

# Introduction to Linguistics 1

## Assignment 3

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### Problem 1

#### A. Translate to English:

1. snex'ílhçet – our canoe
2. ?nsná? - my name
3. sníçims - his language

#### B. Translate into the language:

1. his name - sná?s
2. your (pl.) canoe - ?esnex'ílhiap
3. my dog - ?nslémái

### Problem 2

#### A. Translate into English:

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

3. **timuany** – She will see me

4. **βakaçuquikunuβetuji** – 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 1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> person. Sg for singular, pl for plural)

~ nÿ\_ - 1.sg.subj (I)

\_ ~ nÿ\_ - 1.sg.obj (me)

$\beta_i$  - 1.pl.subj (we)

$\_β_i$  - 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 3<sup>rd</sup> person pronoun in a word.**

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

**$çi$  is used when there are two occurrences of a 3<sup>rd</sup> person pronoun in a word.**

Eg. in  $cumanuβe$ , the morphemes are  $çi+umu+a+nuβe$ , meaning 'she will take them'. Now, as there are two occurrences of a 3<sup>rd</sup> 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  $tumu \sim nÿnuβe$ , the morphemes are  $ti+umu+\sim nÿ+nuβe$ , which means 'they took me'. The same is not seen for 'she' in  $titiβua$  ( $ti+tiβu+a$ ) or 'she will sit'.

So, we can hypothesise that when a 3<sup>rd</sup> person subjective pronoun is used, the objective form of that pronoun is also added as a suffix WITHOUT changing  $ti$  to  $çi$ . So, in  $tumu \sim nÿnuβe$ ,  $nuβe$  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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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:**

a - future tense

∅ - 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 ī and a)

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

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

In *çumånuþe* (she will take them), the morphemes are *çi*+*mu*+*a*+*nuþe*. Here, along with the *çi t* transition, we also see the *u* of *mu* assimilating to the future tense marker *a* to give *çumånuþe* instead of *çumuænuþe*.

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

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