

Problem 5. Ese Ejja (25 marks)

Ese Ejja is a Tacanan language spoken by around 1,700 people near the border between Bolivia and Peru.

Below are some Ese Ejja verbs written in a simplified phonetic transliteration, along with their English translations. Note that **ʃ**, **ɲ**, **w**, **y**, and **'** are consonants. Adjacent vowels (e.g. **aa**) form separate syllables (that is, they are in *hiatus*). The symbol **'** over a vowel indicates that the vowel is accented, meaning that it has a high pitch, length, and intensity.

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|-----------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. bebwáɲa | <i>I roll it</i> | 11. mwáɲa | <i>I bury it</i> |
| 2. híhihe | <i>I will burn</i> | 12. ohóme | <i>I may cough</i> |
| 3. híhyani | <i>I burn</i> | 13. óhwani | <i>I cough</i> |
| 4. íʃamíme | <i>I may take it up in my arms</i> | 14. pokyapwá | <i>I went (long ago)</i> |
| 5. íʃe'apwá | <i>I woke it up (long ago)</i> | 15. táaahe | <i>I will shout at it</i> |
| 6. ixyáɲa | <i>I eat it</i> | 16. taáani | <i>I shout</i> |
| 7. káwihe | <i>I will sleep</i> | 17. towáani | <i>I jump</i> |
| 8. kwakwáhe | <i>I will cook it</i> | 18. a'a tyóxi | <i>don't dig it!</i> |
| 9. kwakwákwe | <i>cook it!</i> | 19. woótʃana | <i>watch out not to get drunk!</i> |
| 10. a'a metéxi | <i>don't be afraid!</i> | | |

Q 5.1 Translate the following into English.

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|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| 20. íʃamyana | 21. íʃe'ákwe | 22. towáahe |
|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------|

Q 5.2 Below are some more Ese Ejja verbs and their English translations. Mark the accented vowel on each verb 23–28.

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|---------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------|
| 23. bebokwe | <i>roll it!</i> | 26. sipyana | <i>I weave it</i> |
| 24. oxahyana | <i>I spit it</i> | 27. taaahe | <i>I will shout</i> |
| 25. tywapwa | <i>I dug it (long ago)</i> | 28. ixyatʃana | <i>watch out not to eat it!</i> |

Q 5.3 Translate the following into Ese Ejja. In some cases, you should be unsure between two possible translations; give both. For each translation you give, mark the accented vowel.

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|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 29. <i>I will be afraid</i> | 33. <i>don't go!</i> |
| 30. <i>bury it!</i> | 34. <i>I shout at it</i> |
| 31. <i>watch out not to jump!</i> | 35. <i>I will spit it</i> |
| 32. <i>I get drunk</i> | |

Q 5.4 Explain your solution.

Problem 5. Ese Ejja Answers

5.1	20. <i>I take it up in my arms</i>	22. <i>I will jump</i>
	21. <i>wake it up!</i>	

For **Q5.2**, mark the accent on the correct vowel. If you make a mistake, clearly cross through the printed word, and rewrite it with the correct accent.

23. bebókwe	26. sipyána
24. óxahyana	27. taáahe
25. tywapwá	28. ixyátjana

5.3	29. métehe	33. a'a pokyáxi or a'a pokíxi
	30. mókwe or mwákwe	34. táaana
	31. towaátjana	35. óxahyahe or óxahihe*
	32. wówani	

Max 23 + 18.5.

Q 5.1 Max 3. 1 pt per correct answer.

Q 5.2 Max 6. 1 pt per correct accent.

Q 5.3 Max 14. For each: 1 pt if the correct translations are given; 1 pt if the translations given are correctly accented. NB: these two marks are independent; for example, giving only one correct translation for 30, or two translations for 29, with correct accent scores 0+1=1 pt.

Q 5.4 Max 18.5. 5.5 pts for affixes and transitivity; 5.5 pts for accent in the present and future; 4 pts for accent otherwise; 3.5 for vowel elision.

Problem 5. Ese Ejja Commentary

- (**a'a** = NEG.IMP) + [ROOT]—[suffix]
- Accent placement is determined by the number of syllables in the root, the transitivity of the verb, and the choice of suffix.
 - For the suffixes **-tʃana** = apprehensive, **-kwe** = imperative, **-me** = potential, and **-xi** = negative imperative: the accent falls on the final syllable of the root.
 - For the suffix **-apwá** = remote past: the accent falls on the final syllable of the suffix.
 - For the suffixes **-he** = future and **-aɲa/-ani** = present:
 - * If the verb is intransitive, the accent falls on the penultimate syllable of the root.
 - * If the verb is transitive and trisyllabic, the stress falls on the first syllable; else, if the verb is transitive and mono- or disyllabic, the stress falls on the final syllable of the root.

	1 syllable	2-syllable		3-syllable	
		INTR.	TR.	INTR.	TR.
-kwe -xi -me -tʃana	ĆV–	CVCV́–		CVCVCV́–	
-he -aɲa / -ani		ĆVCV–	CVCV́–	CVĆVCV–	ĆVCVCV–
-apwá	stress always on final syllable clitic				

	1-syllable	2-syllable	3-syllable
-kwe -xi -me -tʃana	ĆV–	CVCV́–	CVCVCV́–
-he (INTR) -ani		ĆVCV–	CVĆVCV–
-he (TR) -aɲa		CVCV́–	ĆVCVCV–
-apwá	stress always on final syllable clitic		

* The present tense is **-aɲa** for transitive verbs, and **-ani** for intransitive verbs.

- At a morpheme boundary: **a**, **i**, **o** > ∅, **y**, **w** before **-a**.
 - This occurs after accent assignment, and ĆV-**a** > C(y/w)-**á**.
 - Q2 also requires the observation that all syllables in Ese Ejja are open (or at least that all verbs end in vowels).
 - Also **e** > **y** before **a**, but this does not feature in this problem.

***oxahya** actually behaves like a disyllabic root, but this cannot be deduced from the data given.

References and further reading:

- Vuillermet, M. (2012). A grammar of Ese Ejja, a Takanan language of the Bolivian Amazon. *Lyon: Université Lumière Lyon*, 2.
- Rolle, N. R. (2017). Transparadigmatic output-output correspondence: A case study from Ese Ejja. In *Proceedings of the Annual Meetings on Phonology*.