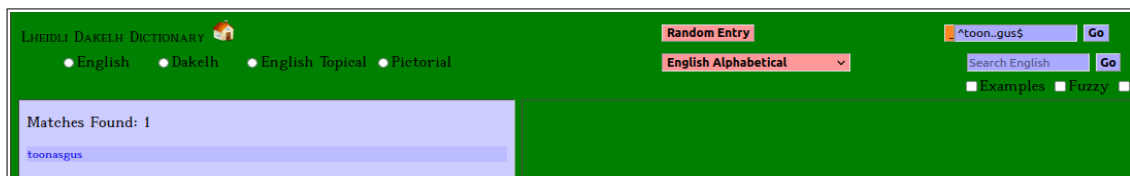
We can restrict matches to those that begin with “king” by putting a circumflex before the “k”.



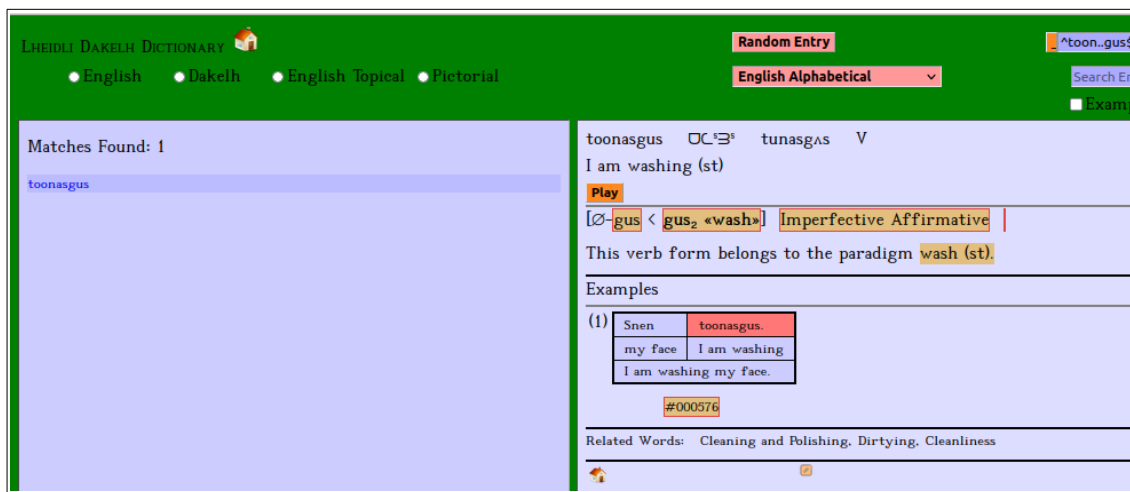
Here we have used the Dakelh search box with the pattern “^toon.*gus\$”. This will match anything that begins with “toon” and ends with “gus”.



The “.” in the search pattern matches anything. If we change it to “..”, which matches exactly two sounds, we remove most of these matches.



Clicking on the result in the panel at left brings up the entry:



When you search for Dakelh strings, you can request “fuzzy matching”, which attempts to take into account some of the misperceptions that may confuse people unfamiliar with the sounds of Dakelh. For example, if you search for matches to “kl” you will not get any matches since no Dakelh word contains that sequence. But if you click on the second radio-button and select “fuzzy matching”, you get quite a few matches.



In fact, there are so many that we narrowed the search here by requiring the matched string to be at the beginning of the word and to have an “i” after “kl”. This time we got ten matches because the dictionary knows that beginners tend to mishear “lh” and “tl” as “kl” and that “kl” is an impossible sequence in Dakelh, so when you ask for matches to “kl”, it looks instead for matches to “lh” and “tl”. It is possible to search for matches to complicated patterns if you want to. The dictionary supports the pattern matching syntax of Javascript. On the other hand, if you want to search for exact matches, just enter a string with no wildcards and select the “anchor” option by clicking on the last of three radiobuttons beneath the search boxes. This option excludes matches in which something precedes or follows the search string.

STUART LAKE CARRIER DICTIONARY

Random Entry

Search Carrier

Go

English

Carrier

English Topical

Pictorial

English Alphabetical

king

Go

Examples

Fuzzy

Anchor

Matches Found: 3

king

king

king

3 Searching the Examples

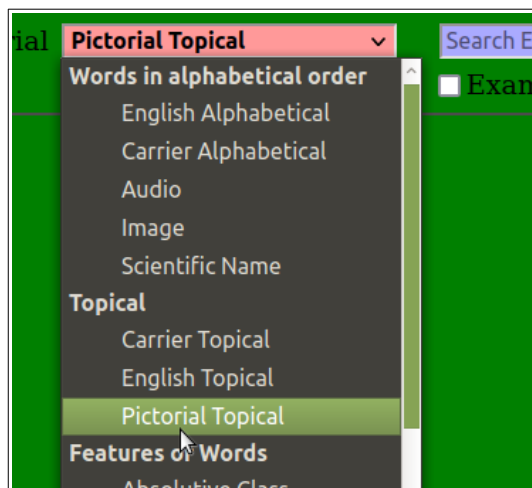
The dictionaries contain many examples of sentences and phrases. Some of these are included in entries for words and expressions as examples of their use, but many of them are not. The examples all have pages of their own. You can search for them using the string search facility by selecting the first radiobutton under the string search boxes. In this screenshot we have searched for “gaff” in English with the example radiobutton selected. The examples found are listed in the index at left. Clicking on one of them displays the example in the main panel.



Both in example entries like this and in examples that are part of a word entry, clicking on the gloss will take you to the entry for that word. (For various reasons some words in examples do not yet have corresponding entries of their own.)

