

Problem 3. Lezgian (20 marks)

Lezgian is a Nakh-Dagestani language spoken by the Lezgin people in southwestern Russia and northeastern Azerbaijan, with about 630,000 speakers as of 2020.

Below are some Lezgian nouns given in two forms, along with their English translations. The absolute form is used for the subject of an intransitive verb or object of a transitive verb, and the ergative form is used for the subject of a transitive verb, but this is not relevant to the solution of the problem. Some absolute forms are not given, but they do exist.



Note that *crimson* is a colour. **ü** is a vowel pronounced like **i** but with rounded lips; **c'**, **č**, **č'**, **ğ**, **k'**, **q'**, **š**, and **ž** are consonants.

absolute	ergative	meaning	absolute	ergative	meaning
sew	sewre	bear		güzgüzri	legends
iwi	iwidi	blood	c'ap	c'apadi	manure
jac	jacra	bull	nek	__(l)___	milk
	__(a)___	bulls	ğüç'	ğüç're	moth
dewe	__(b)___	camel	ğüç'er	__(m)___	moths
dewejar	dewejri	camels	q'aludi	__(n)___	muddy thing
gazar	gazardi	carrot		__(o)___	muddy things
žehredi	žehreda	crimson thing	rang	__(p)___	paint
__(c)___	žehreburu	crimson things		lifre	pigeon
__(d)___	__(e)___	donkey	lifer	liferi	pigeons
__(f)___	lamari	donkeys	ğer	ğeredi	saliva
__(g)___	sečkidi	election	__(q)___	üç'üda	salty thing
__(h)___	__(i)___	elections	üç'über	üç'überu	salty things
	makandi	home	nük'	__(r)___	small bird
makanar	makanri	homes	gum	gumadi	smoke
balk'an	balk'andi	horse	žiw	__(s)___	snow
__(j)___	__(k)___	horses	buğ	buğadi	steam
güzgü	güzgüdi	legend	šeke	__(t)___	sugar

Q 3.1 Fill in gaps (a) – (t).

Problem 3. Lezgian Answers

3.1	a. jacari	h. sečkijar	o. q'aluburu
	b. dewedi	i. sečkijri	p. rangadi
	c. žehrebur	j. balk'anar	q. üç'üdi
	d. lam	k. balk'anri	r. nük're
	e. lamra	l. nekedi*	s. žiwedi
	f. lamar	m. ğüč'eri	t. šekerdi
	g. sečki	n. q'aluda	

* The true form is **nek'edi**, but **nekedi** is the expected form.

Maximum 40 pts.

Q 3.1 Max 40. 2 pts each if correct; 1 pt with one mistake. A mistake is any of an extra/missing/incorrect letter (including diacritics). Swapping the order of two letters is not a single mistake. All letter+diacritic combinations (e.g. c', č, č') should be counted a single letter.

E.g. for t., **šekerdi** scores 2 pts. Any of **sekerdi**, **qekerdi**, **šakerdi**, **šekerd**, **šekerdit** all score 1 pt. **šekredi** scores 0 pts, since there are two mistakes.

Problem 3. Lezgian Commentary

		Singular		Plural	
		Absolutive	Ergative	Absolutive	Ergative
Polysyllabic	Adjectival nouns	-di	-da	-bur	-buru
	Else	∅	-di	-(j)ar	-(j)ri
Monosyllabic	Animals	∅	-rA	-Ar	-Ari
	Mass nouns	∅	-Adi		

- (j) is added after a vowel.
- After back vowels **a** and **u**: A = **a**.
After front vowels **e**, **i**, and **ü**: A = **e**.

Note: Stress usually falls at some lexically determined position, typically the second syllable. The reason that A exhibits vowel harmony is that it attracts stress and there is vowel harmony until the stressed syllable.

References and further reading:

- Haspelmath, Martin. A grammar of Lezgian. Vol. 9. Walter de Gruyter, 2011.

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