

Problem #4

The problem features nouns and personal pronouns. Three pronouns are given in the data, the fourth (required in Assignment 2) will have to be constructed by analogy:

	Sg	Pl
1 st person	bi	(bu)
2 nd person	si	su

All expressions in the problem denote something (**X**) belonging to someone or something else (**Y**). The possessor (**Y**) comes first, unmarked. The possessee (**X**) receives a suffix (-i, -ni, -u) indicating the possessor's person and number. This marker may be preceded by the suffix -**ni**, which indicates that the possession is alienable (that is, the possessed and the possessor are not in a part-whole relationship). Two occurrences of the vowel **i** merge into **i**: on a suffix boundary.

If there are two possessors with different possesseees (e.g., 'thy son's shoulder'), each gets the appropriate suffixes. If there are two possessors with the same possessee ('my boar head', 'your cow thigh'), the possessee gets a suffix which indicates the current possessor, that is, the one of which it is not a part.

Let us summarise all of this in a table:

possessor	possessee	examples
Sg (1 st or 2 nd person)	Y X-(ni)-i	bi wo: i , si bogdolo i bi mo: ni :, si ja: ni : bi nakta dili ni :, si b'ata ni : bogdoloni
Sg (3 rd person)	Y X-(ni)-ni	ja: xabani, dili tekpu ni b'ata zä: ni ni si b'ata ni : bogdoloni
Pl (1 st or 2 nd person)	Y X-(ni)-u	su zä: ni u, su ja: wo: ni u

Assignment 1.

su b'ata ni u zä: ni ni	your son's money
si tenku bugdi ni :	thy stool leg
si tenku ni : bugdini	thy stool's leg

Assignment 2.

the boy's thigh	b'ata wo: ni
our boar	bu nakta ni u
my daughter's tree	bi azigani mo: ni ni

Assignment 3.

bi xabai	Yes: 'my udder' (a cow speaking, shall we say, in a fairy-tale)
su b'ata ni u bugdi ni ni	Yes: 'your son's leg' (not his own, though, but perhaps a chicken's leg belonging to him)
si igi	No ('my tail' would be si igi:)

Assignment 4.

bi tekpu i	'my skin' (the skin of my body)
bi tekpu ni :	'my skin' (e.g., an animal's skin belonging to me)

Problem and solution: *Boris Iomdin*