

zi	ži	yi
'it is yellow'		'it is brown'
	m <sup>i</sup> niža	m <sup>i</sup> niya
	'it is curled but can be smoothed again'	'it is shrunk permanently'
g <sup>e</sup> leza	▲ -----	g <sup>e</sup> leya
'it is ruled:    '		'it is striped:    '
		Nuya
		'it is hard and immovable (e.g. a gnarl on a tree)'
	šli	
	'thick liquid is being squeezed out'	
k'eza		k'eya
	p <sup>h</sup> ešniža	

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The words in each pair or triple are close in meaning but have the following property: as we proceed to the right in this table (and the farther from the fore-part of the mouth are pronounced the fricative consonants of the word), the higher in quantity or degree is some parameter: more sounds, darker colour, more serious damages, wider stripes.

#### Assignment 1.

- 'it has a slight bruise' and 'it is fractured' are similar to 'it is badly bruised' (šuža), but the damage is less serious in the former and more serious in the latter (suza and xuya, respectively).
- 'surface is in a scratched condition' and 'the surface is in a scraped condition' make a pair (k'eza and k'eya, respectively).
- 'it sparks' is translated by process of elimination (p<sup>h</sup>ešniža).

**Assignment 2.** 'a thin liquid is being squeezed out' is *sli*; 'it is soft and movable (e.g. an enlarged gland under the skin)' and 'it is semi-hard and movable (e.g. a cartilage)' are *nuža* and *nuža*, respectively; 'it is red hot' is p<sup>h</sup>exniya, 'it is branching into several directions' is *yata* (there is more branching than if something forks into two parts).

**Assignment 3.** 'it is brown and yellow (dark yellow, tawny)'.

#### Problem No.5

It is easy to note that the left column lists only intransitive verbs and the right column only transitive ones. If a verb in the left column means 'X', its counterpart in the right column means 'to cause X' (i.e. it expresses a so-called causative meaning). Apparently, the Chuvash verbs in each pair have the same root, but one cannot determine which of the two verbs is primary and which is derived from the primary verb using a suffix: in some pairs, the intransitive verb is shorter, and in others the other way round. If one admitted truncations, one would have to formulate rules with exceptions. Consider e.g. the verbs *čühen* and *vëren*, which have the same structure, but different behaviour: one is truncated to form the transitive verb (*čühe*), the other is constructed using a suffix (*verent*).

One may assume that the given pairs of verbs are different: in some cases, the intransitive verb is formed from the corresponding transitive one (e.g. *čühen* from *čühe*), in others, the reverse is true: the transitive verb is formed from the corresponding intransitive one (e.g. *verent* from *vëren*). Let us determine which suffixes are used in both cases: