

Problem 3. Kickapoo (20 marks)

Kickapoo is an Algonquian language spoken by approx. 1,000 people in Oklahoma, USA and Coahuila, Mexico. Kickapoo whistle speech is a substitute for spoken Kickapoo using whistles. It was once used for communication during courtship in Coahuila. Below are some numbers and other words, given both in spoken and whistled Kickapoo. The English meaning is also given for interest, but is not relevant to the solution of the problem.

Note: in spoken Kickapoo, mark ' over a vowel indicates an accented syllable; **θ** = *th* in *bath*; two adjacent vowels are part of the same syllable. In whistled Kickapoo, **o** represents a mora (a “beat”) of a whistled note; the marks ' and ` on a mora indicate high and low pitch, respectively; **q** indicates a silence with glottal closure between notes; **h** indicates a transition between notes that can be a silence without glottal closure, a volume change, articulation with friction, or a pitch glide.

Spoken	Whistled	English	Spoken	Whistled	English
nékoti	óqòqóò	<i>one</i>	nenohotáweewa	óhòqóhòòhóò	<i>he heard him</i>
níiswi	óòhóò	<i>two</i>	kíaskweepieníani	__(e)__	<i>he is drunk</i>
néθwihi	óhòhóò	<i>three</i>	áikaaθoníani	óòqòòhóhóòhóò	<i>he is pictured</i>
níewi	óòhóò	<i>four</i>	nesíanaateθikwéeni	__(f)__	<i>he must be awful</i>
níananwi	óóhòhóò	<i>five</i>	oθáaskwaanéhkwéya	òhóòqóóhóqòhóò	<i>his shoes</i>
nekotwáasika	óqóqóóhòqóò	<i>six</i>	nemiináaki	óhóóhóòqóò	<i>I gave it to them</i>
nóohika	óóhòqóò	<i>seven</i>	kemoopíimwaaki	__(g)__	<i>in your car</i>
neswáasika	òhóóhòqóò	<i>eight</i>	pakáanani	__(h)__	<i>pecans</i>
sáaka	óòqóò	<i>nine</i>	oθeθeehwáahi	__(i)__	<i>their brothers</i>
metáaθwi	__(a)__	<i>ten</i>	nesáeθípena	òhóòhóqòhóò	<i>we are hungry</i>
niiswaaþítaki	__(b)__	<i>twenty</i>	nemeskoθípena	__(j)__	<i>we are red</i>
máhwaha	__(c)__	<i>a bear</i>	nenakamópena	__(k)__	<i>we sang</i>
níihtiiθe	óóqòòhóò	<i>darling</i>	nenemaθópena	óhóhòhóqòhóò	<i>we stood</i>
piitíkeeno	__(d)__	<i>enter!</i>	kekoohkoosemwáaki	__(l)__	<i>your pigs</i>
asikáθoona	òhóqóhòòhóò	<i>sock</i>	eehkatáinaahkwéeki	òòqóqóòhòòqóòqóò	<i>when it was almost noon</i>

Q 3.1 Fill in the gaps (a)–(l) in the table above.

Q 3.2 Some linguists believe that the old word for seven in Kickapoo was ***niiswáasika**. What would this have been in whistled speech?

Q 3.3 Explain your solution.

Problem 3. Kickapoo Answers

3.1	a. óqòðhóò	g. óhóóqóóhòòqóò
	b. òðhóóqóqòqóò	h. óqóóhòhóò
	c. óqòhóò	i. òhòhòòhóòhóò
	d. óóqóqòðhóò	j. óhòqòhóqòhóò
	e. óòqóóqóóhóòhóò	k. óhóqóhóqòhóò
	f. òhóòhóóqòhóqóòhóò	l. óqòòqòòhóhóòqóò
3.2	òòhóóhòqóò	

Q 3.1 Max 24. 2 pts for each correct form; 1 pt with one mistake.

Q 3.2 Max 2. 2 pts for the correct form; 1 pt with one mistake.

Q 3.3 Max 26. 8 for consonants; 8 for accented vowels; 10 for unaccented vowels.

Problem 3. Kickapoo Commentary

The following provides a simplified analysis combining both the tonal system of Kickapoo, and the system for converting spoken Kickapoo into the whistled form. Here V stands for a vowel, C for a consonant cluster, # for a word boundary.

1. $V\# \rightarrow \acute{o}\grave{o}$;
2. $\acute{V}(V) \rightarrow \acute{o}(\acute{o})$ if antepenultimate; $\acute{V}V \rightarrow \acute{o}\grave{o}$ otherwise;
3. $V \rightarrow \grave{o}$ after final accented syllable;
4. $V(V) \rightarrow \grave{o}(\grave{o})$ before $\{s, \theta, h\}$;
5. Else, $V \rightarrow \acute{o}$;
6. $\#C \rightarrow \emptyset$;
7. $C \rightarrow q$ if C contains $\{p, t, k\}$; else $C \rightarrow h$.

References and further reading:

- Voorhis, P.H. (1974). *Introduction to the Kickapoo language*. Indiana University.
- Voorhis, P.H. (1971). *Notes on Kickapoo Whistle Speech*. *International Journal of American Linguistics* 37(4), 238–43. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/1264515>.