

hi'enéms x̄á'islakala
Songs of Haisla Language



Ab Morrison-Hayward



wísenis x̄á'islaḱala (Let's Speak Haisla)

Written by Ab Morrison-Hayward

wísenis x̄á'islaḱala, wísenis x̄á'islaḱala (let's speak x̄á'isla, let's speak x̄á'isla)
wísenis x̄á'islaḱala, wísenis x̄á'islaḱala (let's speak x̄á'isla, let's speak x̄á'isla)

It's time for us to speak x̄á'isla, it's time for us to speak x̄á'isla
It's time for us to speak x̄á'isla, it's time for us to speak x̄á'isla

wísenis x̄á'islaḱala, wísenis x̄á'islaḱala (let's speak x̄á'isla, let's speak x̄á'isla)
wísenis x̄á'islaḱala, wísenis x̄á'islaḱala (let's speak x̄á'isla, let's speak x̄á'isla)

'uiksisdáudsi'u (Put It Into x̄á'isla)

Written by Ab Morrison-Hayward

ḱéci q̄wémksiwaḱala (don't speak English)
ḱéci q̄wémksiwaḱala (don't speak English)
w̄ax̄ápena (every time)
'uiksisdáudsi'u (put it into x̄á'isla)

ḱelísedas q̄wémksiwaḱala (you forget English)
ḱelísedas q̄wémksiwaḱala (you forget English)
w̄ax̄ápena (every time)
'uiksisdáudsi'u (put it into x̄á'isla)

Slurpy L and the Running Man

Written by Ab Morrison-Hayward

Slurpy L and the Running Man, go together hand in hand
The sounds they make, you can understand
If everybody follows the plan

Slurpy L and the Running Man, go together hand in hand
The sounds they make, you can understand
If everybody follows the plan

Slurpy L goes: ł, ł
The Lambda goes: λ, λ
The Running Man goes: λ, λ
When he sweats he goes: λ, λ

Slurpy L goes: ł, ł
The Lambda goes: λ, λ
The Running Man goes: λ, λ
When he sweats he goes: λ, λ

Slurpy L and the Running Man, go together hand in hand
The sounds they make, you can understand
If everybody follows the plan

Slurpy L and the Running Man, go together hand in hand
The sounds they make, you can understand
If everybody follows the plan
Slurpy L and the Running Man

ʻikáiqelas lauyás (Happy Birthday)

Adapted from “Happy Birthday to You” by Ab Morrison-Hayward

ʻikáiqelas lauyás (happy birthday)

ʻikáiqelas lauyás (happy birthday)

ʻikáiqelas lauyás ʻengʷá (happy birthday somebody)

ʻikáiqelas lauyás (happy birthday)

ḡáḡalems du tísem (Moss and Stone)

From “Porcupine and Beaver” in Tales of Kitamaat, written by Gordon Robinson

Adapted by Ab Morrison-Hayward

ḡáḡalems, ḡáḡalems (moss, moss)

ḡáḡalems, ḡáḡalems (moss, moss)

tísem, tísem (stone, stone)

tísem, tísem (stone, stone)

ḡáḡalems, ḡáḡalems (moss, moss)

ḡáḡalems, ḡáḡalems (moss, moss)

λúxʷilas (you freeze)

ḡexqús (ponds)

ḡáḡalems, ḡáḡalems (moss, moss)

ḡáḡalems, ḡáḡalems (moss, moss)

tísem, tísem (stone, stone)

tísem, tísem (stone, stone)

ḡáḡalems, ḡáḡalems (moss, moss)

ṗáṗalems, ṗáṗalems (moss, moss)

ḷúḵ^wilas (you freeze)

ḡexḡús (ponds)

ḷúḵ^wilas (you freeze)

ḡexḡús (ponds)

ḷúḵ^wilas (you freeze)

ḡexḡús (ponds)

ṡaas ṗáli'eq^ws (What Are You Doing?)

Written by Ab Morrison-Hayward

ṡaas ṗáli'eq^ws, ṡaas ṗáli'eq^ws (what are you doing? what are you doing?)
lan ṗála'ina, lan ṗála'ina (I am working right now, I am working right now)

ṡaas ṗáli'eq^ws, ṡaas ṗáli'eq^ws (what are you doing? what are you doing?)
lan k^wá'it'ina, lan k^wá'it'ina (I am sitting right now, I am sitting right now)

ṡaas ṗáli'eq^ws, ṡaas ṗáli'eq^ws (what are you doing? what are you doing?)
lan lawit'ina, lan láwit'ina (I am standing right now, I am standing right now)

ṡaas ṗáli'eq^ws, ṡaas ṗáli'eq^ws (what are you doing? what are you doing?)
lan hémsa'ina, lan hémsa'ina (I am eating right now, I am eating right now)

ṡaas ṗáli'eq^ws, ṡaas ṗáli'eq^ws (what are you doing? what are you doing?)
lan kúta'ina, lan kúta'ina (I am thinking right now, I am thinking right now)

ṡaas ṗáli'eq^ws, ṡaas ṗáli'eq^ws (what are you doing? what are you doing?)

lan qátela'ina, lan qátela'ina (I am walking right now, I am walking right now)

maas páli'eq^ws, maas páli'eq^ws (what are you doing? what are you doing?)

kúsma (nothing)

'ikáiqelan 'islám (I am Happy Today)

Written by Ab Morrison-Hayward

'ikáiqelan 'islám, 'ikáiqelan 'islám (I am happy today, I am happy today)

'ikáiqelan 'islám (I am happy today)

'ikáiqela'us 'úx^wa, 'ikáiqela'us 'úx^wa (You are happy too, you are happy too)

