

Problem 1. Yawalapiti (15 marks)

Yawalapiti is an Arawakan language spoken by the Yawalapiti people in Xingu Park in Brazil. It only has three remaining fluent speakers, although some others have partial memories of the language. Some other adults and children are also learning the language.

Below are some words in Yawalapiti with their English translations. Note that **i** is a vowel; **jn** ≈ ny in *canyon*; **§** ≈ sh in *ship*; **ts** ≈ ts in *cats*; **tʃ** = ch in *chip*.



itsapaka	<i>your (pl) cheek</i>	pamikula	<i>your (sg) friend</i>
ikuṣu	<i>his head</i>	nupinatsi	<i>my hut</i>
aputaka kuma	<i>our city</i>	hitsapulu kuma	<i>your (sg) gorilla</i>
awiujatsi	<i>our pond</i>	itsipa kuma	<i>your (pl) mountain</i>
ipina	{ <i>his house</i> <i>your (pl) house</i>	namikula	<i>my friend</i>
imotola	<i>his motor</i>	hitsipulu	<i>your (sg) knee</i>
inamikula	<i>his friend</i>	itapaka	<i>his cheek</i>
itſuṣu	<i>your (pl) head</i>	hirutakatsi	<i>your (sg) village</i>
numunujati	<i>my forehead</i>	akapulu	<i>our spider monkey</i>
awita	<i>our bow</i>	hitsipatsi	<i>your (sg) pebble</i>

Q 1.1 A linguist studying Yawalapiti was surprised by one of the meanings of **ipina**. Which one, and what did they expect the Yawalapiti word with that meaning to be?

Below are some more Yawalapiti words, with their English translations in a random order. The Panará are another Indigenous people in Mato Grosso, who were forcibly relocated to the Xingu in 1975. Despite since returning to their traditional homeland, they still hunt in the Xingu, where they are famous for their use of extremely large bows, as opposed to modern firearms.

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. hijnunujati | A. <i>your (pl) arrow</i> |
| 2. ikupati | B. <i>your (sg) Panará bow</i> |
| 3. iniuja | C. <i>your (pl) creek</i> |
| 4. iukula | D. <i>his fish</i> |
| 5. iwipitsi | E. <i>your (sg) forehead</i> |
| 6. pita kuma | F. <i>his lake</i> |

Q 1.2 Determine the correct correspondences.

Q 1.3 The linguist obtained 6 more Yawalapiti words, given below. Translate them into English. They were again surprised by three of the words – in these cases, also write what they expected the Yawalapiti word with that meaning to be.

- | | | |
|-------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| 7. anukula | 9. inita | 11. pimotola |
| 8. hirinja | 10. itſupatitsi | 12. hiwipni |

Q 1.4 What would you expect the Yawalapiti words with the following meanings be?

- | | | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| 13. <i>your (sg) ocean</i> | 15. <i>his arrow</i> | 17. <i>your (pl) town</i> | 19. <i>your (sg) fish</i> |
| 14. <i>our dart</i> | 16. <i>my knee</i> | 18. <i>his stone</i> | 20. <i>our palace</i> |

Problem 1. Yawalapiti Answers

1.1 *your (pl) house* should be **irina**

For **Q1.2** write the corresponding letter under each item.

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.
E	D	F	A	C	B

1.3	7. <i>our arrow</i> – awukula	10. <i>your (pl) little fish</i>
	8. <i>your (sg) house</i> – hirina	11. <i>your (sg) motor</i> – hinotola
	9. <i>his bow</i>	12. <i>your (sg) river</i>

1.4	13. p̄iuja kuma	16. nutipulu	19. hitsupati
	14. awukulatsi	17. irutaka	20. apina kuma
	15. inukula	18. itipa	

Q 1.1 Max 3. 1p for correct translation; 2p for correction.

Q 1.2 Max 6. 1p per correct match.

Q 1.3 Max 12. 1p per correct translation. 2pt for correct expected form. If more than 4 expected forms are given, award no points for expected forms.

Q 1.4 Max 16. 2p per correct translation.

Problem 1. Yawalapiti Explanations

Words/phrases have the form: [Possessor]—[Root]—[Size].

Possessive prefixes are as follows:

	<i>my</i>	<i>your (sg)</i>	<i>his</i>	<i>our</i>	<i>your (pl)</i>
Before a consonant	n<u>u</u>-	hi-	i-	a-	i-
Before a vowel	n-	p-	in-	aw-	i-

Root-initial consonants typically palatalise after 2nd person prefixes:

$$\mathbf{p} > \mathbf{r} \quad \mathbf{t} > \mathbf{ts} \quad \mathbf{k} > \mathbf{tʃ} \quad \mathbf{m} > \mathbf{n}$$

But this is far from regular, as demonstrated.

-tsi is a diminutive and **kuma** creates a word with a grander meaning.

References and further reading:

- Yawalapíti, T. (2020). *Documentação e descrição da língua yawalapíti (aruák): uma língua que não deve morrer.*
- Mujica, O. (1992). *Aspectos fonológicos e gramaticais da língua Yawalapiti (Aruak).* (Doctoral dissertation, Univ. Campinas).
- de Carvalho, F. O. (2016). *Internal and comparative reconstruction in Yawalapiti: palatalization and rule telescoping.* International Journal of American Linguistics, 82(3), 285-316.

Note: the orthography used here matches the older one introduced by M. I. Ortega Mujica in 1992, as opposed to the more recent by T. Yawalapiti.