

Your name:

The UK Linguistics Olympiad 2018



Problem 4. What's yours is mine (for eating) (10 marks)

The Austronesian language Fijian is one of the official languages in the island of Fiji, in the Pacific to the east of Australia.



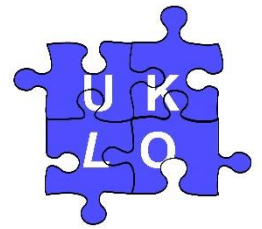
Below you can see a number of phrases in Fijian orthography.

- \bar{i} is a long i and q stands for our ng sound.
- Fijian, like many other languages, distinguishes 'inclusive us' (including you) and 'exclusive us' (excluding you).
- It also distinguishes singular, dual (two) and plural (more than two).
- A yam is an edible root, and kava is a ceremonial drink.

	Fijian	English
1	na uluqu	my head
2	na nona wau	his club (that he owns)
3	na memuni bia	your (plural) beer
4	na kemudrau itukutuku	your story (that is about you two)
5	na nona motokaa	her car
6	na meda ti	our (inclusive) tea
7	na kelemu	your (singular) belly
8	na nona dio	her oyster (that she'll sell)
9	na kequ uvi	my yam
10	na noqu itukutuku	my story (that I tell)
11	na watiqu	my spouse
12	na kemuni vuaka	your (plural) pig (that you'll eat)
13	na nomu kato	your (singular) basket
14	na tamana	his father
15	na memudrau dio	your (dual) oyster (you'll slurp)
16	na nodra vuaka	their pig (they raise)
17	na keda wau	our (inclusive) club (that we'll be hit with)
18	na kedra raisi	their rice

Your name:

The UK Linguistics Olympiad 2018



Q.4.1 Translate the following phrases into Fijian using the words given in the first column.

uto	heart	my heart	
yaqona	kava	her kava (that she's drinking)	
draunikau	witchcraft	my witchcraft (that is used on/against me)	
dali	rope	your (singular) rope (that you own)	
ika	fish	your (dual) fish (for dinner)	
wai	water	your (plural) water	
luve	child	her child	
yaqona	kava	his kava (drunk in his honour)	
waqa	canoe	our (inclusive) canoe	
yapolo	apple	their apple (that they're selling)	
draunikau	witchcraft	your (dual) witchcraft (that you're making)	
dali	rope	your (plural) rope (restraining you)	
maqa	mango	their mango (for drinking)	

Q.4.2. The word for 'coconut' is *niu*. There are three different ways to say 'my coconut'. What are the phrases and what is the difference of meaning between them?

Fijian phrase for 'my coconut'	Distinct meaning

Your name:

The UK Linguistics Olympiad 2018



Solution and marking.

Scoring (max 36) [NB there was an error in item 12: *na kemun i vuaka* instead of *na kemuni vuaka*. This error was compounded on the Noticeboard, where it was corrected to ... *yuaka*. These errors are obvious given the very clear pattern in the rest of the data; but I've allowed below for answers based on the erroneous data. There was also an error in the points for 4.2, which should assign 2 points, not 1, for each answer-part.]

- 4.1: 1 point for every correct word other than *na* (max 24)
 - No half points
- 4.2: 2 [not: 1] for each correct Fijian phrase and 2 [not: 1] for each correct translation (max 12)
 - No half points for Fijian
 - 2 [not: 1] points for a correct translation only if paired with the correct Fijian phrase
 - In translations, insist on some mention of
 - drinking for *mequ*
 - eating for *kequ*
 - ownership, or implied ownership (e.g. selling) for *noqu*
 - Accept examples in any order.

4.1.	uto	heart	my heart	<i>na utoqu</i>
	yaqona	kava	her kava (that she's drinking)	<i>na mena yaqona</i>
	draunikau	witchcraft	my witchcraft (used on/against me)	<i>na kequ draunikau</i>
	dali	rope	your (singular) rope (that you own)	<i>na nomu dali</i>
	ika	fish	your (dual) fish (for dinner)	<i>na kemudrau ika</i>
	wai	water	your (plural) water	<i>na memuni wai [or memun i]</i>
	luve	child	her child	<i>na luvena</i>
	yaqona	kava	his kava (drunk in his honour)	<i>na kena yaqona</i>
	waqa	canoe	our (inclusive) canoe	<i>na noda waqa</i>
	yapolo	apple	their apple (that they're selling)	<i>na nodra yapolo</i>
	draunikau	witchcraft	your (dual) witchcraft (that you're making)	<i>na nomudrau draunikau</i>
	dali	rope	your (plural) rope (restraining you)	<i>na kemuni dali [or kemun i]</i>
	maqo	mango	their mango (for drinking)	<i>na medra maqo</i>

4.2.	Fijian phrase for 'my coconut'	Distinct meaning
	<i>na mequ niu</i>	my coconut for <u>drinking</u> coconut water from

Your name:

The UK Linguistics Olympiad 2018



na kequ niu	my coconut for <u>eating</u>
na noqu niu	my coconut for selling, picking, etc.

Commentary

Table of pronouns used in the data set:

person	singular	dual	plural
1	-qu		-da (inclusive)
2	-mu	-mudrau	-muni
3	-na		-dra

(Simplified) System of possessive in Fijian:

The syntax shows the kind of relation that exists between the possessor (shown by the suffixed pronouns listed above) and the possessed noun (N), using extra words called 'classifiers': me, ke or no.

- no classifier, i.e. N-pronoun: inalienable / direct possessions: (most) body parts & relatives
- *me*+pronoun + N: drinkables / liquids and mushy-soft edibles intended for sucking, slurping or drinking
- *ke*+pronoun + N: solid edibles intended to eat; possessor is the subject matter or semantic patient
- *no*+pronoun + N: general possessions that don't belong in the other three categories, where the focus is on ownership rather than use; edibles and drinkables used for other purposes (e.g. selling, growing)