

Lesson Five
Hisgi Adelogwasdi

Plurals

The Cherokee language makes distinctions between living and non-living things and this is shown in plurals. These are used with nouns.

For living things, the syllable -n- or -ni- is used, sometimes a-n- or a-ni- .

For non-living things, the syllable di- is added to the beginning.

For humans, the syllable a- is first, with -ni- added as the second syllable.

Dog = gitli dogs = anigitli
Man= asgaya men = anisgaya
Box = kanesai boxes = dikanesai
Plate = telido plates = ditelido

However, plurality is often shown in the pronouns.

Awi tsigotiha = deer, I see him
Awi gatsigotiha = deer, I see them
Telido tsihyeha = plate, I am holding it
Telido degahyeha = plate, I am holding them

The plural can be shown in both the noun and the verb.

Ditelido degahyeha = plates, I am holding them

Using ani- at the beginning sometimes translates as 'people.'

Aniahwi = deer people, or Deer Clan

Our teacher did not teach plurals in our language class. Other than what is here, there seems to be no rules on expressing plurals, each word has its own way to express plurality. So these are only guidelines, I am giving you this information as a way to be able to recognize plurals when you see them.

These are the seven Cherokee clans

ANILOGI (ah nee low ghee) - Long Hair - known for peace chiefs

ANIWODI (ah nee woe dee) - Paint - known for making paints

ANITSISGWA (ah nee chee skwa) - Bird - known for bird medicine

ANIGAWI (ah nee gah wee) - Deer - hunters, known for deer medicine

(I know this looks like 'coffee,' KAWI, but the older traditional word for deer is GAWI.

If this means 'coffee people' then this is my clan hah)

ANIGADAGEWI (ah nee gah dah gay wee) - Wild Potato

GADA (earth) GEWI (goes thru it) Travels underground as the root of the wild potato.

These were the former enforcers for the ANIKOTANI, the Priest Class, and they were given this name to teach them humility.

ANIWAHYA (ah nee wah hyah) - Wolf - known for war chiefs

ANISAHONI (ah nee sha hoe nee) - Blue - known for making medicines