
analytical methods in morphology and syntax: practice problems #1

Due in class Wednesday, June 25

Name _____

English

Rewrite the following English words showing the morpheme boundaries. Label each morpheme as a root, prefix or suffix. There may be some tricky examples here (but no infixes):

example: toe|s
 root-suf

thankful greenish understand

huckleberry retighten unsurprisingly

semantics congruent neither

another forwarded reduction

funny rehabilitation greadfully

Exercise 1.2: Telegu

1. pilla 'child'
2. pillalu 'children'
3. puwu 'flower'
4. puwulu 'flowers'
5. čiima 'ant'
6. čiimalu 'ants'
7. godugu 'elephant'
8. čiire 'sari'
9. annagaaru 'elder brother'

- A. Where is Telegu spoken? _____
- B. Describe the rule that allows speakers to express the plural of a noun in Telegu.
- C. What are the Telegu translations for the following English words likely to be?

Elephants:

Saris:

Elder brothers:

Kurmanji Kurdish

by Nick Bailey

The following are six clauses in the Kurmanji Kurdish language. The English translations of these clauses are given below in random order:

1. Ez h'irç'ê dibînim _____
2. Tu dir'evî _____
3. Tu min dibînî _____
4. H'irç' dir'eve _____
5. Ez dir'evim _____
6. Tu h'irç'ê dibînî _____

English translations in random order:

- A. You see bear.
- B. You see me.
- C. Bear runs.
- D. You run.
- E. I see Bear.
- F. I run.

A. Where is Kurmanji Kurdish spoken? _____ How many speakers are there? _____

B. Match the Kurmanji Kurdish sentences with the correct English sentence translations.

C. What would the following sentence be in Kurmanji Kurdish?:

Bear sees me. _____

Exercise 1.4: Standard Swahili

Merrifield #4.

Swahili belongs to a large language sub-family, called Bantu, of the Niger-Kordofanian group of languages. Bantu languages are spoken by more than 100 million people in Southern and Eastern Africa. Swahili is the mother tongue of about 5 million people, and is the common language of trade along much of the east coast of Africa.

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|----------|------------|-----------|-------------|
| 1. mtoto | 'child' | 5. watoto | 'children' |
| 2. mtu | 'person' | 6. watu | 'people' |
| 3. mpiši | 'cook' | 7. wapiši | 'cooks' |
| 4. mgeni | 'stranger' | 8. wageni | 'strangers' |

A. List and gloss all the morphemes in these data.

B. What kind of process is evident in these data?
