

## 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 <sup>st</sup> person | bi | (bu) |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> 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 -ŋi, 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 possessee (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 <sup>st</sup> or 2 <sup>nd</sup> person) | Y X-(ŋi)-i  | bi wo:i, si bogdolo <i>i</i><br>bi mo:ŋi:, si ja:ŋi:<br>bi nakta diliŋi:, si b'ataŋi: bogdoloni |
| Sg (3 <sup>rd</sup> person)                    | Y X-(ŋi)-ni | ja: xabani, dili tekpu <i>ni</i><br>b'ata zä:ŋi <i>ni</i><br>si b'ataŋi: bogdoloni              |
| Pl (1 <sup>st</sup> or 2 <sup>nd</sup> person) | Y X-(ŋi)-u  | su zä:ŋi <u>u</u> , su ja: wo:ŋi <u>u</u>   |

## Assignment 1.

|                     |                  |
|---------------------|------------------|
| su b'ataŋiu zä:ŋini | your son's money |
| si teŋku bugdiŋi:   | thy stool leg    |
| si teŋkuŋi: bugdini | thy stool's leg  |

## Assignment 2.

|                    |                            |
|--------------------|----------------------------|
| the boy's thigh    | b'ata wo:ni                |
| our boar           | bu naktan <i>iu</i>        |
| my daughter's tree | bi azigan <i>i</i> mo:ŋini |

## Assignment 3.

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| bi xabai              | Yes: 'my udder' (a cow speaking, shall we say, in a fairy-tale)                           |
| su b'ataŋiu bugdiŋini | 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>i</i> | 'my skin' (the skin of my body)                    |
| bi tekpuŋi:       | 'my skin' (e.g., an animal's skin belonging to me) |

Problem and solution: *Boris Iomdin*