

Problem 3. Lezgian (20 marks)

Lezgian is a Nakh-Daghestani 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 absolutive 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 absolutive 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.

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

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. üc'üdi
	d. lam	k. balk'anri	r. nük're
	e. lamra	l. nekedī*	s. žiwedi
	f. lamar	m. ğüč'eri	t. šekerdi
	g. sečki	n. q'aluda	

* The true form is **nek'edi**, but **nekedī** 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. **č'**, **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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