4 Topical Search

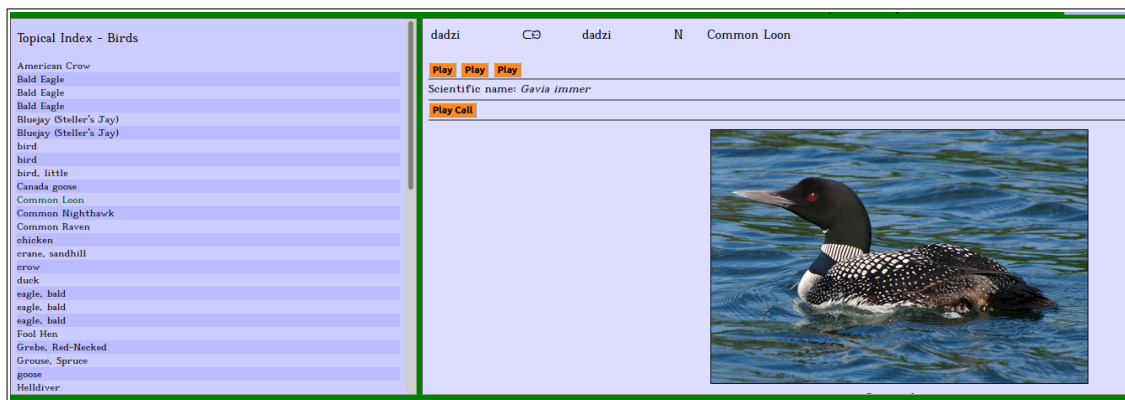
One way to find words in the dictionary is by using the topical indices, indices that list words by topic. There are three, the first two of which are among the four indices accessible from the radiobuttons. All three are accessible using the index menu.



The first is the English topical index. Selecting this index brings up a list of topics.



Selecting a topic brings up a list of English words. Here we have chosen the topic Birds and from the list of words on this topic have selected the entry for the Common Loon.



Selecting the Dakelh topical index brings up the same list of topics. Selecting a topic, however, brings up a list of Dakelh words. Here we have again selected the topic Birds and have selected the entry for **nat'oh**.

Topical Index - Birds	nat'oh	ᑕᑦᑎᑦ	nat'oh	N	Spruce Grouse, Fool Hen
'usahas	Play	Play	Play		
'ututut	Scientific name: <i>Falcipennis canadensis</i>				
beak'ui	Play Display Drumming	Play Alarm Call			
chundulk'uz					
chundumlduz					
dadzi					
datan					
datancho					
delh					
duchundulk'uz					
du'tai					
du'talyaz					
gagiyaz					
gwuzeh					
khoh					
ligok					
mundaon					
nat'oh					
sehas					
sevh					
st'as					
subalyan					
tabalzai					
tabalzati					
tehgwuzeh					

The third topical index is the pictorial index. Selecting this index brings up the same list of topics, but now selecting a topic produces a page of images associated with entries on this topic. Here we have selected Astronomy.

Pictorial Index - Astronomy

Clicking on an image brings up the associated entry. Here we have selected the photo of the Northern Lights.

[illegible]

Some pictorial indices are richer than others because more entries have associated images. Pictorial indices are particularly useful where the user may not know the word for the thing of interest but can identify its image. Here, for example, is the first part of the index for birds.

