**PACL**

A database for linguistic research and language revitalization

**ATHAPASKAN**

- PACL is an acronym for Pan-Athapaskan Comparative Lexicon
- Athapaskan is a family of North American languages; it is part of a larger family known as Athapaskan-Eyak-Tlingit, which, with Ket, form the proposed macro-family Dene-Yeniseic
- There are approximately 36 Athapaskan languages spoken in three geographical regions
- All Athapaskan languages are highly endangered, many are moribund and a few are extinct
- PACL is a collection of 13,755 terms from all 36 languages, as well as dialectal variants
- The terms are collected from dictionaries, field notes and elicited from individual speakers
- PACL is divided into 18 lexical domains: Animal, Body Part, Clothing, Color, Container, Ethnonym, Food, Geographical Term, Housing, Hunting, Kinship, Natural Environment, Natural Substance, Numeral, People, Places, Plant and Tool

**MORPHOLOGY**

*K’enohzene’*

*K’e- -noh- -zen- -e’*

3rd PERSON SINGULAR POSSESSIVE

‘pupil of the eye’

The **Source** column informs about the origin of the datum, this could be from a published dictionary or grammar, field notes or from specific elicitation tasks. A page number is given if applicable.

**REVITALIZATION**

- As the numbers of fluent speakers dwindle - vocabulary can be lost
- Rather than borrowing words, speakers can fill lexical gaps by searching for etymologically related terms in sister languages
- As in medicine and science new words are required all the time. By studying how word-formation works historically across the family, new terms can be coined in a naturally Athapaskan way
- Lexicons have great cultural importance and can promote unity and cultural pride

**RESEARCH**

- PACL facilitates the search for cognates, which are words from different languages that are historically related (they were once the same word)
- Cognates are key in establishing sound correspondences, and thereby the structure of language families
- Cognates can be used to understand how language changes - and hence learn something about language evolution
- Studying word structure cross-linguistically can tell us what linguistic mechanisms Athapaskan languages employ in forming words