



Glossary

Gr.5 Snow Mechanics

SNOW AMAZING!

There are nine different aboriginal languages spoken in the NWT. Languages develop over thousands of years and they tell us a lot about the people who speak them and the environment that they live in. We asked speakers of some of these languages to translate some keywords related to snow, how it forms and how it behaves in different environments.

You'll see that some words translate easily and some need very long explanations. There are many words that have no translation. The same is true when trying to translate from aboriginal languages into English and French. We asked the translators to provide some back translations too. These show how different the literal meaning of the translation can be from the original English.



Ice

Frozen water

Dogrib	To / Ice
Inuktitut	Siku / Ice
South Slavey	Tę
North Slavey	Tę
Inuvialuktun	Siqu
Inuinaqtun	Hiku
Chipewyan	Kën / Ice

Condensation

Water that collects as droplets on a cold surface when humid air is in contact with it.

South Slavey	(Go-) Dětú / Condensation
North Slavey	Tu
Inuvialuktun	Qakurnaktuaq
Inuinaqtun	Aumaluangniq / Sweating droplets
Chipewyan	Kué neŁé / Water build up

Freezing

(of a liquid) be turned into ice or another solid as a result of extreme cold

Dogrib	Ehtq
Inuktitut	1. Quaqpalliajuq / Starting to freeze / 2. Sikujuq / Newly formed ice on the sea
South Slavey	Dětú / Tu zháité / Condensation / water freezing
North Slavey	Xetę
Inuvialuktun	Piqsiq
Inuinaqtun	Hikutingniq / Areas of ice forms
Chipewyan	Dél kën / Freezing



Hoar Frost

A grayish-white crystalline deposit of frozen water vapor formed in clear still weather on vegetation, fences, etc

Inuktitut	Ilusimajuq / It is covered with frost
South Slavey	Detú zháítę / Frozen condensation
North Slavey	Nęk'e rézo
Inuvialuktun	Qakurnaktuaq aryaqpauk-qatiqtuq

Metamorphic

A change of the form or nature of a thing or person into a completely different one, by natural or supernatural means

Inuktitut	Asijjiqpalliajuq / Beginning the transformation of change(s)
South Slavey	Xádé t'áh, t'ahsín, t'ahsín gúlí i íhléh / An object / person transforming into another form naturally
North Slavey	Así godi así t'á gúlú at'í
Inuvialuktun	Ungavausigaa nuna / Land that is changing

Melting

Make or become liquefied by heat.

Dogrib	Nayìì
Inuktitut	1. Aukpaliajuq / In the process of melting / 2. Auktuq It is melted / 3. Manguqsiaq / Food: thawing
South Slavey	Kó t'áh eedíł / Melting by heat
North Slavey	Tarík'ó
Inuvialuktun	Auqinigaa
Inuiniaqtun	Auktuqtiliaqtuq
Chipewyan	Nálghí / Melting



Sublimation

The process whereby a solid substance transforms directly into a vapor when heated.

South Slavey T'ahsín delq kó ts'ihzóó eedíli / A solid item vaporising through heat

North Slavey Tatsele

Inuvialuktun Auqiniktuaq puyuqmun / When ice melts there is steam

Evaporation

To turn from liquid into vapor

South Slavey Kó t'áh tu óóts'edenəhcheh / Using heat to vaporize water / liquids

North Slavey Tatsele

Inuvialuktun Imaqmun puyuq

Temperature

The degree or intensity of heat present in a substance or object, esp. as expressed according to a comparative scale and shown by a thermometer or perceived by touch.

Inuktitut Niglinarninga / The level of coldness / Uunarnarninga / The level of hotness

South Slavey T'ahsín dádéhkó / How warm a substance, or object is

North Slavey Elígu ch'iré

Inuvialuktun Sila / Refers to the weather

Inuinaqtun Qiqautilaanga / Measurement of coldness / Uunaqtilaangalu / Measurement of heat

Chipewyan ʔambit'as dáut'e / What it's like outside



Temperature Gradient's Effect on Snow

It makes water molecules move from warm snow grains (which are nearer the ground) to cold ones (which are nearer the air). The bottoms of the grains grow fast. The tops of the grain disappear (evaporate).

South Slavey **Zhah dádzhadéhndah q't'e gháádé dádéhkó q't'e. /**

How hot, or cold snow is due to its height above ground

North Slavey **îzi**

Inuvialuktun **Silaam ungavauigaa apun / How the temperature affects the snow**