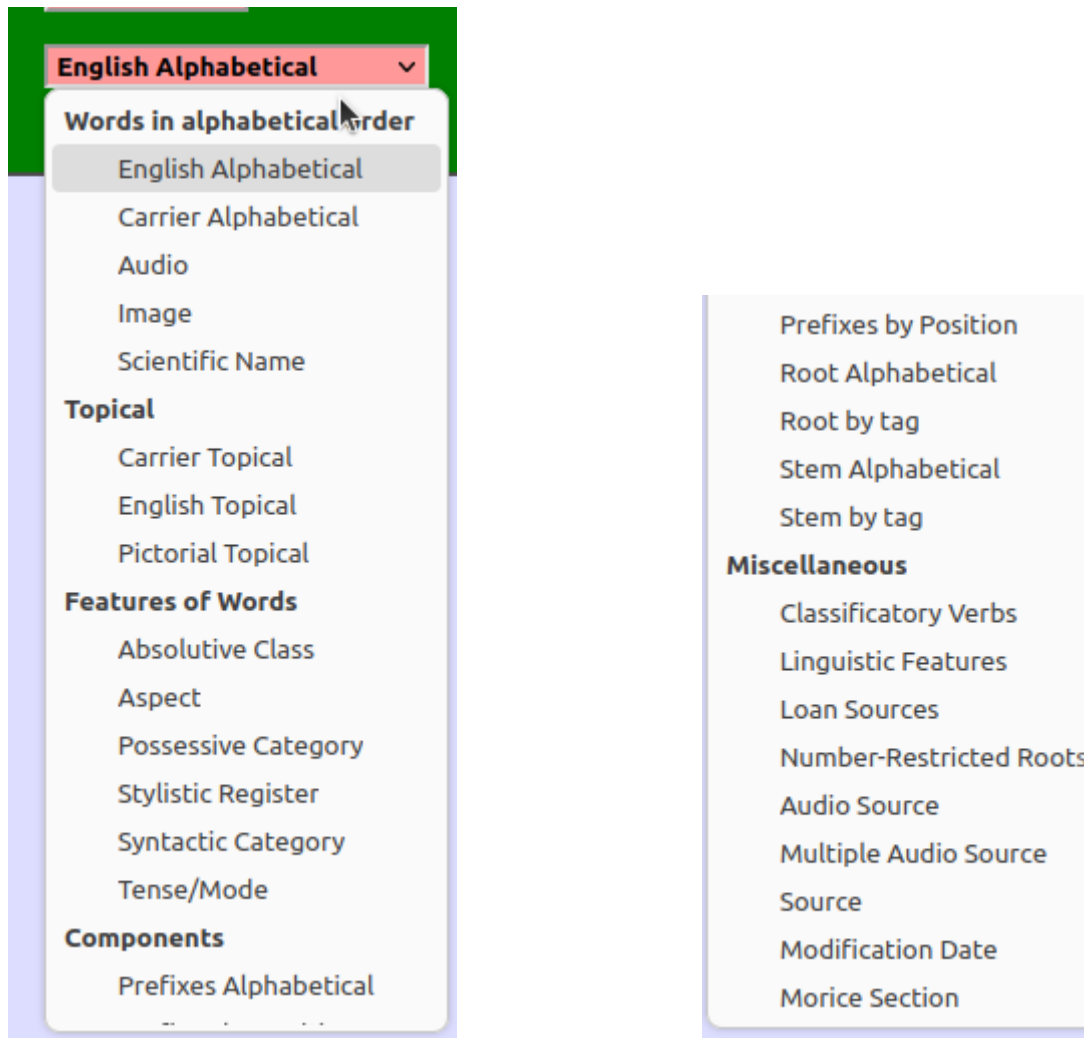
Pictorial Index - Birds



In some cases there is more than one copy of the same image because there are multiple words with the same meaning. In this case, there are three ways to say “bald eagle”, so there are three images, each a link to the entry for one of the words.

5 Additional Indices

The four indices accessible by the radiobuttons are the four that most people will probably use most often. There are in fact many other indices. The full set is available in the dropdown menu. Here is the full menu for the Stuart Lake dictionary. We present the two parts side by side due to the length of the menu. The menus for other dialects lack the “Morice Section” indice. They are otherwise identical.



These menus allow you to find words by their components, e.g. all of the words based on a certain verb stem or verb root or containing a certain prefix, by their origin, e.g. all of the words borrowed from French, by their category, e.g. all of the interjections, and by grammatical features, e.g. all of the customary aspect forms.

6 Paradigms

Most inflected forms are organized into paradigms. Here, for example, is the entry for “arm”:

-[gan](#) -[gan](#) - Ξ^3 N arm (human), foreleg (animal), sleeve

[Play](#)

Possessed Forms:

1S	sgan	1P	negan
2S	ngan	2P	nohgan
3S	oogan	3P	bugan
REF	dugan	RECIP	
DJR	yugan	PDJR	higan
AREAL	hugwan	IND	'ugan

Related Words: Body




As with other body parts, as the hyphen shows, “arm” cannot be used as a word by itself. It has to be possessed. The table lists the various possessed forms, such as **sgan** “my arm” and **negan** “our arms”. Clicking on one of them brings up the entry for that form, which may contain audio and other information.

[yugan](#) [yu'gan](#) $\Theta\Xi^3$ N his arm

This is the [disjoint reference](#) possessed form of [-gan](#).

Examples

(1)

Lheyunhootneh	we	yugan	nizdu_s
they are wrestling each other	while	his arm	he twisted
When they were wrestling, he twisted his arm.			

[#005675](#)

Related Words: Body



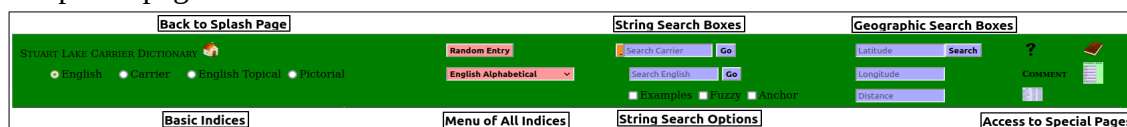

Here we have clicked on **yugan**. The entry identifies this as the “disjoint reference” form. The term “disjoint reference” is a link to the grammar sketch, which gives a brief explanation of the use of this form, which reflects a grammatical distinction that has no English counterpart. Notice that the stem -gan is also a link. It links to the main entry for “arm”, so that, if you had searched for **yugan**, you could

move from this inflected form to the main entry.

7 Grammatical Information

Dakelh makes many grammatical distinctions not found in English. Dakelh words and English words therefore do not match up in a straightforward way. For example, **oogan**, **dugan**, **yugan**, **higan**, and **hugwan** all translate into English as “his arm”, “her arm”, or “its arm”, but they are not interchangeable. If you are translating from Dakelh into English, you may be able to get away with translating all of these the same way, but if you are translating from English to Dakelh you must understand which form to use. In order to make full use of the dictionary, you must have a basic understanding of Dakelh grammar.

Ideally you will have taken a course that provides this knowledge, but the dictionary provides some explanations of grammatical distinctions in the form of a grammar sketch. You can go directly to the grammar sketch by clicking on the book icon at the right end of the dashboard, in the section labelled “access to special pages”.



As illustrated above, there are also links from grammatical terms to the grammar sketch.

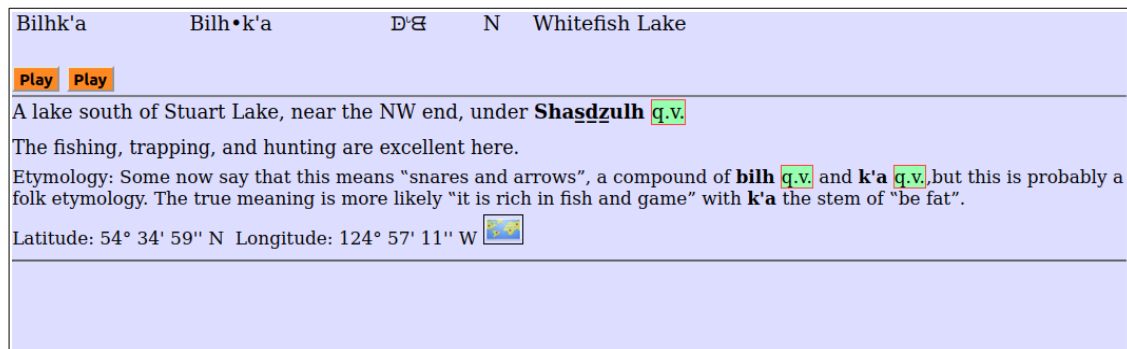
8 Placenames

The dictionaries provide special facilities for placenames.

