

Tsalagi Gawonihisdi Aksasdothdi

Agitsi nole Agidoda

Terms for family members express relationships in the Cherokee language. Terms for family must be marked with pronoun prefixes that indicate the relationship. The pronouns that are used are the transitive pronouns that express relationships between two sets of people. For example, the Cherokee pronoun prefix *agi-* indicates a relationship between she and me. In a word for a family member, *agi-* indicates 'she is my ...' or 'he is my ...'

agi-tsi 'she is my mother' (or simply, 'my mother')

agi-hlogi 'she is my aunt' (or simply, 'my aunt')

agi-doda 'he is my father' (or simply, 'my father')

agi-duda 'he is my grandfather' (or simply, 'my grandfather')

In the table below, we take the third person perspective throughout. So, each of the forms can be translated as a sentence 'She is ...' or 'He is ...': *Sditsi*. 'She is your (you two) mother.'

<i>agi-tsi</i> my mother		<i>tsa-tsi</i> your mother	<i>u-tsi</i> her mother
<i>agi-doda</i> my father		<i>tsa-doda</i> your father	<i>u-doda</i> her father
<i>ogini-tsi</i> her and my mother	<i>gini-tsi</i> your sg and my mother	<i>sdi-tsi</i> your (you two) mother	
<i>ogini-doda</i> her and my father	<i>gini-doda</i> your sg and my father	<i>sdi-doda</i> your (you two) father	
<i>ogi-tsi</i> their and my mother	<i>igi-tsi</i> your pl and my mother	<i>itsi-tsi</i> your pl mother	<i>uni-tsi</i> their mother
<i>ogi-doda</i> their and my father	<i>igi-doda</i> your pl and my father	<i>itsi-doda</i> your pl father	<i>uni-doda</i> their father

When the perspective shifts, the pronouns change. If I want to talk about myself as a mother or a father, I use a different set of pronouns: *Tsitsi*. "I am her mother." Or perhaps I'm scolding you or giving you advice as your father: *Gvdoda*. "I am your father." Or perhaps I urge you to give advice to your children: *Hitsi*! "You're her mother!" We can consider a dysfunctional family from popular culture.

Han:	Luga, kag iyusdi tsadoda ?	Luke, who is your father?
Luga:	Gesdi yitsigata.	I don't know.
	Kag iyusdi agidoda , Owiwani?	Who is my father, Obiwan?
Owiwani:	Hiyatvdahvga Dahli Weda.	Ask Darth Vader.
Luga:	Dahli Weda, kag iyusdi agidoda ?	Darth Vader, who is my father.
Dahli Weda:	Gvdoda , Luga.	I'm your father, Luke.
Luga:	Ha! Hadi! Gesdi sgidoda yigi!	Ha! No! You're not my father!
Le'a:	Iginidoda , Luga.	He's our father, Luke
Luga:	Do gi? Sgido 'i-tsu?	What? Are you my sister?