

(F) The Wiles of Reptiles (1/3) [15 Points]

Here are eight sentences in Dime.¹ The first seven are given along with their English translations.

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| 1. <i>guurafis kénim šuiftin</i> | The crocodiles deceived them. |
| 2. <i>?até goštú gúdúmubim ?óllóχ kúbit</i> | I carried a tall man slowly. |
| 3. <i>wúdúr čák'k'ind s'áámisim yefin</i> | A small girl saw the eagle. |
| 4. <i>guuru bášmubis ?eftafim gá?in</i> | The fearful crocodile bit birds. |
| 5. <i>zimaf daxidis zití s'anubim ?ólóχ maddin</i> | The strong chiefs helped a black ox quickly. |
| 6. <i>kété ?ámzi kitimindim kóχin</i> | They loved a selfish woman. |
| 7. <i>goštáf koxsimid s'ááme koxsimubism ši?in</i> | Pleasant men washed the pleasant eagle. |
| 8. <i>?ámzaf gúdúmidis zime bášmubim kúbin</i> | |

Notes:

In this problem, an accent above a vowel (e.g., in “kété”) indicates that the vowel has high tone. Unmarked vowels have low tone. A consonant or vowel written twice in a row (e.g., in “guurafis”) is pronounced for a longer time by the speaker. An apostrophe following a consonant (e.g., in “s'anubim”) indicates that the consonant is pronounced ejective (i.e., with air pressure produced in the throat instead of the lungs).

F1. Translate the eighth sentence into English:

The six sentences below were uttered by a linguist who had been trying to learn Dime. Unfortunately, only three of them were fully understood by native speakers; the other three were deemed incorrect, meaning they contained mistakes or were not understood at all.

F2. For each of the following six sentences, choose from the options provided to convert it into a grammatically correct Dime sentence. (Remember that three of the sentences are already grammatically correct — for these three sentences, you should choose option W.) For every sentence, only one option will successfully produce a grammatically correct sentence. Circle the correct option.

F3. Translate the corrected versions (or the original versions, for the sentences that were already correct) of the following six sentences into English. Write your translation in the box below each set of options.

¹ Dime is an Afroasiatic language spoken in Ethiopia. Estimates of the number of speakers of Dime vary from a few hundred, on the low end, up to a few thousand; all studies agree, however, that the number of speakers is decreasing, and the language is threatened with extinction. Dime speakers live in a series of farming communities located along a mountain range and have relatively little contact with outside groups. The speakers are skilled metal producers, with techniques for extracting and smelting ores forming an important part of their traditional cultural knowledge.



(F) The Wiles of Reptiles (2/3)

(a) ?até s'ááme s'anubim kóxín

- W. The sentence is correct as is (change nothing).
- X. Change "kóxín" to "kóxit".
- Y. Change "s'anubim" to "s'anudim".
- Z. Change "s'ááme" to "s'áámaf".

Translation:

(b) wúdúraf gúdúmid zime kitimubisim ?óllóχ šuiftin

- W. The sentence is correct as is (change nothing).
- X. Change "wúdúraf gúdúmid" to "wúdúrid gúdúmaf".
- Y. Change "šuiftin" to "šuiftit".
- Z. Change "?óllóχ" to "?ámzi".

Translation:

(c) goštú zitáfisim koχsim yefin

- W. The sentence is correct as is (change nothing).
- X. Change "goštú zitáfisim" to "goštáfis zitáfid".
- Y. Change "zitáfisim" to "zitudim".
- Z. Change "zitáfisim koχsim" to "zitáf koχsimidisim".

Translation:

(d) wúdúris guuru s'anisubim maddin

- W. The sentence is correct as is (change nothing).
- X. Change "s'anisubim" to "s'anindisim".
- Y. Change "s'anisubim" to "s'anubisim".
- Z. Change "s'anisubim" to "s'anisim".

Translation:



(F) The Wiles of Reptiles (3/3)

(e) *goštú čák'k'ubis kénim ší?in*

- W. The sentence is correct as is (change nothing).
- X. Change “čák'k'ubis kénim” to “čák'k'im kété”.
- Y. Change “goštú čák'k'ubis” to “goštaf čák'k'idis”.
- Z. Change “ší?in” to “ší?it”.

Translation:

(f) *kété s'ááme bášmubisim ?ólóχ gá?in*

- W. The sentence is correct as is (change nothing).
- X. Change “?ólóχ” to “?ámzi”.
- Y. Change “s'ááme” to “s'áámim”.
- Z. Change “bášmubisim” to “bášmidisim”.

Translation:

