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Problem 10. Kaytetye kinship

The Kaytetye language is spoken in Nothern Australia by a dwindling number of speakers – only 145 were counted in 2006. This problem focuses on the language's treatment of family relationships. Its pronouns distinguish singular (one person), dual (two people) and plural (more than two), and, as in English, three persons (first: *I*/we; second: *you*; third: *he/she/it/they*). Unlike English, however, the dual and plural pronouns, which refer to a group of people, also show the family relationships among the members of this group. (Every group is assumed to consist of family members.) For instance, the pronoun *ayleme* refers to a group of two people which includes the speaker, so we could translate it as 'we two'; but these two people must be related according to precise rules which would allow one of them to be the other's brother (for example) but not the other's father. The rules only allow a single pronoun choice for any given group of people.

To help in talking about these relationships, we can call one member X, where X may be the speaker or the addressee (the person addressed), but need not be. This allows us to define the relationship of the other person to X, so *ayleme* means 'a group of two people including the speaker and X's …' (where the dots allow 'brother' among many other possibilities). This classification yields nine dual pronouns, distinguished by three persons and three relationship-types.

Q.10.1. Use the answer sheet to fill the empty cells (A-G) in the following table of forms and relationships. Most of the forms are built regularly.

form	person	relationship
ayleme	1	X's sister
aylake	1	X's father
A	1	X's mother
elweme	3	X's father's father
mpwele	2	X's father's father's brother's son's daughter
B	3	X's father
mpwelake	C	X's daughter (where X is a man)
mpwele	2	X's sister
elwanthe	3	X's mother
D	2	X's spouse
ayleme	1	X's father's father's sister
elwanthe	3	X's spouse
aylake	1	X's father's brother
E	3	X's father's father's father
elwanthe	3	X's spouse's brother's spouse's sister
F	1	X's father's brother's son's son's daughter
G	2	X's father's mother's brother
elwanthe	3	unknown relationship to X

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Q.10.2. Plural pronouns follow similar rules. Use the answer sheet to fill gaps H-J in the next table.

form	person	relationship
aynangke	1	X's brother's son's son
atake	3	X's father's sister
H	3	X's father's father's father's father
atanthe	3	X's mother
I	1	X's daughter (where X is a man)
errwangke	2	X's sister
J	1	X's spouse's sister
errwake	2	X's father's brother
errwanthe	2	X's mother's mother's mother

Q.10.3. Explain the word structure (morphology) and meaning of the Kaytetye pronouns. Feel free to use diagrams or formulae.

(This question will not be marked unless your scores for other questions put you in the top few.)

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Answer sheet for Problem 10. Kaytetye Q.10.1-2

A.	B.	C.	D.
E.	F.	G.	H.
I.	J.		

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Solution and marking.

Scoring (max 20 + 10)

- Q.10.1-2: 2 points for each correct cell A-J. (max 20)
  - '+' separates morphemes, but (of course) is not expected in the answers.
  - 1 point for one correct morpheme
  - Ignore minor copying errors e.g. anthe ~ athe
- Q.10.3. **Don't mark this question**! It will be marked centrally as a tie-breaker for borderline candidates (max 10)
  - 3 points for a good account of morphology
  - 3 points for a good diagram of kinship
  - 3 points for a good definition of the three kinship sets
  - 1 point for overall clarity of presentation

Q.10.1-2

A. ayl+anthe	B. elw+ake	C. 2	D. mpwel+anthe
E. elw+ake	F. ayl+eme	G. mpwel+anthe	H. at+angke
I. ayn+ake	J. ayn+anthe		

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Commentary

Morphology

The full set of pronouns, distributed by person and 'set', is shown in this table.

	Set A	Set B	Set C	morphology
'we two'	*ayleme*	*aylake*	*aylanthe*	*ayl-*
'they two'	*elweme*	*elwake*	*elwanthe*	*elw-*
'you two'	*mpwele*	*mpwelake*	*mpwelanthe*	*mpwel-*
'we plural'	*aynangke*	*aynake*	*aynanthe*	*ayn-*
'they plural'	*atangke*	*atake*	*atanthe*	*at-*
'you plural'	*errwangke*	*errwake*	*errwanthe*	*errw-*
morphology	*-eme/e/angke*	*-ake*	*-anthe*	

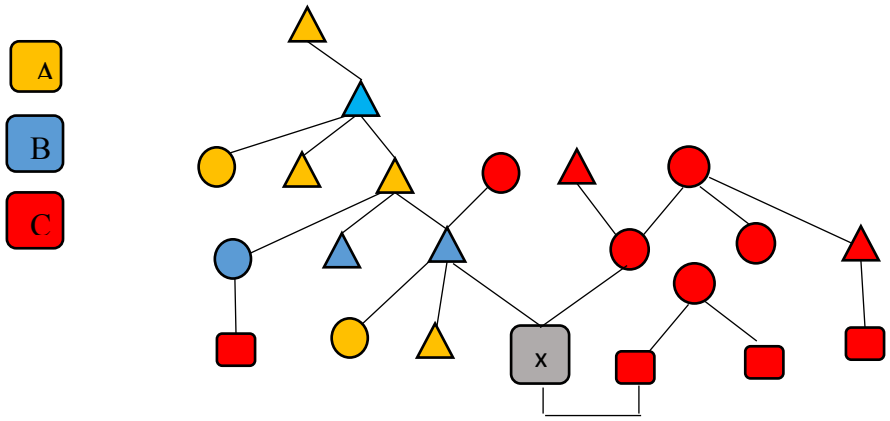
The only irregularity is in Set A.

Semantics

The three sets are based ultimately on the complex system of social divisions whereby each person is assigned automatically to one of two 'moieties' ('halves' of society) and to one of two 'generations' so that

- their moiety is the same as their father's (but not their mother's); they must marry someone from the other moiety.
- their generation is different from their father's, but the same as their grandfather's.

However, to solve this problem a candidate doesn't need to know about moieties and generations because the rules can simply refer to the geometrical patterns in a genealogical diagram, like this (with triangles for males and circles for females):



The sets can be defined in relation to this diagram:

- A: X + Y, where X and Y are linked by an even number of paternal links (i.e. links with a triangle at the top)
- B: X + Y, where X and Y are linked by an odd number of paternal links
- C: other

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For information, the sets for the presented data are the following:

DUAL PRONOUNS

form	person	relationship	set
ayleme	1	X's sister	A
aylake	1	X's father	B
	1	X's mother	C
elweme	3	X's father's father	A
mpwele	2	X's father's father's son's daughter	A
	3	X's father	B
mpwelake		X's daughter	B
mpwele	2	X's sister	A
elwanthe	3	X's mother	C
	2	X's spouse	C
ayleme	1	X's father's father's sister	A
elwanthe	3	X's spouse	C
aylake	1	X's father's brother	B
	3	X's father's father's father	B
elwanthe	3	X's spouse's brother's spouse's sister	C
	1	X's father's brother's son's son's daughter	A
	2	X's father's mother's brother	C

PLURAL PRONOUNS

form	person	relationship	
aynangke	1	X's brother's son's son	A
atake	3	X's father's sister	B
H	3	X's father's father's father's father	A
atanthe	3	X's mother	C
I	1	X's daughter (where X is a man)	B
errwangke	2	X's sister	A
J	1	X's spouse's sister	C
errwake	2	X's father's father's brother	B
errwanthe	2	X's mother's mother's mother	C