

Your name:

The UK Linguistics Olympiad 2018



Problem 4. What's yours is mine (for eating) (10 marks)

The Austronesian language Fijian is one of the official languages in the island of Fiji, in the Pacific to the east of Australia.



Below you can see a number of phrases in Fijian orthography.

- \bar{i} is a long i and q stands for our ng sound.
- Fijian, like many other languages, distinguishes 'inclusive us' (including you) and 'exclusive us' (excluding you).
- It also distinguishes singular, dual (two) and plural (more than two).
- A yam is an edible root, and kava is a ceremonial drink.

| | Fijian | English |
|----|-----------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| 1 | na uluqu | my head |
| 2 | na nona wau | his club (that he owns) |
| 3 | na memuni bia | your (plural) beer |
| 4 | na kemudrau itukutuku | your story (that is about you two) |
| 5 | na nona motokaa | her car |
| 6 | na meda ti | our (inclusive) tea |
| 7 | na kelemu | your (singular) belly |
| 8 | na nona dio | her oyster (that she'll sell) |
| 9 | na kequ uvi | my yam |
| 10 | na noqu itukutuku | my story (that I tell) |
| 11 | na watiqu | my spouse |
| 12 | na kemuni vuaka | your (plural) pig (that you'll eat) |
| 13 | na nomu kato | your (singular) basket |
| 14 | na tamana | his father |
| 15 | na memudrau dio | your (dual) oyster (you'll slurp) |
| 16 | na nodra vuaka | their pig (they raise) |
| 17 | na keda wau | our (inclusive) club (that we'll be hit with) |
| 18 | na kedra raisi | their rice |

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Q.4.1 Translate the following phrases into Fijian using the words given in the first column.

| | | | |
|-----------|------------|---------------------------------------------|--|
| uto | heart | my heart | |
| yaqona | kava | her kava (that she's drinking) | |
| draunikau | witchcraft | my witchcraft (that is used on/against me) | |
| dali | rope | your (singular) rope (that you own) | |
| ika | fish | your (dual) fish (for dinner) | |
| wai | water | your (plural) water | |
| luve | child | her child | |
| yaqona | kava | his kava (drunk in his honour) | |
| waqa | canoe | our (inclusive) canoe | |
| yapolo | apple | their apple (that they're selling) | |
| draunikau | witchcraft | your (dual) witchcraft (that you're making) | |
| dali | rope | your (plural) rope (restraining you) | |
| maqo | mango | their mango (for drinking) | |

Q.4.2. The word for 'coconut' is *niu*. There are three different ways to say 'my coconut'. What are the phrases and what is the difference of meaning between them?

| Fijian phrase for 'my coconut' | Distinct meaning |
|--------------------------------|------------------|
| | |
| | |
| | |

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Solution and marking.

Scoring (max 36) [NB there was an error in item 12: *na kemun i vuaka* instead of *na kemuni vuaka*. This error was compounded on the Noticeboard, where it was corrected to ... *yuaka*. These errors are obvious given the very clear pattern in the rest of the data; but I've allowed below for answers based on the erroneous data. There was also an error in the points for 4.2, which should assign 2 points, not 1, for each answer-part.]

- 4.1: 1 point for every correct word other than *na* (max 24)
 - No half points
- 4.2: 2 [not: 1] for each correct Fijian phrase and 2 [not: 1] for each correct translation (max 12)
 - No half points for Fijian
 - 2 [not: 1] points for a correct translation only if paired with the correct Fijian phrase
 - In translations, insist on some mention of
 - drinking for *mequ*
 - eating for *kequ*
 - ownership, or implied ownership (e.g. selling) for *noqu*
 - Accept examples in any order.

| | | | |
|-----------------|------------|---------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 4.1. uto | heart | my heart | <i>na utoqu</i> |
| yaqona | kava | her kava (that she's drinking) | <i>na mena yaqona</i> |
| draunikau | witchcraft | my witchcraft (used on/against me) | <i>na kequ draunikau</i> |
| dali | rope | your (singular) rope (that you own) | <i>na nomu dali</i> |
| ika | fish | your (dual) fish (for dinner) | <i>na kemudrau ika</i> |
| wai | water | your (plural) water | <i>na memuni wai [or memun i]</i> |
| luve | child | her child | <i>na luvena</i> |
| yaqona | kava | his kava (drunk in his honour) | <i>na kena yaqona</i> |
| waqa | canoe | our (inclusive) canoe | <i>na noda waqa</i> |
| yapolo | apple | their apple (that they're selling) | <i>na nodra yapolo</i> |
| draunikau | witchcraft | your (dual) witchcraft (that you're making) | <i>na nomudrau draunikau</i> |
| dali | rope | your (plural) rope (restraining you) | <i>na kemuni dali [or kemun i]</i> |
| maqo | mango | their mango (for drinking) | <i>na medra maqo</i> |

| 4.2. Fijian phrase for 'my coconut' | Distinct meaning |
|--------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| <i>na mequ niu</i> | my coconut for <u>drinking</u> coconut water from |

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| | |
|-------------|---------------------------------------|
| na kequ niu | my coconut for <u>eating</u> |
| na noqu niu | my coconut for selling, picking, etc. |

Commentary

Table of pronouns used in the data set:

| person | singular | dual | plural |
|--------|----------|---------|-----------------|
| 1 | -qu | | -da (inclusive) |
| 2 | -mu | -mudrau | -muni |
| 3 | -na | | -dra |

(Simplified) System of possessive in Fijian:

The syntax shows the kind of relation that exists between the possessor (shown by the suffixed pronouns listed above) and the possessed noun (N), using extra words called 'classifiers': *me*, *ke* or *no*.

- no classifier, i.e. N-pronoun: inalienable / direct possessions: (most) body parts & relatives
- *me*+pronoun + N: drinkables / liquids and mushy-soft edibles intended for sucking, slurping or drinking
- *ke*+pronoun + N: solid edibles intended to eat; possessor is the subject matter or semantic patient
- *no*+pronoun + N: general possessions that don't belong in the other three categories, where the focus is on ownership rather than use; edibles and drinkables used for other purposes (e.g. selling, growing)