



Round 2

Problem 4. Cupeño (10 marks)

Cupeño is an extinct language of the Uto-Aztecan family, formerly spoken in Southern California. The last native speaker, Roscinda Nolasquez, died in 1987.

Here are some words in Cupeño and their translations in English:

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|-------------------|----------------------------------|
| a. pulinchemyax | We were born. |
| b. pinehamaninqal | I used to embarrass him. |
| c. empulinwen | You (pl.) used to bear children. |
| d. imihamachemin | We upset [past] you (pl.). |
| e. chimichungpen | He kissed us. |
| f. echix | You (sg.) died. |
| g. nipulinen | You (sg.) assisted at my birth. |
| h. wixpemyax | They were stepped on. |
| i. pemhamawen | They used to be ashamed. |
| j. piwixenqal | You (sg.) used to step on him. |

Q.4. Translate the following:

1. chungpemyax
2. pichixgal
3. We used to kill them.
4. You (plural) stepped on us.



Solution and marking.

Scoring (max 8)

- 2 points for each correct answer; 1 with one error (e.g. one wrong morpheme).
 - += morpheme boundary, included for marker's convenience – not expected in answers.

4.1.	chungpemyax	They were kissed.
4.2.	pichixgal	He used to die.
4.3.	We used to kill them.	pimi+chem+chix+nin+wen.
4.4.	You (plural) stepped on us.	chimi+wix+em+in



Commentary

- Verb templates
 - template 1 (with *in* or *yax*):
 - [obj] [ROOT] [subj] [in/yax] [“used to”]
 - template 2 (no *in/yax*):
 - [obj] [subj] [ROOT] [“used to”]
- Affixes:
 - no affix = intransitive
 - *in* = transitive (“i” drops after vowel: $V_{in} \rightarrow V_n$)
 - *yax* = passive
 - *nin* = causative (a kind of transitive, means “make X [verb]”)
 - “used to”: *qal* with singular subject, *wen* with plural subject
- Pronouns
 - Subject:

▪ 1s: ne	1p: chem
▪ 2s: e	2p: em
▪ 3s: pe	3p: pem
 - Object:

▪ 1s: ni	1p: chimi
▪ 2s: i	2p: imi
▪ 3s: pi	3p: pimi (in fact, it is <i>mi</i> , but <i>pimi</i> can be inferred)
- Verbs:
 - *wix* = step on
 - *pulin* = bear a child
 - *hama* = feel shame
 - *chung* = kiss
 - *chix* = die