IÑUPIAM K.ÂŁHI

A. N.E.B

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Iñupiam Uḳałhi

by

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illustrated

by

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Eskimo Reader

for the

Kobuk River - Kotzebue Sound Area

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INTRODUCTION

This Eskimo Reader introduces a scientific alphabet for the Kobuk River and Kotzebue Sound area Eskimos. Each letter of the alphabet is illustrated on pages 37-41 by pictures, Eskimo words, and by English words if the sounds are similar.

Each Eskimo sound is always written with the same letter and that letter is never used for any other sound. This is much better than the way English is spelled. For example, the sound ā in English may be spelled "eigh" as in "eight", "ai" as in "bait", or "a" as in "late". And the letter "a" can be used to spell other sounds, as "ă" as in "cat", and "ä" as in "father". So we cannot tell how to pronounce an English word just by looking at it. But Eskimo words are spelled as they sound.

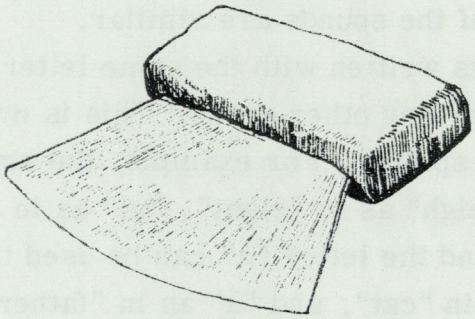
Some words are pronounced one way by Eskimos who live on the Coast and another way by those who live in the Kobuk River area. In cases like this we have to choose one of the pronunciations and spell it like that. People who pronounce it a little differently can read it as they would say it. We do this in English also. For example, people who come from Texas pronounce some words differently than those who come from New York. Yet the words are written the same.

The alphabet used in this book is similar to that being used by the Barrow area Eskimos. With the kind permission of the authors, some of the materials used here have been adapted from the Barrow area Eskimo Reading Books called IÑUPIAM UḲALUŅI.

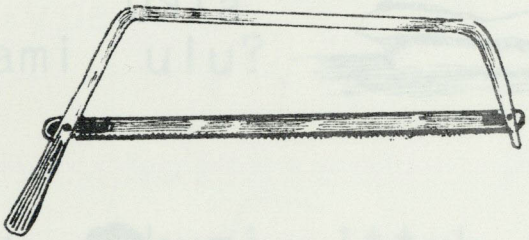
Wilfried Zibell
Summer Institute of Linguistics

1968

ulu



Tunu



uluun

Putu

siku

Putulu

Tunulu

sikumi ittuk.

Naami Putulu Tunulu?

Sikumi ittuk.

Naami ulu?

Ulu sikumi ittuḳ.

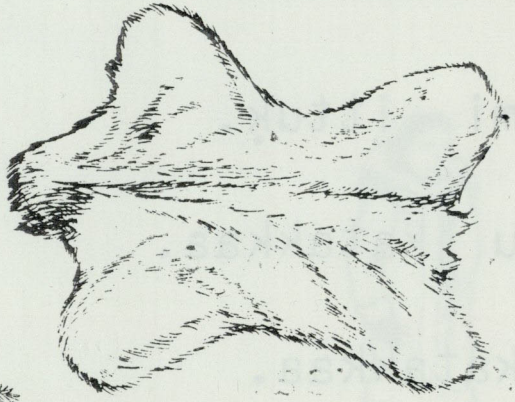
Tunum ulu katakkaa.

Sikumun katakkaa.

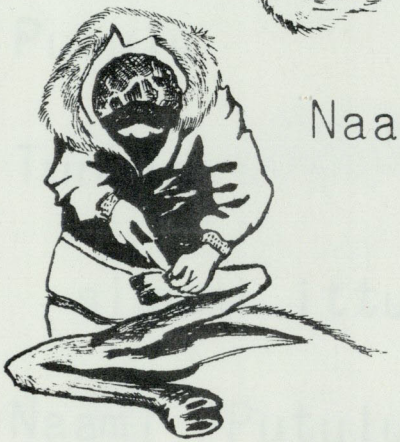
Ulumik pisukpa?

Ulu uvva.

savik



amiḷ



Naami ulun?

Ulumik

Tunu savakpa?

Saviŋmik savaktuḷ.

Putu, "Naami ulun?"

"Naamimi?"

Sulikivak?

Tunu sulikiva?

Tunu tuttumik amiiksiruk.

