

(G) Cameroon Pidgin English (I/3) [5 points]

Speakers of mutually unintelligible languages with the need to communicate with each other often create *pidgin languages*. Pidgins are languages developed by speakers of distinct languages which come into contact but share no common linguistic background. Pidgin languages typically consist of linguistic features of the contact languages, and their vocabulary is typically derived from the socially or economically dominant language. Cameroon Pidgin English (CPE for short) is a pidgin language spoken in Cameroon, West Africa. The language has borrowed heavily from English.

There is no standard orthography (spelling conventions) for CPE. The data are presented in one of the ways in which CPE is represented orthographically; notice that o and o represent different vowels. For example,

go	'go'	do	'door'
man	'man'	dai	'die' or 'dead'
basiket	'basket'	fashon	'behavior'
haus	'house'	nes	'nurse'
bet	'bed'	sinek	'snake'
du	'do'	buk	'book'
kol	'cold'	sipun	'spoon'
siton	'stone'	kain	'kind'
shet	'shirt'	simen	'cement'

It is typical for speakers in a complex multilingual situation, as is the one which creates pidgin languages, to find creative ways to extend the usefulness of a small borrowed vocabulary. One way to accomplish this goal is by metaphorically extending borrowed words, as in the examples below, which are CPE compound words derived metaphorically from the English word eye.

ai kon	'interior of corn kernel'	bat ai	'evil eye'
benben ai	'cross-eyed'	bik ai	'greedy'
long ai	'covetous'	tr <u>ong</u> ai	'courageous'

In this task, you are presented with CPE vocabulary items derived in a similar fashion from the English words *hand* (CPE *han*), *head* (CPE *het*), *heart* (CPE *hat*), *mouth* (CPE *maut*), *black* (CPE *blak*), and *dry* (CPE *drai*).

Your task is to match the CPE compounds to their likely English translations.

GI. CPE compound words derived from the English word *hand*. Choose from the following translations.

	CPE compound	Translation
	open han	A. one of a pair
	tai han	B. generous
	wan han	C. mean



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G2. CPE compound words derived from the English word *head*. Choose from the following translations.

	CPE compound	Translation
	bik het	A. stubborn
	klin het	B. innocent
	trong het	C. intelligent

G3. CPE compound words derived from the English word *heart*. Choose from the following translations.

	CPE compound	Translation
	bat hat	A. kindness/generosity
	blak hat	B. calmness
	gut hat	C. wickedness
	kul hat	D. cleverness/craftiness
	koni hat	E. hatred

G4. CPE compound words derived from the English word *mouth*. Choose from the following translations.

	CPE compound	Translation
	bik maut	A. ability to persuade/flattery
	koni maut	B. haughtiness;bragging
	swit maut	C. dishonesty

G5. CPE compound words derived from English *black*. Choose from the following translations.

	CPE compound	Translation
	blak ai	A. wickedness
	blak bush	B. heart of a forest
	blak hat	C. dizziness

G6. CPE compound words derived from English *dry*. Choose from the following translations.

	CPE compound	Translation
	drai ai	A. unsubstantiated statements
	drai han	B. thirst
	drai nek	C. poverty
	drai tok	D. insomnia



YOUR NAME:

REGISTRATION #

(G) Cameroon Pidgin English (3/3)

G7. Answer the following questions. Did you notice...

A. ... the two different ways to say 'generous' in CPE? Write them below in the CPE orthography.

B. ... that English consonant clusters of borrowed English words are preserved in some contexts but simplified or elaborated in others? What are the most likely CPE words for the following borrowed English words?

stick								
market								
service								
old								
green								

