Intonation can be regarded as the rise and falls in pitch in a segment of spoken language. Different sentences have different kinds of intonations. For example, in English, yes-no questions have rising intonation. Gitksan is an endangered indigenous language spoken in Northern BC, and regarding intonation of yes-no questions in Gitksan, not much research has been done. Tarpent’s (1987) work on Nisg̱a’a, a language closely related to Gitksan, has found no signs of differentiation between statements and yes-no question intonation (p. 149). Rigsby, who also worked on Gitksan, did not find any difference between statements and yes-no questions intonation contours. According to Rigsby, yes-no questions in Gitksan are marked by a question suffix and there is no change in intonation from statements (p. 296).

We have potentially found evidence to suggest otherwise, and accordingly have decided to look into yes-no intonation in Gitksan. Specifically, we will be looking at whether or not there are patterns of intonation rising at the end of a Gitksan yes-no question. In order to observe the presence or lack of this phenomenon, we decided to analyze tokens we collected in an application that is commonly used for intonation analysis: Praat.

Our prediction is that there will be a contrast between yes-no questions and statements. The purpose of our project will be to extend this qualitative research into the expanding body of research on Gitksan intonation.

Themes:
Check (highlight) the most applicable theme according to the abstract.

| Innovation and Technology | Health and Wellness | Culture and Society | Sustainability and Conservation |

Comments:

Commented [L15]: Expand the tile to include a reference to the specific case study: Analysis of Intonation Contours in Gitksan as in Yes-No questions

Commented [L16]: Link first three short sentences to provide ‘punchier’ intro to the topic. For example: Intonation can be regarded as the rise and falls in pitch in a segment of spoken language and different sentences have different kinds of intonations, as in “yes-no” questions in English language.

Commented [L17]: Possible re-write: While intonations of yes-no questions in English has already been studied (citation), not much has been done for an endangered indigenous language like Gitksan

Commented [L18]: Citations in abstracts do not include page numbers (check MLA recommendations).

Commented [L19]: potentially? Re-write to say something to the effect: “The evidence we have collected and analyzed to date, seems to suggest a different outcome.”

Commented [L20]: Re-write: By applying the commonly used application Praat

Commented [L21]: Not sure what that means

Commented [L22]: See above for specific comments