8.1 Information in Dictionary Entries

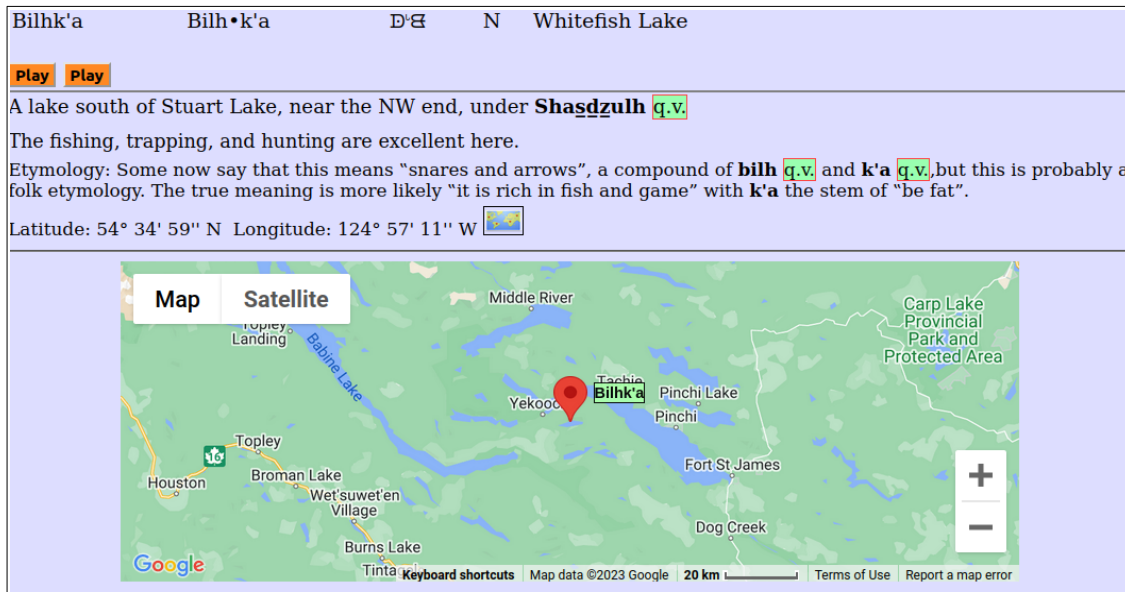
For place names for which a precise location is known, not only are the latitude and longitude given but a small map icon is displayed.

Here is an entry from the Stuart Lake Dakelh dictionary. It gives the name in the usual Dakelh writing system, the same broken into syllables, the name in the Dakelh Syllabics, the abbreviation for the part of speech, and the English name. The two buttons allow the user to play the audio files. These are followed by some information about the lake, the etymology, the latitude and longitude, and a map icon.



If an internet connection is available, clicking on this icon opens an interactive map centered on the

location of the place name.



This is an interactive map. It can be zoomed in and-out and moved from side to side and up and down and a satellite image can be added.



8.2 Geographical Search

Place names, like other words, are of course listed in the alphabetical indices and findable via regular expression search for the name, but it is also possible to request a list of the place names located within a given distance of a point specified by latitude and longitude.

In the screenshot below, the user has entered the coordinates of a point and the distance from that point

within which to search. The result is the list of place names on the left. Selecting one of them has produced the entry shown in the main panel to the right.

STUART LAKE CARRIER DICTIONARY

Random Entry

Search Carrier

Go

54-35-59-N

English

Carrier

English Topical

Pictorial

English Alphabetical

Search English

Go

125-5-41-W

Examples

Fuzzy

Anchor

10m

Found 21 place names within 10.0 miles of 54° 35' 59" N, 125° 5' 41" W

Bilhk'a

Bilhk'akoh

Dadzalt'o

Gasootl'at

Kehlhoozdli

Nak'alat

Nakwunt'ai

Nantl'at

Nantl'ilikoh

Noocho

Shas Dzuhl Bunghun

Shas Dzuhl Koh

Tadiz'ai

Tatatse

Tatl'oh

Teh Noo

Ts'oonoo

Tse Bunghun

Yeko

Yekoh

Yekoозdli

Bilhk'akoh

Bilh•k'a•koh

D'ᑭᑭᑦ

N

Whitefish Creek

The creek that flows fro **Bilhk'a** "Whitefish Lake" into **Nak'albun** "Stuart Lake".

Latitude: 54° 35' 59" N Longitude: 125° 4' 12" W

Related Words: Places

Coordinates may be entered in either the traditional Degrees Minutes Seconds notation or decimal notation. Distances may be given in either miles or kilometres.