Savinmik amiiksiruk.

Putu sulikiva?

Putu uluutmik savaktuk.

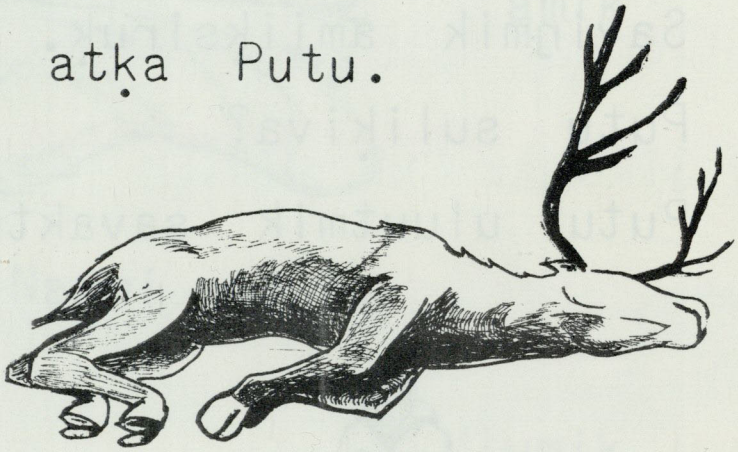
Putulu Tunulu savaktuk.

aŋun

Una aŋun.

Aŋutim atḳa Putu.

tuttu



Una Putu tuttutuḳ.

Tuttu aŋiruḳ.

Putulu Tunulu tuttutuḳtuḳ.

u
lu > u lu

si
ku > ___ ___

sa
vik > ___ ___

a
miḳ > ___ ___

a
ŋun > ___ ___

at
ḳa > ___ ___

tut
tu > ___ ___

iri

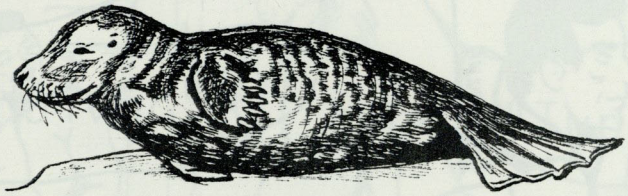
nuviivak

Irinŋuruḳ.

Nuviivak tiŋmiruḳ iriŋanun.

Arii! Irinŋuruḳ.

Irinŋupluni ḳulviruḳ.



natchiḳ

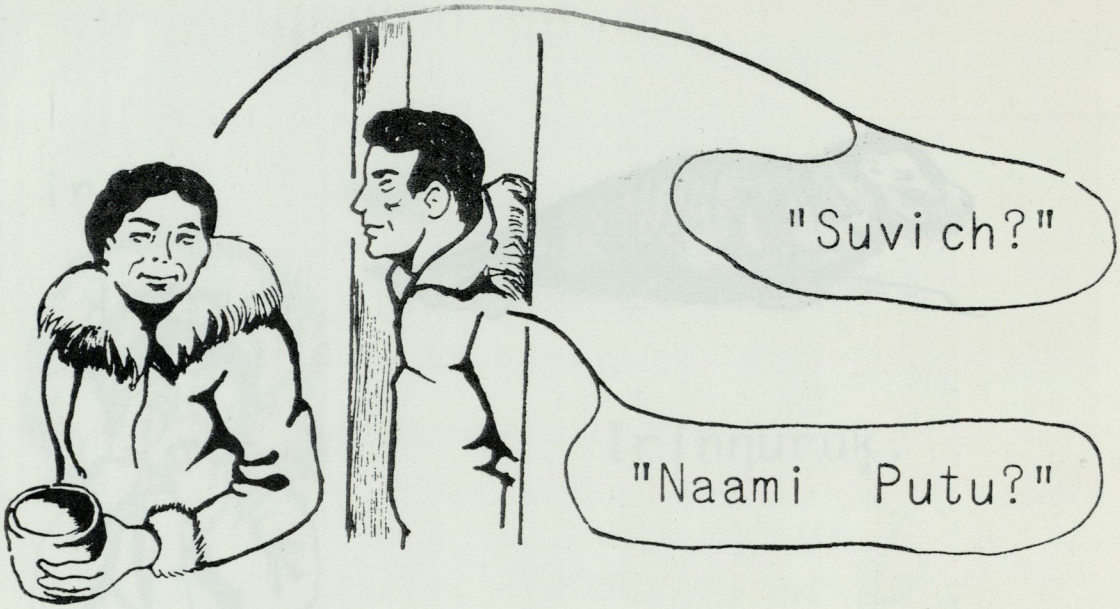
Natchiḳpa?

