

## **Karuk Kinship Terms: Blood Relations**

(assembled by Andrew Garrett)

This is a first attempt at organizing terms. Hopefully it has few mistakes; it represents my attempt to consolidate information in the Bright-Gehr dictionary with what Gifford reports in his *California Kinship Terminologies* (1922, based on work by him and by Kroeber. Later I will add relations by marriage, including spouses, in-laws, and relations involving divorce.)

### **Parents and Children**

Parents

**ákah** “father”

**táat** “mother”

Children

**axiich** “child”

**kach** “son” — rare (usually **avansáxiich** “boy” or **afishríhan** “young man”)

**yáachkan** “daughter” — rare (usually **yeeripáxvuh** ‘girl’ or **ifápiit** “young woman”)

### **Siblings and Cousins**

(The same terms are used for siblings and cousins.)

Female siblings and cousins

**kústaan** “sister or female cousin”

**nánach** “older sister or female cousin”

**chíish** “younger sister or female cousin”

Male siblings and cousins

**típah** “brother or male cousin”

**aaníhich** “older brother or male cousin”

**cháas** “younger brother or male cousin”

### **Aunts, Uncles, Nieces, Nephews**

General nieces and nephews

**axiich** “(man’s) brother’s child” (same as “child”)

**yíish**, dim. **yíishan** or **yiishúkach** “(woman’s) sister’s child”

Aunts and nieces

**míith**, dim. **míichish** “father’s sister”

**thúxath**, dim. **chúxach** “mother’s sister”

**fúriith**, dim. **fúnichish** “(man’s) sister’s daughter, woman’s brother’s daughter”

Uncles and nephews

**párah** “father’s brother”

**úfiith**, dim. **úfichish** “(woman’s) brother’s son”

**xúkam**, dim. **xúkamich** “mother’s brother, (man’s) sister’s son”

## Grandrelatives

For people in the grandparent and grandchild generation, and for great-grandparents, the calculation requires knowing who the relation is through:

**átish** “grandrelative through a man”: includes father’s parent or grandparent, son’s child, father’s parent’s sibling, sibling’s son’s child

**kúut** “male grandrelative through a woman”: includes mother’s father, daughter’s son, mother’s uncle, (man’s) niece’s child, mother’s grandfather

**kíit** “female grandrelative through a woman”: includes mother’s mother, daughter’s daughter, mother’s aunt, (woman’s) niece’s child, mother’s grandmother

The usage of great-grandrelative terms is not as well described. These may be only for the great-grandchildren:

**atishpíyaan** “great-grandrelative through a man”: includes grandson’s child

**ipkutpíyaan** “great-grandrelative through a woman”: includes grandson’s son

**ipkiitpíyaan** “female great-grandrelative through a woman”: includes granddaughter’s daughter

## Terms Used After Death

To refer to a deceased relative, there are special terms for parents, children, and siblings:

**ihkuus** “deceased mother”

**koohímachkoo** “deceased father”

**surukum** “deceased child”

**xakáanich** “deceased sibling”

Otherwise add **mit**, for example:

**axiich mit** “man’s brother’s dead child”

To refer to a relative when you are connected to that relative by a deceased intermediate relative, *the suffix -vaas is used*. For example:

**atísh-vaas** “grandrelative through a deceased man”: for example, the child of your deceased son

**kít-vaas** “female grandrelative through a deceased woman”: for example, the daughter of your deceased daughter

**ishá-vaas** “child of a deceased sibling”

**míth-vaas** “sister of one’s deceased father”

**paráh-vaas** “brother of one’s deceased father”