

What the pharyngeal?

“linguistics” but not too much.



Some linguistic terms to help you understand what people mean when they say glottal, wedge, etc. for Salish languages.

Do I really need to learn the nsəlxcin/ nxaʔamxčín alphabet?



If you want to learn language on your own, it helps. If you're wanting to get further than memorization, it helps. Ultimately, it is helpful especially so incorrect spellings aren't being made up.

vowels & consonants



There are still vowels & consonants, and knowing these helps with differentiating certain linguistic terms...

strésses or glóttals ?



when using these symbols glottals ' go over
consonants and stresses ´ go over vowels.

example: glottal c = ć stressed a = á

á í ú é



stressed vowels happen when there are more than 1 vowel in a word. The stress shows where to emphasize/make that vowel longer.

č k ǰ m



glottals make that letter “pop” or “shorter”,
but in order to know this it is helpful to see
these in action with an instructor or reliable
audio & text documents.

k^w q^w x^w k'^w q'^w



raised w (^w) is still one sound & “letter.” This will make a “rounded” sound with the preceding letter.

ǰ ǰ ǰ



a wedge is the chevron or symbol over x, c, or s. In nsəlxcin there are no wedge c's or wedge s's (ǰ ǰ) but they are used in nxaʔamǰín based on elder input.

ə ɫ ʂ



these are characters not often seen in English.

ə = schwa

ɫ = barred l

ʂ = running man

ʔ



ʔ = glottal stop

This is a brief pause in the word where the sign is.

ɣ ɣ̣ ɣ^w ɣ̣^w



these are pharyngeals, and can be glottaled
and rounded.