Nivkh: phonological classes

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Analysis task

Examine the following Nivkh sentences and their translations.

1. *if pitɣə vəkzɬ* 'He lost the book'
2. *cʰxəf ətək ŋafq ɣuɬ* 'The bear chased the father's friend'
3. *oʁla ɲzuɬ* 'The child washed me'
4. *if ŋafq əmək xeq ɣəlnuɬ* 'He saved the friend from the mother's fox'
5. *ɲi ŋafq vaχ pəkzɬ* 'I lost the friend's stone'
6. *oʁla ŋafq zosqc* 'The child's friend destroyed it'
7. *kʰeq cʰxəf paχ tʰəprɬ* 'The fox brought the bear's stone'
8. *əmək rəf cosqc* 'The mother's house got destroyed'
9. *cʰxəf təf piɬ* 'The bear's house is big'
10. *ɲivx oʁla cʰxəf kəlnuɬ* 'The man saved the child from the bear'
11. *ətək əmək zeŋi ɣəprɬ* 'The father brought the mother's salmon'
12. *oʁla cʰo raʁrɬ* 'The child watched the fish'
13. *qan pəkzɬ* 'The dog got lost'

Translate into English

1. *qan cʰxəf cuɬ*
2. *ɲi zuɬ*
3. *if ɲraʁrɬ*

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
cʰxəfku	əməkxu	pitɣəɣu	qanɡu
təfku	ətəkxu	cʰoɣu	ɲivɣɡu
paχku	ŋafqxu	zeŋiɣu	oʁlaɡu
	kʰeqxu		

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 tʰəprɟ*
2. *əmək qan ɟuɟ*
3. *oʁla bitɣə pəkzɟ*
4. *ɲi ɲivx tʰuɟ*
5. *cʰxəf ɲivɣ bəkzɟ*

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