Putu natchiḳpa?

Ii, natchiḳsuḳ.

Natchiim niḳaa nakuuruḳ.

Putulu Tunulu natchiḳsuḳtuk.

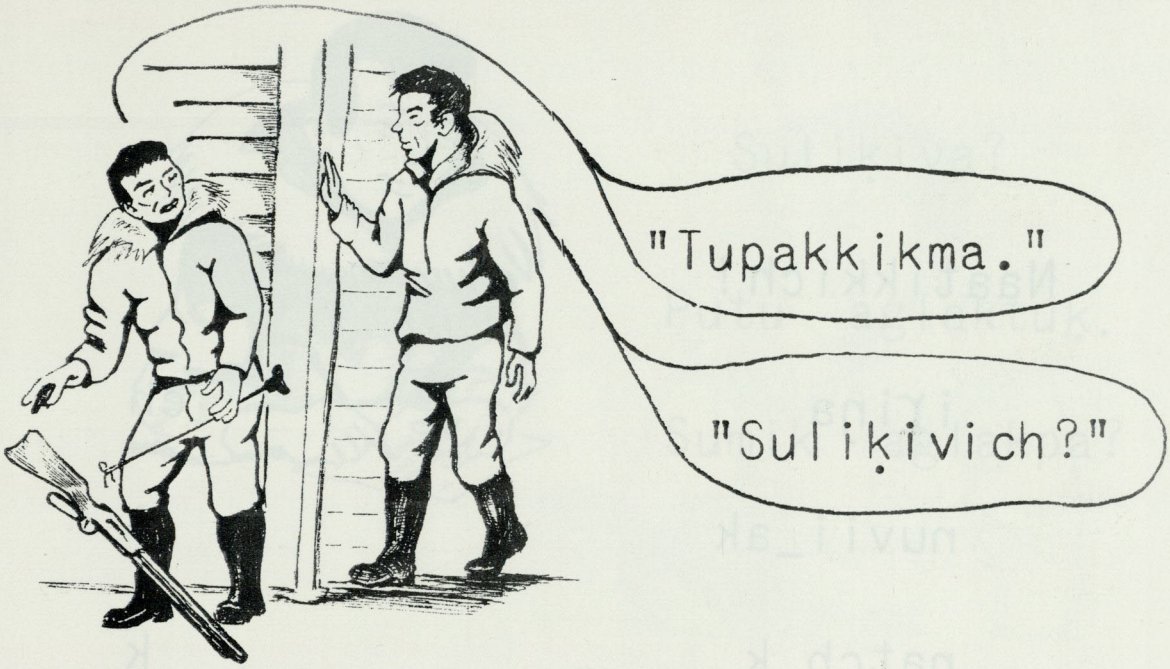


Tunu nipliksuk,

"Maani piitchuk. Tatkakma

savakpaluktuk."

Taamna anun aniruk.



Putu niplikṣuk,

"Salummaktuŋa satkunik.

Kaaglaan tikitpich?"

"Tikitchuŋa uvlaavak."

Putu, "Nani itkisivich?"

"Aliitchatkutni itkisiruŋa."

Naatikkich!

iṛiŋa	ch
nuvii_ak	i
natch_ḳ	ḳ
nakuur_ḳ	ŋ
nat_iim niḳaa	ḳ
Aŋutim at_a Putu.	s
Tuttu a_iruk.	u
Natchiḳ_uḳtuk.	v

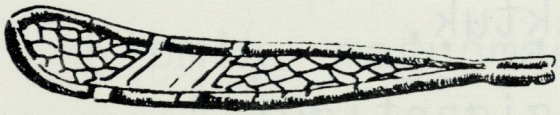
Suliḳiva?

Putu aglaktuḳ.

Sumik aglakpa?

Aglaktuḳ, "Nukatchaaŋ, taglukka mikipmiplutik nuŋumiplutik, taglukpaaŋnik piḳaḳpich? Aglakkumuutin.

Uvaŋa Putu."



taglu

aġnaḳ

Kisumik una aġnaḳ atiḳaḳpa?
Una aġnaḳ atiḳaḳtuḳ Tunumik.
Taamna aġnaḳ agliḳiruḳ.
Aġnam makpiġaat agliḳigai.
Sumik taapkunakŋa agliḳiva?
Agliḳipluni itnaḳtuḳ,
"Agaayutim piḳpagigaatigut."

igñiḳ

Kiña una?

