

Nivkh: phonological classes

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Analysis task

Examine the following Nivkh sentences and their translations.

1. *if pityə vəkzʲ* 'He lost the book'
2. *cʰxəf ətək ŋafq ruʲ* 'The bear chased the father's friend'
3. *oʊla ɲzuʲ* 'The child washed me'
4. *if ŋafq əmək xeq ʎəlnuʲ* 'He saved the friend from the mother's fox'
5. *ɲi ŋafq vaχ pəkzʲ* 'I lost the friend's stone'
6. *oʊla ŋafq zosqɕ* 'The child's friend destroyed it'
7. *kʰeq zɛŋi paχ tʰəprʲ* 'The fox brought the salmon's stone'
8. *əmək rəf cosqɕ* 'The mother's house got destroyed'
9. *cʰxəf təf pilʲ* 'The bear's house is big'
10. *ɲivx oʊla cʰxəf kəlnuʲ* 'The man saved the child from the bear'
11. *ətək əmək zɛŋi ʎəprʲ* 'The father brought the mother's salmon'
12. *oʊla cʰo rəʋrʲ* 'The child watched the fish'
13. *qan pəkzʲ* 'The dog got lost'

Translate into English

1. *qan cʰxəf cuʲ*
2. *ɲi zuʲ*
3. *if ɲraʋrʲ*

Translate into Nivkh

1. The child chased the bear
2. The mother's book got lost
3. I brought the friend's bear

Some of the original thirteen sentences have other possible translations. Can you spot any?

Additional task

Examine the plural forms of some of the words from the first task. To simplify your task, they are already grouped by allomorph. Can you describe how the plural is formed in Nivkh? Describe any similarities between the formation of the plural and any other phenomena you are familiar with from the first task.

Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4
<i>c^hxəfku</i>	<i>əməkxu</i>	<i>pityəyu</i>	<i>qangu</i>
<i>təfku</i>	<i>ətəkxu</i>	<i>c^hoɣu</i>	<i>nivygu</i>
<i>paxku</i>	<i>ɣafqxu</i>	<i>zeniyu</i>	<i>ovlagu</i>
	<i>k^heqxu</i>		

Considering all your previous answers, translate the following sentences into English. Can you observe any new phenomena, and explain why the words behave this way?

1. *if qan t^həprɟ*
2. *əmək qan juɟ*
3. *ovla bitɣə pəkzɟ*
4. *ni nivx t^huɟ*
5. *c^hxəf nivɣ bəkzɟ*

If you can, translate 'I saved the child from the father's dog' into Nivkh.