



University
of Victoria

Graduate Studies

Notice of the Final Oral Examination
for the Degree of Master of Arts

of

LUCILLE (LUCY) BELL

BA (University of British Columbia, 1999)

“Xaad Kilang T’alang Dagwiiehdang - Strengthening Our Haida Voice”

Indigenous Education Program

Thursday, April 21, 2016

3:00PM

First People’s House

Ceremonial Hall

Supervisory Committee:

Dr. Suzanne Urbanczyk, Department of Linguistics, University of Victoria (Supervisor)

Dr. Marianne Ignace, Department of Linguistics and First Nations Studies, SFU (Non-Unit Member)

External Examiner:

Dr. Nancy Turner, School of Environmental Studies, UVic

Chair of Oral Examination:

Dr. Christopher Lalonde, Department of Psychology, UVic

Abstract

The Haida language, *Xaad Kil* is dangerously close to extinction. The purpose of this study is to find out what traditional Haida foods, medicines, rituals, ceremonies and supernatural beings could revitalize the language. Drawing on archival literature and community interviews, I found almost 100 traditional ways to revitalize *Xaad Kil*. This study is significant because it shows that the language revitalization answers are within the Haida community and within the Haida culture. In this study, there are two dozen tradition foods, including foods with supernatural connections that support a healthy lifestyle for Haida language speakers. There are also two dozen traditional medicines that could heal the Haida language and the speaker and strengthen their connection to the supernatural world. In the next chapter, there are over two dozen rituals from Devil's club rituals to traditional naming and labret ceremonies that support language revitalization. In the last major chapter, there are twenty-three Supernaturals that could bring a language learner wealth, knowledge, strength and help to find lost items. In the conclusion, I talk about the impacts and limits of this study