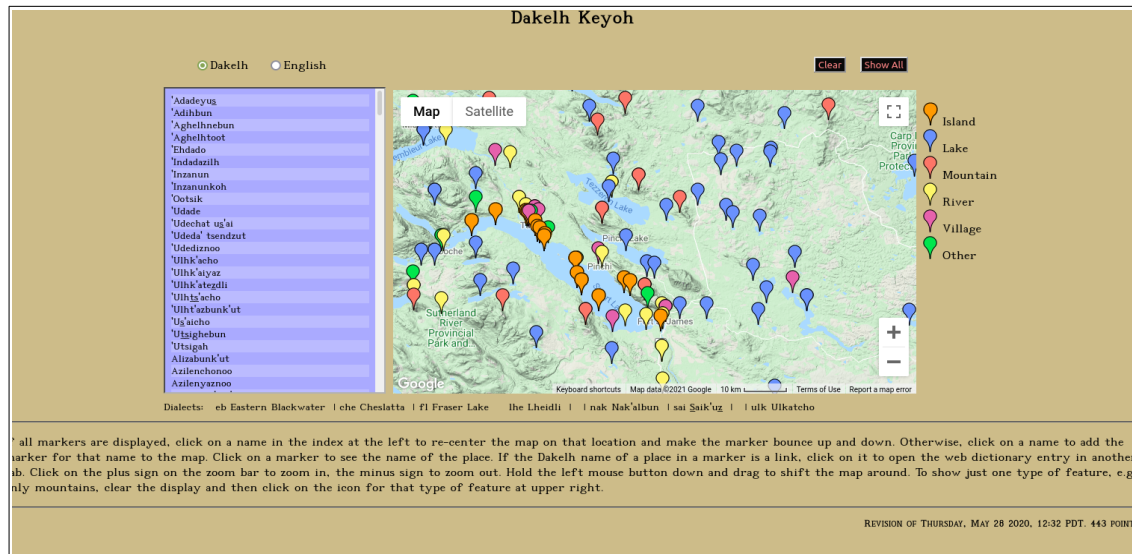
Here are the coordinates of some places to use as reference points in geographical searches.

Place	Latitude	Longitude
Anahim Lake	52.467	-125.317
Binche	51.440	-116.470
Burns Lake	54.229	-125.763
Fort St. James	54.443	-124.254
Grassy Plains	53.973	-125.884
Kluskus	53.100	-124.483
K'uzche	54.786	-124.881
McLeod Lake	54.994	-123.044
Nadleh	54.070	-124.604
Nazko	53.000	-123.617
Prince George	53.763	-122.745
Quesnel	52.979	-122.493
Saik'uz	53.955	-124.081
Shelly	54.002	-122.620
Stellaquo	54.048	-124.898
Tache	54.658	-124.742
Takla Landing	55.477	-125.956
Yekooche	54.602	-125.075
Vanderhoof	54.014	-124.009

To reduce the burden of looking up the coordinates of places in the vicinity of which you may wish to search, clicking on an icon in the upper right section of the dashboard displays a list of coordinates of likely places.

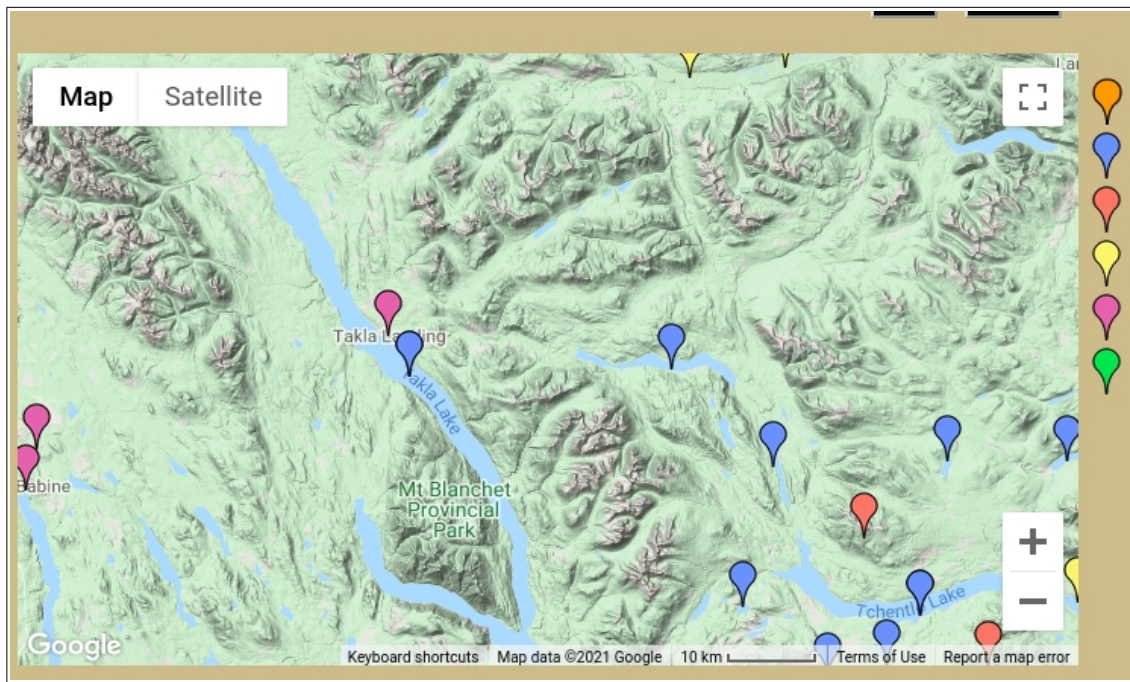
8.3 The Placename Map

Separate from the dictionaries are place name maps which display markers at the locations of named places. There are currently a map of Tsay Keh Dene Sekani place names, which is not publicly available, and a map of Dakelh place names, combining multiple dialects, which is publicly available.

