

Introduction to Linguistics 1

Assignment 3

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Problem 1

A. Translate to English:

1. **snex'ílhçet** - our canoe
2. **ʔnsnáʔ** - my name
3. **sníçims** - his language

B. Translate into the language:

1. **his name** - snáʔs
2. **your (pl.) canoe** - ʔesnex'ílhs
3. **my dog** - ʔnslémái

Problem 2

A. Translate into English:

1. **~numunuβe** - I took them
2. **eyua** - you(pl) will cry

3. **timuanÿ** – She will see me

4. **βakaçuçukunuβetuji** – It is said that we were already lifting them

B. Write all possible translations for this in English:

5. **çisamanuβe** –

She will listen to them.

They will listen to them.

They will listen to her.

C. Translate into the language:

6. it is said that you (pl.) were listening to me - esamumuiku ~ nÿji

7. she was taking you (sg.) - tumumuikupi

8. they will lift her - çakaçanuβe

9. it is said that we will sit - βitiβuaji

10. I lifted them - ~ nakaçunuβe

11. it is said that she already saw us - timuβituji

D. Explain the phenomena observed.

Pronouns:

(subj-subjective pronoun. Obj- objective pronoun. 1,2,3 for 1st 2nd and 3rd person. Sg for singular, pl for plural)

~ nÿ_ - 1.sg.subj (I)

_ ~ nÿ_ - 1.sg.obj (me)

βi_ - 1.pl.subj (we)

βi - 1.pl.obj (us)

pi - 2.sg (you) (pi_ for subject, _pi_ for object)

e - 2.pl (you) (e_ for subject, _e_ for object)

_nuβe - 3.pl.obj (them)

φ - 3.sg.obj (here used for her)

çi_/ti_ - 3.subj (here used for she/they)

Here, ti is used when there's a single occurrence of a 3rd person pronoun in a word.

Eg. in tumu~nÿnuβe, the morphemes are ti+umu+~nÿ+nuβe, which means 'they took me'. Now, as there's only a single occurrence of a 3rd person pronoun in the word, the prefix added is ti.

çi is used when there are two occurrences of a 3rd person pronoun in a word.

Eg. in çumanuβe, the morphemes are çi+umu+α+nuβe, meaning 'she will take them'. Now, as there are two occurrences of a 3rd person pronoun, (both she and them) the prefix added is çi.

For 'they' in a word, even if it occurs **ONLY ONCE**, the suffix _nuβe is added. Eg. in tumu~nÿnuβe, the morphemes are ti+umu+~nÿ+nuβe, which means 'they took me'. The same is not seen for 'she' in titiβua (ti+tibu+α) or 'she will sit'.

So, we can hypothesise that when a 3rd person subjective pronoun is used, the objective form of that pronoun is also added as a suffix **WITHOUT** changing ti to çi. So, in tumu~nÿnuβe, nuβe is added as a suffix as it's the objective form of they. However, in titiβua, no suffix is added as there is no specific marker for the objective version of she (her).

I assume that this allows the speakers of this language to understand if the 3rd person pronoun (ti) is being used in a singular or plural sense depending on the presence or absence of nuβe.

There will still be confusion for çi as seen in Q5.

However, the absence of _nuβe in words with the prefix çi can tell us that the speaker is probably using a "she her" format in the sentence (He...him not given as example as no instance of that in data set)

The presence of _nuβe in words with the prefix çi can tell us that the speaker is probably using a "She....them"

"They...her"

"They...them"

format

Tense Markers:

ɑ - future tense

ϕ - past tense (no specific marker differentiating present from past tense)

Cuiku – past continuous tense

(Here, C is the preceding consonant; i.e, the last consonant of the previous morpheme. Eg. in tumumuikupi, the morphemes are: ti+umu+Cuiku+pi. As the previous consonant to uiku is ‘m’, C becomes m. Hence the word is tumumuikupi.)

Verbs:

akaçu – lift

_ji – it is said that

mu – see

umu – took

yu – cry

tiβu – sit

samu – listen

Adverb:

_tu – already

Vowel Assimilation:

The phonological process of vowel assimilation can be seen in this data set (vowels also include *ÿ* and *ɑ*)

Eg. You(pl) lifted her should have e+akaçu+ϕ according to the above list of morphemes. However, the e sound assimilates with *ɑ* to give an *ɑ* sound, leading to the word akaçu.

Similarly, in tumu~nÿnuβe (they took me), the morphemes are ti + mu+ ~nÿ+ nuβe. Hence, the I sound of ti assimilates to the following vowels (u) to give tumu~nÿnuβe instead of timu~nÿnuβe

In çumanuβe (she will take them), the morphemes are çi+mu+α+nuβe. Here, along with the çi t çu transition, we also see the u of mu assimilating to the future tense marker α to give çumanuβe instead of çumuanuβe.

Hence, the vowel in the prefix assimilates to the succeeding vowel.

Eg. In ~nÿsamae, the morphemes are ~nÿ + samu + α + e, and the u sound assimilated to the α sound to give ~nÿsamae, instead of ~nÿsamuae.