'ikáiqela'us 'úx^wa (You are happy too)

'ikáiqelan 'islám, 'ikáiqelan 'islám (I am happy today, I am happy today)

'ikáiqelan 'islám (I am happy today)

'ikáiqela'us 'úx^wa, 'ikáiqela'us 'úx^wa (You are happy too, you are happy too)

'ikáiqela'us 'úx^wa (You are happy too)

lin (Love Song)

Written by Ab Morrison-Hayward

Lyrics translated by Vera Wilson

yeqsú gizuáenc (you are my sun)

yeqsú gizuáenc (you are my sun)

yeqsú náḡ^wácienc (you are my moonlight)

yeqsú náḡ^wácienc (you are my moonlight)

ławínáinux^wnug^wus (I love you)

ławínáinux^wnug^wus (I love you)

ławínáinux^wnug^wus (I love you)

ławínáinux^wnug^wus (I love you)

yeqsú gúx^wdemaenc (you are my world)

yeqsú gúx^wdemaenc (you are my world)

yeqsú wásemenc (you are my heart)

yeqsú wásemenc (you are my heart)

ławínáinux^wnug^wus (I love you)

ławínáinux^wnug^wus (I love you)

ławínáinux^wnug^wus (I love you)

ławínáinux^wnug^wus (I love you)

’ikáiqelas nik^walilás (Merry Christmas)

Written by Ab Morrison-Hayward

’ikáiqelas nik^walilás, ’ikáiqelas nik^walilás (Merry Christmas, Merry Christmas)

’ikáiqelas nik^walilás, ’ikáiqelas nik^walilás (Merry Christmas, Merry Christmas)

I wish you all a merry Christmas, I wish you all a merry Christmas

I wish you all a merry Christmas, I wish you all a merry Christmas

’ikáiqelas nik^walilás, ’ikáiqelas nik^walilás (Merry Christmas, Merry Christmas)

’ikáiqelas nik^walilás, ’ikáiqelas nik^walilás (Merry Christmas, Merry Christmas)

henéms sísak^wimas (Song of Animals)

Adapted from “The Farmer in the Dell” by Ab Morrison-Hayward

’emazeg^wedelái, ’emazeg^wedelái (bat, bat)

lásu λepá’ina (you are now flying)

’emazeg^wedelái (bat)

múmug^wezu, múmug^wezu (halibut, halibut)

lásu málela’ina (you are now swimming)

múmug^wezu (halibut)

’iksduq^wia, ’iksduq^wia (eagle, eagle)

lásu λepá’ina (you are now flying)

’iksduq^wia (eagle)

λásiag^wemix, λásiag^wemix (wolf, wolf)

lásu gelá'ina (you are now crawling)
łásiag^wemix (wolf)

dexdexení, dexdexení (owl, owl)
lásu łepá'ina (you are now flying)
dexdexení (owl)

miaxmiagełái, miaxmiagełái (winter spring salmon, winter spring salmon)
lásu málela'ina (you are now swimming)
miaxmiagełái (winter spring salmon)

'iks ḡ^wiḡ^wáilas, mámíalagenc (Goodbye my Friends)
Written by Ab Morrison-Hayward

'iks ḡ^wiḡ^wáilas, wísenis lá'excì (goodbye, let's go away)
'iks ḡ^wiḡ^wáilas, wísenis lá'excì (goodbye, let's go away)
kécì yálek^wa, kécì yálek^wa (don't get hurt, don't get hurt)
'iks ḡ^wiḡ^wáilas, wísenis lá'excì (goodbye, let's go away)

'iks ḡ^wiḡ^wáilas, mámíalagenc (goodbye my friends)
'iks ḡ^wiḡ^wáilas, mámíalagenc (goodbye my friends)
kécì yálek^wa, kécì yálek^wa (don't get hurt, don't get hurt)
'iks ḡ^wiḡ^wáilas, mámíalagenc (goodbye my friends)

'áasgani ḡúda

Adapted from “Shave and a Haircut”

'áasgani ḡúda mayás (mouse close to you, cat)



About These Songs

This is a collection of songs that I've written or adapted over the past few years. The first track, entitled wísenis x̄á'islakala, was my first original song and it was written sometime in 2018 or 2019.

I intended for these songs to be learning tools. Not only for people wanting to learn the x̄á'isla language, but also for myself. These songs have changed over time as my knowledge of the has language grown. My pronunciation has improved and I have a better understanding of how the language works now, making it easier for me to write lyrics in x̄á'islakala. I'm not sure if I would consider these songs to be complete, there are things that I would like to work on more.

These songs were recorded on a DSLR camera with a small shotgun microphone connected to a digital audio recorder. There are some inconsistencies in sound quality, especially with the "I am Happy Today" song. That was the first song that I recorded and I was still making adjustments to my recording setup so that song turned out differently than the rest.

I would consider these songs to be demos, I do intend to make better quality audio recordings some time in the future. I mainly wanted to record these songs so that I have them documented, they're good enough for that purpose.

I get new ideas for songs pretty regularly so I'll be adding new songs as I develop them.

My hope is that these songs will educate, as well as entertain.

Recorded on Wednesday, February 22, 2023
Kitimat, BC

All songs arranged, performed,
recorded and edited by
Ab Morrison-Hayward.

Tracks 1–3, 6–11 are original songs
written by Ab Morrison-Hayward.

Lyrics for track 8 written by
Ab Morrison-Hayward,
translated by Vera Wilson.

Song booklet layout by
Ab Morrison-Hayward.

“Hank-ti” head design
created by Ab Morrison-Hayward.

lan ḡʷáʹina (I am finished now)

wa (the end)