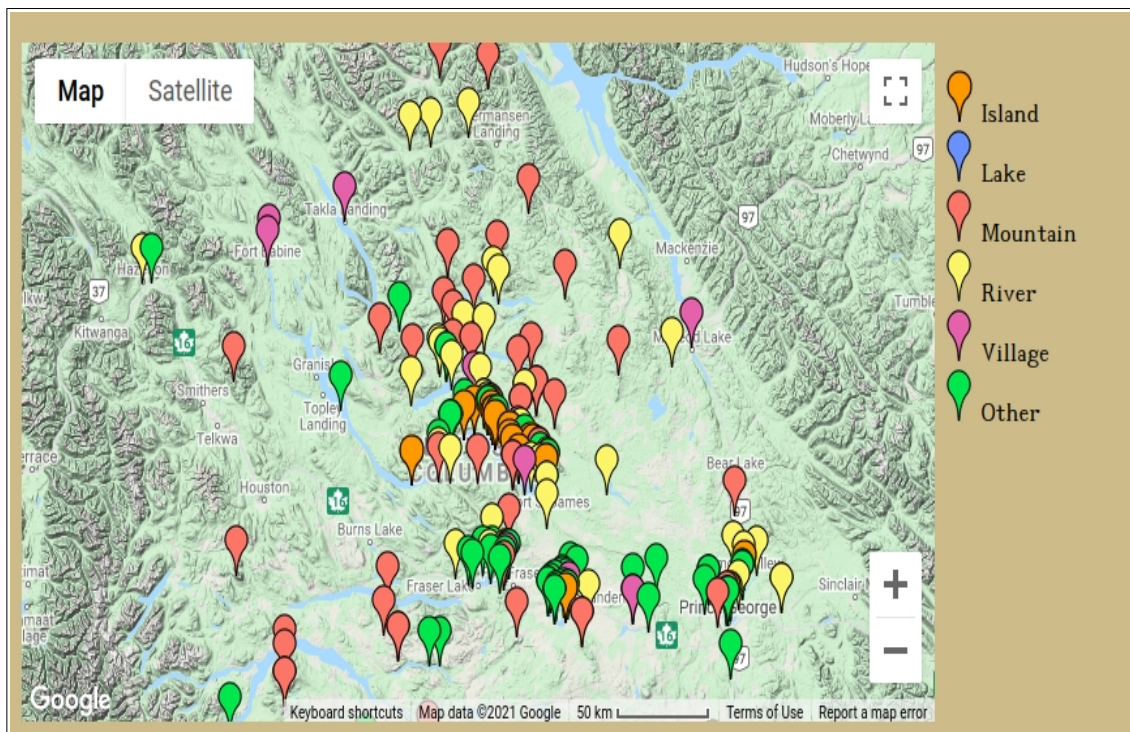


(<https://www.billposer.org/DakelhPlacenames/DakelhYunBilingual.html>)

These maps are generated using the Google Maps API and can be manipulated like other Google maps. The user can zoom in and out using the plus and minus buttons at lower right and can move the centre of the map by dragging it with the mouse. In the image below we have zoomed in and panned the map northwestward.

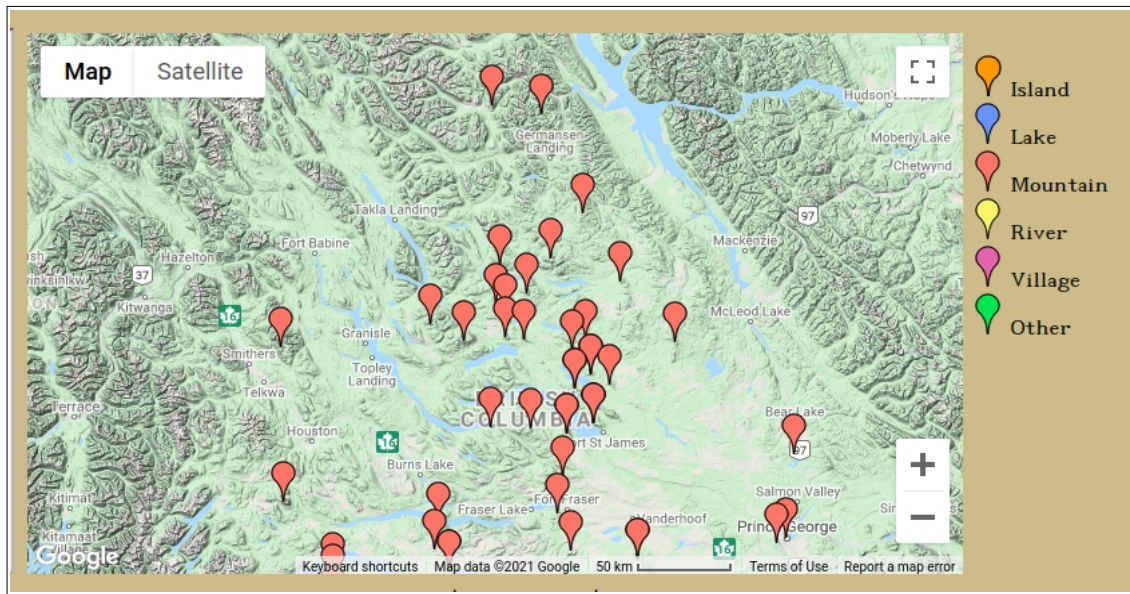


Markers of different colours mark the locations of different types of features. You can select which features you wish to see. Clicking on the feature icons to the right of the map toggles the display of those features. Here is a map from which the lakes have been removed by clicking on the lake icon.

