

Problem 8. SENĆOTEN (20 marks)

SENĆOTEN (**sənčáθən**, also known as Saanich) is a dialect of North Straits Salish, and the native language of the WSÁNEĆ people. As of 2014 it had six native speakers on the Saanich Peninsula of Vancouver Island, Canada. Its distinctive all-caps alphabet was developed in 1978 by Dave Elliott, a member of the Saanich community, and is used extensively in writing, teaching and revitalisation efforts. In this problem, a different phonetic alphabet, developed by linguists, is used specifically because it is easier for linguistic analysis.



The inventory of possible sounds found in SENĆOTEN is very different to that of English. Its inventory of *resonants* (consonants made with no disturbance of the airflow as it passes through the mouth) is similar: **/m n ŋ l y w/** (note that **ŋ** is the same sound as the *n* in *finger*). However, its inventory of *obstruents* (consonants made with some disturbance of the airflow in the mouth) is significantly larger: **/p t č k kʷ q qʷ tʰ ʔ θ s ʃ š xʷ x ɸ h/**. For example, **ʃ** is similar to Welsh *ll*, pronounced like a simultaneous *h* and *l* with no vibration of the vocal folds. **ʔ** is pronounced like the sequence **tʰ**, and produced with a strong ‘popping’ sound. Knowledge of how individual SENĆOTEN resonants or obstruents are pronounced is not necessary for solving this problem.

An apostrophe above a consonant (as in **m'**) indicates that it is glottalised, that is, pronounced along with closure of the vocal folds. **ə** is like the first vowel in *about*. The mark ' above a vowel indicates stress.

In the table below are some verbs in SENĆOTEN in two grammatical forms, ‘non-actual’ (*X-ed*) and ‘actual’ (*be X-ing*). For example, **sɤt** could be translated as *I pushed it*, while **čáθəŋ'** could be translated as *I am crawling*. Some forms are missing.

non-actual	actual	meaning	non-actual	actual	meaning
sɤt	səɤt	<i>push it</i>	čtəŋ	čáθəŋ'	<i>crawl</i>
ʔpəɤ	ʔəpɤ	<i>scatter</i>	ʃələt	ʃəlt	<i>splash it</i>
tám't	təm't	<i>hit it</i>	kʷel	___(a)___	<i>hide</i>
kʷsəŋ	kʷəsəŋ'	<i>count</i>	___(b)___	tʰəʔkʷ	<i>pinch</i>
q'pət	q'əpt	<i>collect it</i>	q'wáləŋ	___(c)___	<i>cook</i>
qew	qéqəw'	<i>rest</i>	___(d)___	xəʔəŋ'	___(e)___
kʷsət	kʷəst	<i>count it</i>	___(f)___	tʰəʔtʰəkʷ	<i>startle</i>
máləč	məʔč	<i>roll over</i>	___(g)___	___(h)___	<i>collect</i>
ʔiw'	ʔíʔəw'	<i>run away</i>	čənət	___(i)___	<i>bury it</i>
kʷəl't	kʷəlt	<i>pour it out</i>	štəŋ	___(j)___	<i>walk</i>
xəʔt	xəʔt	<i>hurt it</i>	___(k)___	___(l)___	<i>cook it</i>
təp'	təʔəp'	<i>eat</i>	___(m)___	təqʷt	<i>tighten it</i>

Q 8.1 Fill in cells (a)-(m). For one answer you should be unsure between two options; give either option.

Problem 8. SENĆOTEN Answers

8.1	a*. k^wék^wəl'	h*. q'ápəŋ'
	b. t^hək^w	i. čən't
	c*. q^wáləŋ' or q^wáləŋ'	j*. šátəŋ'
	d. xətəŋ	k*. q^wálət
	e. <i>hurt</i>	l. q^wəl't
	f. t^hək^w	m. tq^wət
	g. q'pəŋ	

Maximum 38 pts.

Q 8.1 Max 38. See marking points below for b,d,f,g,i,l,m (unstarred above); a,c,h,j,k (starred above); and e.

For unstarred tasks: Award 3 pts if completely correct. If a single letter has a single incorrect diacritic, award 2 pts. If a single letter is extra, missing, has two or more incorrect diacritics, or is otherwise incorrect, award 1 pt. Otherwise, award 0 pts. E.g. **t^ht^hək^w** and **t^hek^w** both score 1 pt as an answer to f with one letter wrong; **t^hálk^w** and **t^hək^w** both score 2 pts. Two letters in the incorrect order counts as two incorrect letters, e.g. **q'əpəŋ** scores 0 pts for g.

For starred tasks: If the answer differs by the correct answer only by omitting the acute accent on the first vowel and omitting the second vowel (always ə), award 1 pt. Otherwise, score as above. E.g. **šátəŋ** and **šətəŋ'** score 2 pts; **šátət**, **šətŋ'** and **šátŋ'** score 1 pt; **šətŋ** scores 0 pts.

For e: Award 2 pts if correct. Do not allow e.g. *hurt it*, *hurts*.

A diacritic here is an apostrophe over a consonant (e.g. **q'**), an accent on a vowel (e.g. **á**), a raised consonant (e.g. **q^w**, **t^h**), or other similar mark (e.g. **x**, **č**).

Pay close attention to diacritics (**á** vs **ə**; **č** vs **ć**; **l** vs **ł** vs **t**; etc). In particular, glottalisation marks (apostrophes on consonants) are important, and may be either missing or hard to see in students' handwritings.

Do not penalise full letters for superscripts, e.g. **tθ** for **t^h**.

For each of a-m except c, if more than one word is given, award 0 pts. For c, if more than one word is given, award points for the highest scoring word. E.g. **q^wáləŋ** / **q^wálŋ'** scores 2 pts.

Problem 8. SENĆOTEN Commentary

- The data show two methods by which the actual is formed from the non-actual. SENĆOTEN verbs can form the actual through many other strategies, but these are two common and fairly regular ones.
- Some verb stems form pairs ending in **-t** and **-ŋ**. **-t** denotes transitive verbs (translated here as *X it*), while **-ŋ** denotes intransitive ‘middle’ verbs (implying an action relating to or benefiting oneself; translated here as just a bare verb).
- Each non-actual verb stem has an underlying structure of CVC or CCəC (C = consonant, V = vowel). The actual is derived as follows:

Shape of non-actual	Shape of actual
C ₁ V ₁ C ₂	C ₁ V ₁ C ₁ əC ₂
C ₁ C ₂ əC ₃	C ₁ əC ₂ C ₃

- Additionally, all non-glottalised resonants (**m n ŋ l w**) which are not the first consonant in the word become glottalised in the actual form. Another rule which is also consistent with the given data is that only the last non-initial resonant in the vowel becomes glottalised, which is why **q’w’ələŋ** is also accepted for (c).
- In all verb forms, **CR** > **CəR** (R = resonant).
- In two-syllable verb forms, place stress on the first vowel.

References and further reading:

- Montler, T. R. *An outline of the morphology and phonology of Saanich, North Straits Salish*. University of Montana Occasional Papers in Linguistics No. 4.; 1986.
- Montler, T. R. *Infixation, reduplication and metathesis in the Saanich actual aspect*. Southwest Journal of Linguistics, 9, 92–107; 1989.