

2 My foot, his feet in Zapotec (5 marks)

Isthmus Zapotec is a language spoken in the state of Oaxaca in the southern part of Mexico, west of the Isthmus of Tehuantepec. Based on a 2000 census, it is the native language of 75,000-100,000 people.

Examine the following data from this language and complete the tasks. Note: The data are presented in phonetic transcription (with symbols of the International Phonetic Alphabet). The symbols ʒ and ʃ stand for the consonants in the middle of *pleasure* and *washer*, and ? is the glottal stop. Note that Zapotec distinguishes singular and plural ‘you’.

Word in Isthmus Zapotec	Translation
nee	foot
kazikebe	his shoulders
neelu?	your (singular) foot
kaʒigitu	your (plural) chins
ʒike	shoulder
bisozedu	our father

Questions

Answer these questions on the separate answer sheet.

2.1 How does Zapotec express the following ideas? (For example, you might say that English expresses the idea ‘plural’ by adding *-s*.)

- a. plural
- b. your (singular)
- c. your (plural)
- d. his
- e. our

2.2 What do the following Zapotec words mean?

- f. kaneebe
- g. kabisozedu
- h. kaneetu
- i. bisozelu?
- j. kažiketu

2.3 If *diaga* means ‘ear’, how would you say ‘your (pl.) ears’?

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11 points:

- 2.1-2: 1 point each for a-j,
- 2.3: 1
- No half points.
- 2.1: Require exact spelling, including '?', but ignore absence of hyphen. Accept prose, e.g. 'end in -be', 'ka at beginning'.
- 2.2: Require singular/plural after 'your', but accept any abbreviation for 'singular' and 'plural'.
- 2.3: Require exact form.

2.1. a. ka-	b. -lu?	c. -tu	d. -be	e. -du
2.2. f. his feet	g. our fathers	h. your (pl.) feet	i. your (sg) father	j. your (pl.) shoulders
2.3. kadiagatu				