

(M) The Speech Has No End (1/3) [Solution]

Answers

M1.

(17)	Apo o-na-duhuna babana ae-mi hi-gobu
	<i>You (pl) will sit down because your (pl) legs are dirty</i>
(18)	Inapa u-na-towolo apo u-na-mae.
	<i>If you (sg) stand, you (sg) will stay/be staying.</i>
(19)	Tewela hi-dewadewa ma natu-m dewadewa-na
	<i>The children are being good but your (sg) child is always good</i>
(20)	U-ne-nae nu tahaya daodao-na
	<i>You (sg) are going to the long path</i>

M2.

(21)	<i>You (pl) steal a swampy thing.</i>
	Ginouli bigabiga-na o-danene-ya
(22)	<i>If the path is long you (sg) will be dirty.</i>
	Inapa tahaya i-na-dao apo u-na-gobu
(23)	<i>Limi's difficult child is staying but is not settled.</i>
	Limi natu-na witewitei-na i-mae ma ega meme-na
(24)	<i>The children have substance.</i>
	Tewela ano-hi

M3.

When “child” is used to mean “a young person,” it is translated as “tewela.”

When “child” is used to mean “(someone’s) child”, i.e. “son/daughter”, then it is translated as “natu” plus a suffix marking the person and number of the “someone” whose child is being referred to:

For “your (sg) child”, the Tawala word would be “natum”

For “his/her child”, the Tawala word would be “natuna”

For “your (pl) child”, the Tawala word would be “natumi”

For “their child”, the Tawala word would be “natuhi”

M4.

There are several situations in which Tawala uses reduplication:

A verb (e.g., *peu* “fall”) can be reduplicated to form an adjective (e.g., *pipeu* “falling”)

A verb (e.g., *witai* “be difficult”) can be reduplicated to form a verb whose meaning is durative – that is, ongoing for a long period of time (e.g., *witewitei* “always be difficult”)

An adjective (e.g., *gobu* “muddy”) can be reduplicated to form a more permanent adjective (e.g., *gobugobu* “stained”)

Two specific adjectives, *dewadewa* and *bigabiga*, are always reduplicated.



(M) The Speech Has No End (2/3) [Solution]

Explanation of Solution

Syntax: The basic word order is SOV, but subject and object can be omitted if marked on the verb, and adjectives follow nouns. Clauses can be linked by **ma and/but** or **babana because**. A noun N can be followed by an adjective A to mean “N is A”, or a possessed noun N_p to mean “N has N_p”. **Ega not** precedes any part of the clause it is negating. **Inapa if** and **apo will** come at the start of the clause.

Nouns: Nouns are not marked for number. They are, however, marked for possessor with the following suffixes:

2s	-m
3s	-na
2p	-mi
3p	-hi

(Technically, these mark inalienable possession.) Note that **natu** means *son/daughter*, so is always possessed; **tewela** means *child* more generally, so is not possessed. **nu to** precedes the noun.

Adjectives: Adjectives take the form of reduplicated verbs (see verbs). Both when modifying nouns in a noun phrase or acting as a predicate, they take the possessive suffixes to agree with the noun they modify. They cannot be marked for the potential mood, so cannot act as the predicate in sentences beginning with **apo** or **inapa**.

Verbal Affixes: Verbs mark subject, mood, and object. The subject prefixes are as follows:

2s	u-
3s	i-
2p	o-
3p	hi-

-na- is inserted between the subject prefix and the stem, if the clause begins with **inapa** or **apo**. (This marks the potential mood, but this detail is not necessary for solving the problem). The object suffixes are the same as the possessive suffixes, except that **-ya** marks 3s.

Reduplication: Reduplication has distinct functions, depending on whether the root verb is active or stative. Note that reduplication is unpredictable.

Active verbs reduplicate to form a durative verb, translated as *to be V-ing*, which is still marked as a verb, and so is prefixing. They can also reduplicate to form an adjective, translated as *V-ing*, which are suffixing.

(see table of active verbs on next page)



(M) The Speech Has No End (3/3) [Solution]

Active verbs (*see explanation on previous page*):

Root	Durative	Adjective
-towolo = to stand	-towotowolo = to be standing	towotowolo- = standing
-dala = to crawl	-daladala = to be crawling	daladala- = crawling
-danene = to steal	-danedanene = to be stealing	danedanene- = stealing
-duhuna = to sit	-duhuduhuna = to be sitting	duhuduhuna- = sitting
-nae = to go	-nenaе = to be going	nenaе- = going

Static verbs can only reduplicate to form an adjective. This adjective has a more permanent meaning than the root verb. Two static verbs, **dewadewa** and **bigabiga** are reduplicated in the root form, so do not reduplicate to form an adjective. Thus, the only way to tell whether they are functioning as an adjective or a verb is whether they take a suffix or a prefix.

Root	Adjective
-witai = to be (being) difficult	witewitei- = (always) difficult
-gobu = to be dirty	gobugobu- = stained
-dao = to be long	daodao- = long
-mae = to be staying	meme- = settled
-dewadewa = to be (being) good	dewadewa- = (always) good
-bigabiga = to be muddy	bigabiga- = swampy

How to solve: Most of the problem is fairly routine (e.g. the syntax and affixes). The main difficulty is the reduplication. However, the key is to draw up the following table of how the reduplicated forms of verbs behave:

Redup. form takes both	Redup. form takes suffixes	Always reduplicated
towolo = stand / is standing	witai = being difficult / difficult	dewadewa = being good / good
dala = crawl / is crawling	gobu = is dirty / stained	bigabiga = muddy / swampy
danene = steal / is stealing	dao = is long / long	
duhuna = sit / is sitting	mae = is staying / settled	
nae = go / is going		

This allows you to see the difference between the active/durative verbs and the stative/permanent verbs, and see that **dewadewa** and **bigabiga** fit in the second category.