Una igñiḳ, Putum igñiŋa.

Kiña igñiġum atḳa?

Igñiġum atḳa Katak.

Taamna sumik piḳaḳpa?

Taamna ḳipmiḳaḳtuḳ.

Kataum ḳipmiŋa aŋiruḳ.

Ḳipmiŋa maguruḳ.

Ḳipmiḳ magupman,

Katak tupiġmiñ aniruḳ.

niksik

Aġnaḳ una
suva?

Niksiksuḳtuḳ.

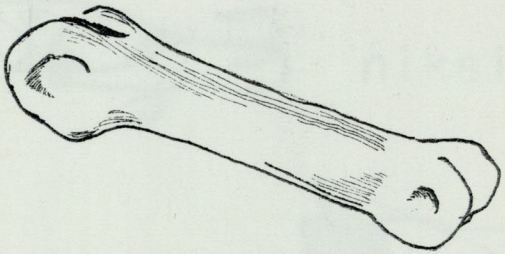
Taamna niksiksuḳpa?

Ii, niksiksuḳtuḳ sikukun.

Ḳaluk katakhuni imiġmun
utiġniḳsuḳ. Iitya!

Naatikkich!

Ulumik pisukpa?	kik
Ulumik pi___tuḳ	ḳaḳ
Nik___suḳpa?	ḳi
Katak ḳipmi___tuḳ.	luk
Aġnaḳ suli___va?	~~pa~~
Tupak___ma.	si
Nani itki___vich?	sik
Tatḳakma savakpa___tuḳ.	suk



sauniḳ

Ḳipmim tautukkaa sauniḳ. Taamna sauniḳ auŋaruḳ, nakuuruḳ ḳipmimun. Ḳipmiḳ nig̣isukhuni sauniḳtuḳtuḳ. Sauniḳtuḳḳami, nig̣isuktuḳ-suli.

ipnaiḷ

aiviḷ

Naniitpa ipnaiḷ?

Ipnaiḷ ipnaniittuḷ.

Naami aiviḷ?

Aiviḷ sikumiittuḷ.

Suva aiviḷ?

Aiviḷ sikumi siñiktuḷ.

pałuḳtaḳ

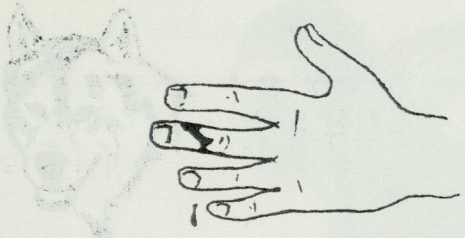
Siñaani aġiinaḳtuḳ.

Kiña una?

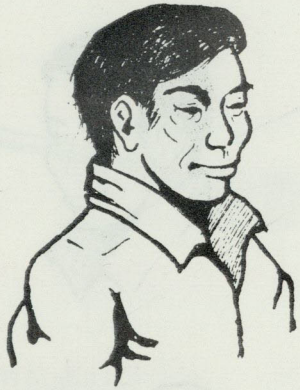
Una Aumałuk.

Aumałuk kuugum siñaani aġiinaḳtuḳ.

Aġiinałiġmiñi ḳaluŋmiglu pałuḳtamiglu tautuktuḳ. Ḳaluk igliḳtuḳ ḳipalaum ataagun. Pałuḳtaḳ siḳiłhatitnami nakkaḳ-tuḳ iñukhuni.



kiḷḷiḳ



itḳiḷiḳ

Taamna aŋun iḷisimaviuŋ? Iḷisimaṅġitchiga, taamna aŋun itḳiḷiḳ. Itḳiḷiḳ kiḷḷiḳaḳtuḳ. Kiḷiḳ-siġñiḳsuḳ ḳitiḳłiġmiŋmigun.

Jesus nipliḳsuḳ, "Ḳiḷaglu nunalu piiġisiruk, aglaan uḳałatka piiġu-miñaitchut." Mark 13: 31

Atrigiiksitchiiñ itna:

itḳiḷiḳ

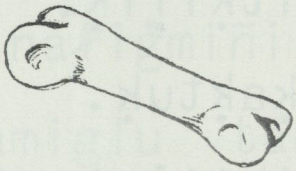
ipnaiḳ

taglu

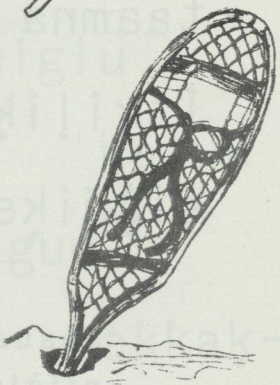
aiviḳ

ḳipmiḳ

niksik

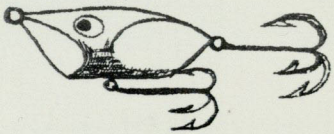


pałuḳtaḳ

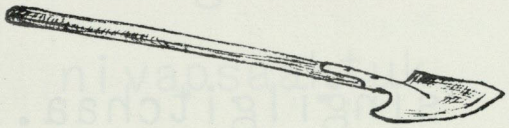


saunik

ulu



siksrik



piksrun

Aumaɬuglu Kataglu kuugum siñaani pisruktuk. Pisrukamik, siksrik tautukkaak. Katak siksaḳtuḳ aglaan sinġitchaa siksrik.

Taamna siksrik chii-chi-chiiḳhuni sisimiñun isiḳtiḳtuḳ.

Aumaɬumlu Kataumlu nivak-
kaak, aasriiñ siksrik aniḷ-
gitchuḳ. Katak siksalgitchuḳ,
aglaan siksrik sinġiḷgitchaa.

Aumaɬuk sisimik nivaktuḳ,
aglaan siksrik paḳinġitchaa.

Nivatitlugu sisaa, siksrik
sisikun atlakun aniḷgitchuḳ
chii-chi-chiiḳ-huni.
Siksrigum tupakkik.

Tarra isilgitchuḳ.

Aumaɬumlu Kataumlu utlakkaak sisaan iḷaḳataa aasriiñ nivapsaaḳtuk.

Aumaɬuk nivaɬallaktuḳ.

Uunaḳsiḷaḳami, aasrii-suli siksrik paḳiṅgitchaa.

Tarra tarani Aumałuk sisimik nivaktitḷugu, Katak sisim iḷaḳataanun utiḳhuni itchuḳtuḳ. Akkuvauraḳ siksrik sisikun atlakun aniḷgitchuḳ aasriiñ chii-chi-chiiḳhuni tupalgitchik.

Aumaługlu Kataglu iñiḳtuḳhutik, aŋiḷaaḳtuk. Siksrik akimaruḳ.

Tarra.

ATUUN

Agaayutim akiḷsruutai

1 Iḷsiñak, nayuġikpiñ!
Iḷsiñak, nayuġikpiñ!
Iḷsiñak, nayuġikpiñ!
Anniḷsuutigigikma.

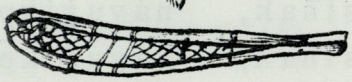
2 Ikayuġisigikpiñ,
Ikayuġisigikpiñ,
Ikayuġisigikpiñ,
Agaayun nipliḷsuḷ.

3 Iḷsiñak, nayuġikpiñ!
Iḷsiñak, nayuġikpiñ!
Iḷsiñak, nayuġikpiñ!
Piḷatigigikpiñ.

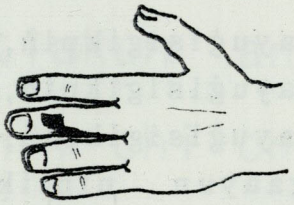
(melody: HYMNS, number 3)
(texts: Isa. 41:10, 13; 43:1; Deut. 31:6)

Iñuich sumik piḳaḳpat?

Katak ___ ___ ḳaḳtuḳ.

Putu  ___ ___ ḳaḳtuḳ.

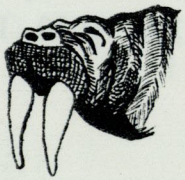
Aġnaḳ Tunumik ___ ḳaḳtuḳ.

Itḳiḷiḳ  ___ ___ ḳaḳtuḳ.

Suvat?
Aglagiñ itna:

Tunum ulu ___ ___ ___

Ḳipmiḳ ___ ___ ___

Aiviḳ  ___ ___ ___

Katak ___ ___ ___

Iviḳtitaġaat

1) Atmun ↓

a

Sanitmun →

1.

2.

	a				
1.	i	ġ	ñ	i	ḳ
	r				
2.	i	p	n	a	i	ḳ

2) Atmun ↓

a

Sanitmun →

1.

2.

	a				
1.					
2.					