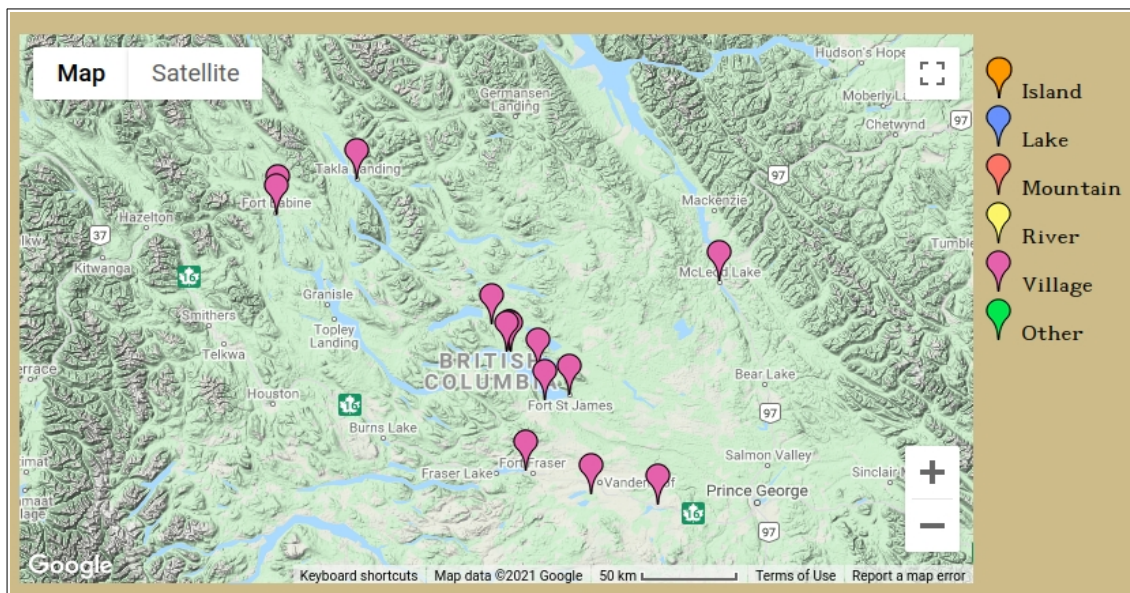


Here is a map that shows only mountains, created by clicking on the "clear" button and then clicking on

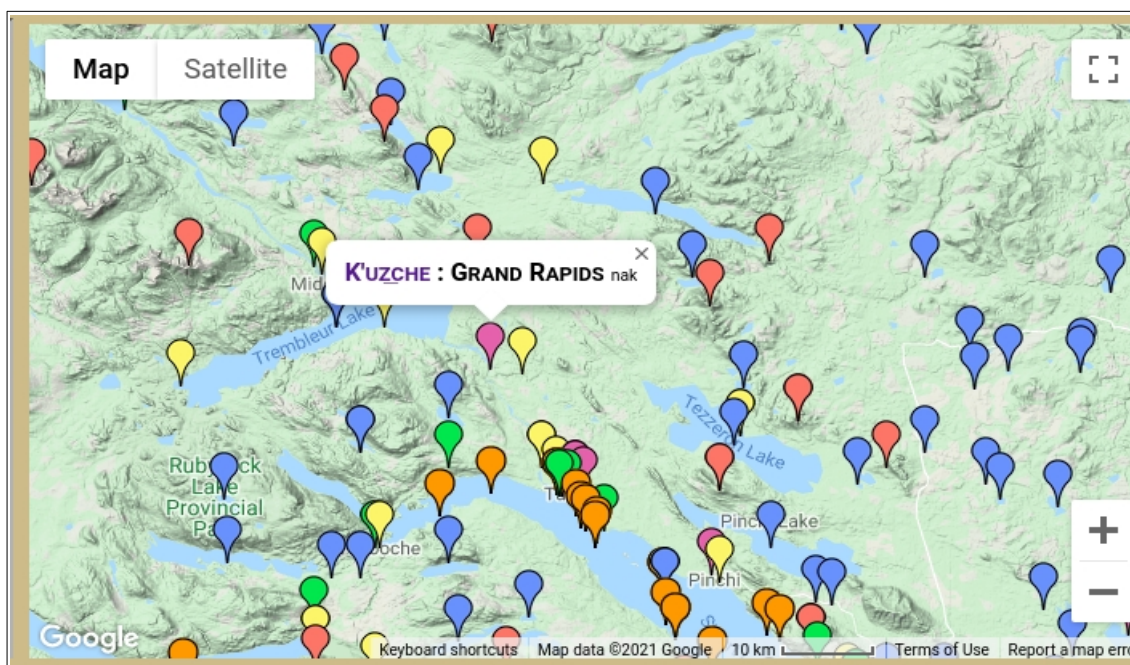
the mountain icon to add the mountains back in.



Here is a map that shows only villages, created by clicking on the "clear" button and then clicking on the village icon to add the villages back in.



Clicking on a marker brings up a bubble with the Dakelh name of the place followed by its English name and an abbreviation for the dialect of the Dakelh name.



If the dialect is one for which there is a publicly available dictionary, the Dakelh name is a link to the corresponding dictionary entry. Clicking on **K'uzche** in the map above opens the entry in the Stuart Lake dialect dictionary in a new tab.

K'uzche
B'ab
K'agtje
N
Grand Rapids

Play
Play
Play
Play

A small settlement located where the Kuzkwa River enters the Tachie River.

Examples

(1)	Tachie whut'en-ne	'ahoolhyig	K'uzche	ts'e	k'unahukh.
	Tachie people	always	Grand Rapids	to	they go back and forth by boat [CUSTOMARY]

The people of Tachie often travel by boat to Grand Rapids.

