Homework Assignment 2

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1 Question 1

In datasets $4-5-6$, the modified sentences are built on the model of datasets $1-2-3$. However, they are not natural sentences. Indeed, sentence $4.d)$ would more naturally be said as *Who did the person Mary met like ?*.

Yet, it would be natural to extract from datasets 1 to 3 this rule for building questions, and those datasets are made of frequently said sentences describing common events/questions, while the standard interrogative sentences built from datasets 4 to 6 are far less common (in French and English) as they would use passive modality.

Thus, this shows the difficulty for a child to extrapolate the rules for building questions (and thus learning language) from their environment.

2 Question 2

From sentences a and b we get that morphemes *kin* means *I* and *ku* means *he*, since those morphemes are the only that differ. Similarly, we get from sentences d and e that *ka* means *you*. Adding to that sentences c and g, we find that those morphemes also indicate the present tense, and that *shu* means *he* in a past tense. We extrapolate that *shin* and *sha* thus mean *I* and *you* in a past tense. Thus k indicates the present tense and sh indicates past tense

From sentences, c, d, e, we get that *wetamáxlekém* means *learning the (art of) weaving* and so that *kataxín* means *continually*.

Given sentences f and g, we can get that *wetamáx* means *to learn* and *lekém* means *(the art of) weaving*.

From sentences a and b we identify the morpheme *sikíxlelíbr* to mean *to study the book*, and, adding sentence h we get *wír* means *yesterday*.

Based on our knowledge of other languages, we might want to hypothetise that in *sikíxlelíbr*, *sikíx* means *study*, *le* means *the* and *líbr* means *book*. In fact, based on the syntaxic order of then sentences we have fully deciphered, we may extrapolate that this language follows a *subject - verb - object* order of words, and so the hypothesis before seems reasonible, but still needs hard evidence. To sum up, we obtain this table 1

Morpheme	Meaning
k	Present Tense
sh	Past Tense
in	*I*
a	*you*
u	*he*
kataxín	*continually*
wetamáx	*to learn*
wír	*yesterday*
lekém	*(the art of) weaving*
sikíx	*study*
le	*the*
líbr	*book*

TABLE 1 – Table of Morphemes in the Dataset