3) Atmun ↓

a

Sanitmun →

1.

2.

3.

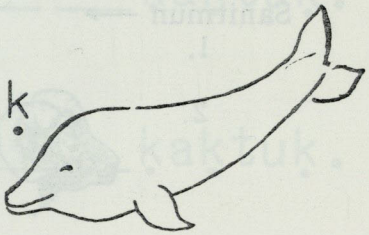
	a					
1.						
2.						
3.						

au
ḳauḳ

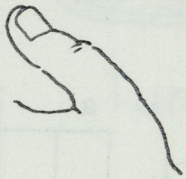
ua*
ḳuaḳ

saunik

sisuaḳ



kuvlu



kuvlua

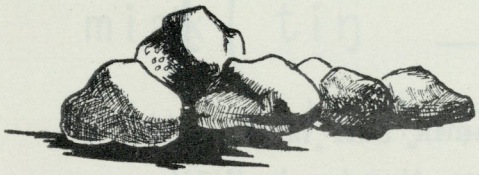
Ikayuḳti.

Putu savaḷallakman, Katak ikayuaḳsiruḳ. Kataum Putum saviŋa tigugaa suli kuvluni kiḷiġaa. Kuvlua aunaaḳsruaḳ-siruḳ. Arrii!

*Kuuvaŋmiut "au"-nik suli "ua"-nik atisruknaḳtut.

ai
iyaġaich

ia*
tiŋmiaḳ
tiŋmiruḳ

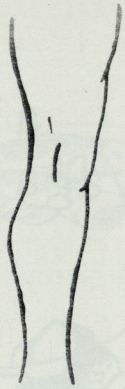


Tiŋmiaḳ mitchaaḳhuni, niġiaḳsiruḳ. Kataum taamna tiŋmiaḳ niġiruaḳ tautukkaa. Katak iyaġaŋmik tigusriaḳsipman, tiŋmiaḳ tiŋiruḳ. Kataum tiŋmiaḳ miḷuksanġitchaa. Taamna Katak ḳuviasrunġitchuḳ. Iitya!

*Kuuvaŋmiut "ai"-nik suli "ia"-nik atisruknaḳtut.

ui
tui

iu*
niu



Ķipmiuram anisriŋuksałha

Tunum pania piķaķtuķ uluuramik suli naniuramik. Aniķatiŋa tiŋmiuraķtiķtuķ. Taavruma tiŋmiuraķ iļiñiġaa naniuramun. Taapkuak piķaķmiñiķsuak ķipmiuramik. Taavruma ķipmiuram niġiļiġniġaa tiŋmiuraķ. Tarra tarani Tunum panian uluuramik miļuktigaa ķipmiuraķ tuiŋagun. Aniķatiŋan aķigaa taamna ķipmiuraķ niuŋagun. Ķipmiuram tuiŋalu niuŋalu atniġik, avaalaruķ.

*Kuuvaŋmiuni "iu"-lu "ii"-ļu atisruknaķtuk.

Taapkua iłuaḳsakkich itna:

lua, kuv kuv lua

miaḳ, tiŋ ___ ___

miu, raḳ, ḳip ___ ___ ___

si, ġiaḳ, ni, ruḳ ___ ___ ___ ___

yuaḳ, ruḳ, si, ka, i ___ ___ ___ ___ ___

tuk, tau, kaa ___ ___ ___

tuḳ, tiŋ, raḳ, miu ___ ___ ___ ___

ya, i, ġaich ___ ___ ___

Naatikkich uḳałhich

Piuŋ itna: Putum saviŋa.

Tiŋmiaḳ niġiaḳ___ruḳ.

Kuvlua kiḷiḳ___.

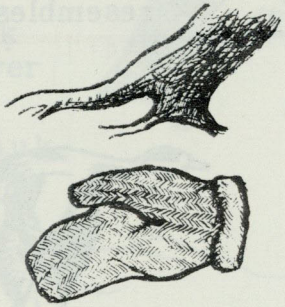
Tiŋmiuraḳ iḷi___ġaa naniura___.

ESKIMO ALPHABET Kobuk River / Kotzebue Sound Area

An English Pronunciation Guide

a amaaḳ
root

aatḳan
mitten



a is pronounced somewhat like the "a" in the word "father".

Double aa and any other double letter is held longer than a single letter.