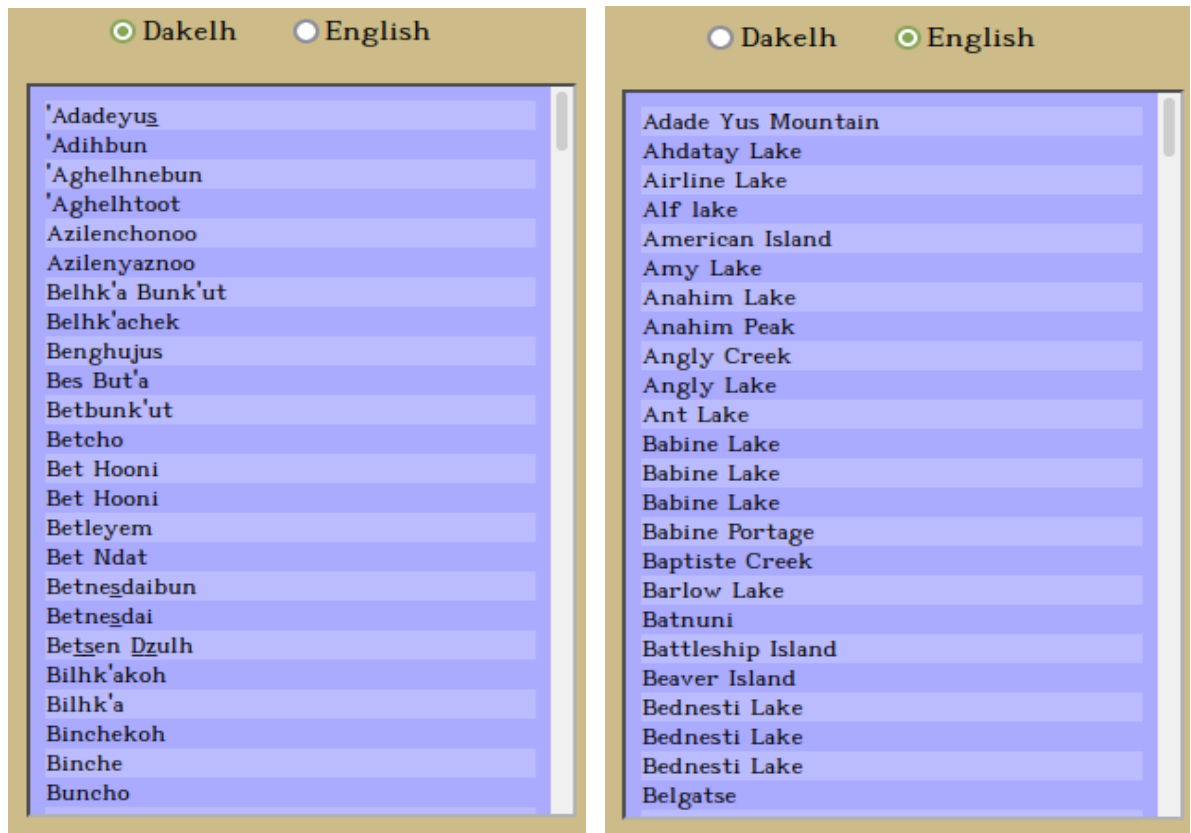
#000787

Latitude: 54° 47' 9" N Longitude: 124° 32' 51" W

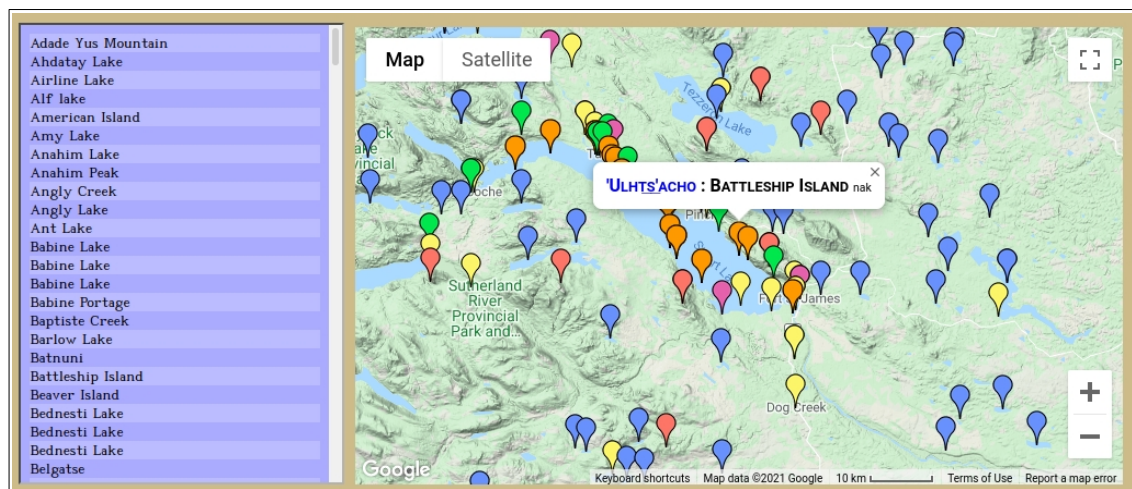
Related Words
Places

CCM
D
EDWJON
PEGJUG
ROBRIAN
RUSALE
WALTON

Places can also be located by selecting them from an index. One index contains English place names, the other Dakelh.



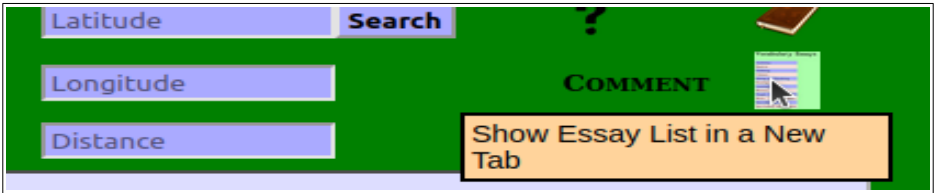
Selecting a name centres the map on the chosen place and causes its marker to bounce up and down three times. Here we have selected Battleship Island in Stuart Lake.



9 Essays

The dictionaries include a set of essays about various aspects of the vocabulary. Clicking on the icon in

the second row at the far right of the dashboard brings up a list of them.



Here is one such list.

Vocabulary Essays

These essays outline the vocabulary for various topics and bring together, compare, and contrast related words.

Baskets	Be	Beaver	Clans
Classificatory Verbs	Colours	Cooking	Days of the Week
Demonstratives	Drinking	Eating	Geographical Terms
Giving Thanks	Greetings	Heavenly Bodies	Helping
Kinship	Lahal	Location	Months
Moose	Names	Numbers	Payment
People	Place Words	Plant Parts And Plant Names	Seasons
Snow Snake	Snow and Ice	Snowshoes	Spirits
Titles			

The essays explain areas where English and Dakelh work differently, collect related words, and explain the differences between similar words. They will be most useful to English-speakers learning Dakelh. The essays contain links to the words that they discuss, and some word entries contain links to relevant essays. Here is a simple essay.