

Your name:

The UK Linguistics Olympiad 2022 - Round 1



Problem 8. Zuni Tunes (20 marks)

Below are some verbs from the Zuni language of New Mexico:



ho' a:waptsi	I chop them	a:p'otuna:we	they fill them
ho' aptsi	I chop it	a:p'alo	he buries them
a:pehe'a	he is tying them up	p'alona:we	they bury it
pehe'anapkä	they were tying it up	la'a	he grows
a:hanlikä	he stole them	p'iyana:we	they hang it
hanlikä	he stole it	a:welatenapkä	they overtook them
a:wanhatiawa	listen to them!	elatekä	he overtook him
anhatiawa	listen to him!	a:ne	he goes
ho' a:witcema	I love them	a:wa:ne	they go
uttenapkä	they bit it	a:wa:kä	they went
a:we'a	they are sick	ho' a:kä	I went
we'a	he is sick		

Q 8.1 On your answer sheet, translate the following into English. (If you think multiple translations are possible, only give one.)

- a) ho' elate
- b) a:p'alokä
- c) hanlina:we.

Q 8.2 Translate into Zuni:

- a) he went
- b) they chopped it
- c) they grew
- d) I bite them
- e) they are tying it up

Q 8.3 Which of the Zuni verbs above could be considered "irregular"?

Q 8.4 The data above allow for two possible translations of "he loves it" into Zuni. What are they?

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Solution and marking.

Scoring: (max 39)

See the [general principle](#) explained in Problem 7.

- Q8.1: 1 point per word + 1 for verb tense (past/present), as in (a). [max 12]
 - Accept either *him* or *it*.
 - Accept both simple and continuous aspect (e.g. I overtake or I am overtaking)
- Q8.2: 1 point per word part, as exemplified in 8.2(a). [max 21]
 - Assume every verb has four parts: subject + stem + ergative + tense.
 - So 1 point is assigned for omitting a possible morpheme – i.e. for a gap (_).
 - Ignore minor spelling errors, e.g. *a* for *ä*, *apsti* for *aptsi*
 - But don't accept : for '.
- Q8.3: 2 points for either English (*to go*) or Zuni *a:* or *a:ne*. [max 2]
 - 1 point if other verbs are added.
- Q8.4: 2 points per word. [max 4]

Q 8.1	(a) I overtake him/it 4 1 1+1 1	Q 8.2	(a) a:kä = _+a:+_+kä 4 1 1 1 1	(d) ho' a:w+utte+_+_ 5
	(b) he buried them 4		(b) _+aptsi+nap+kä 4	(e) _+pehe'a+na:we+_ 4 or: _+pehe'a+na:+we
	(c) they steal him/it 4		(c) a:+la'a+_+kä 4	
Q 8.3	The verb "to go" a:(ne)			
Q 8.4	<i>itcema</i> and <i>witcema</i>			

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Commentary

The pointers for Zuni verbs can be described in the following table:

	he/she/it (3 rd person singular)	they (3 rd person plural)
Transitive subject (ergative)	∅	-na:we in present -nap in past
Object/intransitive subject (absolutive)	∅	a:(w)-

The -w- is added to the 3rd person plural object form if the verb begins with a vowel. The past tense is indicated in Zuni by -kä on the end of the verb. ho' indicates "I".

Source: <https://archive.org/details/tonkawaindianlan03hoij>