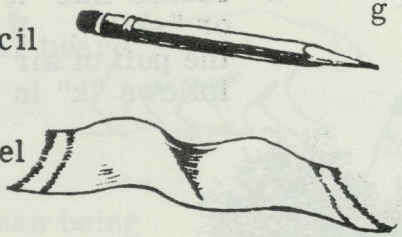
ch natchiḳ
seal

ivgich
grass

ch resembles "ch" in "church".

g aglaun
pencil

ivgun
towel



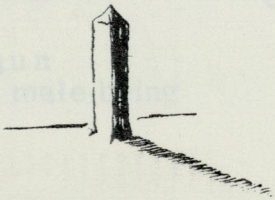
g before another consonant is like "g" in "go".

Elsewhere it is pronounced much softer as a continued sound, not as a stopped sound like the one above.

ġ aġviḳ
whale

taġġaḳ
shadow

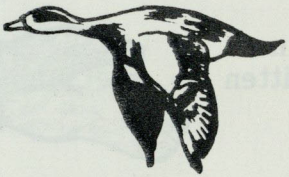
ġ is similar to "g" above, but is spoken farther back in the throat. Between vowels it is sometimes very soft and easily missed.

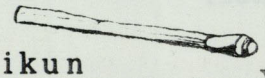


h ahaalik
Old Squaw

h resembles English "h".

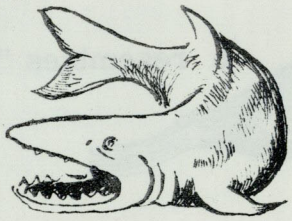
ugiihik
Baldpate





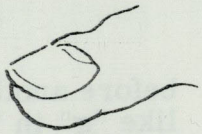
i ikun
match

siilik
pike



i is pronounced like "i" in "police".
Next to ġ and ḳ it sounds like "i" in "sin".

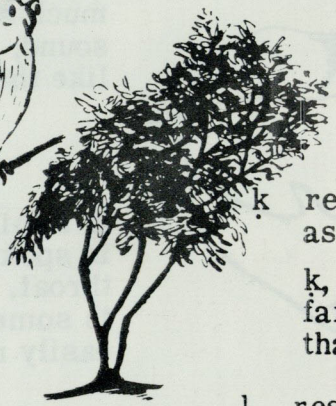
k kukik
fingernail



k sounds like "k" in "ski" or "skill". It lacks the puff of air that follows "k" in "kill".

ukpik
Snowy Owl

k uḳpik
willow



ḳ resembles English "c" as in "call".

ḳ, like ġ, is sounded farther back in the throat than k and g.

l ulu
woman's knife

l resembles "l" in "leave".

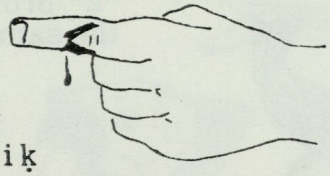
ḳallun
cup

ł pałuktak
beaver

kamikłuuk
pants

ł resembles "l" in "cleave". It is voiceless.

ḷ kiḷḷik
cut



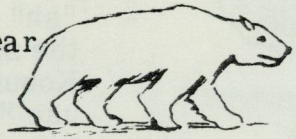
kiḷiġnik
knot

ḷ is pronounced like the letters "li" in "peculiar" or "million".

m mannik
egg

m sounds like English "m".

n nanuk
polar bear

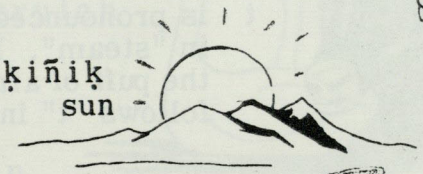


n is pronounced like English "n".

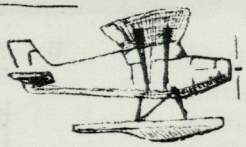
ñ iñuk
human being

ñ is pronounced like the letters "ny" in "canyon".

siḳiñik
sun



ŋ tiŋmisuun
airplane



ŋ is pronounced like the letters "ng" in "king".

aŋun
male being

p papik
bird's tail

p sounds like "p" in "spot". It is pronounced without the puff of air that accompanies "p" in "pot".

r argaich
hand, fingers

r sounds like "r" and "z" pronounced at the same time.

ugruk
bearded seal

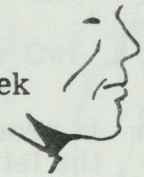
s suluk
wing feather

s is pronounced between English "s" and "sh".

sr siksrik
ground squirrel

sr sounds like "r" and "sh" pronounced at the same time. Where Kobuk River people use "sr" between vowels, coastal Eskimos pronounce "s". (See pages 32-34.)

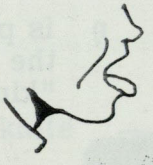
iḷsraḷ
cheek



t tuttu
caribou

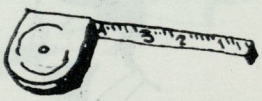
t is pronounced like "t" in "steam". It lacks the puff of air that follows "t" in "team".

u uḷaḷ
tongue



u sounds like "u" in "rule". Next to ġ and ḷ it sounds like "u" in "pull" or "o" in "okay".

uuktuun
a measure



v nuviivak
fly

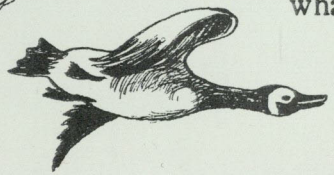
y nauyaḷ
seagull

v is pronounced somewhat like English "v" but with the lips touching.

y is pronounced like English "y" in "yes".

ai aiviḷ
walrus

ia tiŋmiaḷ
goose



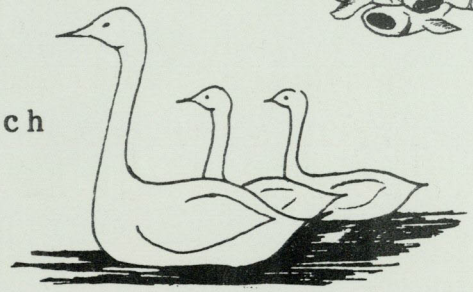
In the Upper Kobuk River dialect ai and ia are pronounced alike, somewhat like "ai" in "air".

au ḳauḳ
forehead

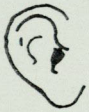
ua ḳuaḳ
frozen food

The Upper Kobuk River dialect also pronounces au and ua alike. There they are pronounced like "au" in "caught".

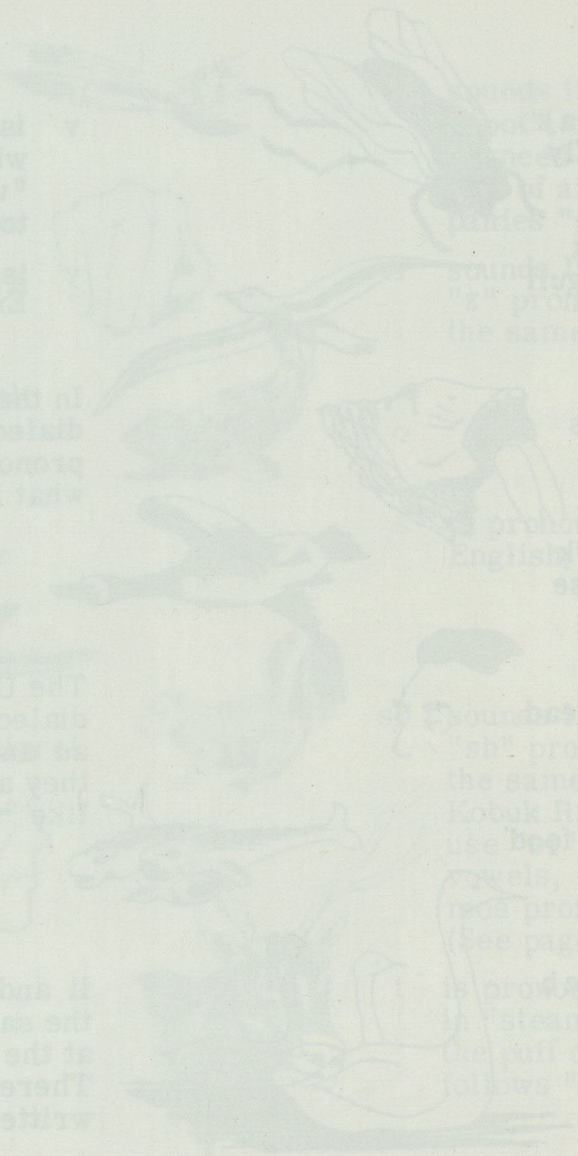
ui ḳugruich



iu siun
ear



ii and iu are also given the same pronunciation at the Upper Kobuk River. There siun "ear" may be written siin.

In some places where coastal dialects use a "k", Kobuk River people use a glottal stop spelled " ' " as in the following sentence:

Ani'ami tautukkaa. "As he went out, he saw it".