Linguistics 210 — Solutions to Problems 1-4

Introduction to Linguistic Analysis — University of Michigan

1. Turkish Solution [for (1)-(16) only]

Roots: *deniz* 'ocean' *el* 'hand' *diš* 'tooth' *ev* 'house'

Inflections (all suffixes) *-čik* Diminutive *-ler* Plural *-im/-in* 1st/2nd Person Possessor (Px)

-iz Plural Possessor *-in/-de/-den/-e* Genitive/Inessive/Ablative/Dative Case

Morpheme Order: Root (+ Dim) (+ Pl) (+ Px (+ Pl Px)) (+ Case)

2. Rotokas

Roots [+ inflection class]: *ava* [+ I] 'go' *voka* [+ II] 'walk' *pau* [+ I] 'sit' *pau* [+ II] 'build (it)'

Inflections (all suffixes)

Class I: *-ra/-u/-ro* 1st/2nd/3rd Person Singular Subject *-epa* Past Tense *-vere* Future Tense

Class II: *-a/-ri/-re* 1st/2nd/3rd Pers Sg Subj -va Past Tns *-vere* Fut Tns

Morpheme Order: Root + Subj + Tns

3. Amharic

Roots ($Consonant_1$ _$Consonant_2$ _$Consonant_3$):

w_s_d 'take' *g_t'_m* 'join' *n_g_d* 'trade'

d_g_m 'repeat' *m_s_l* 'resemble' *w_r_d* 'get down'

Inflections (affixes – "interdigitation" in C_1 _C_2 _C_3 pattern):

Past Tense: C_1-ə-C_2-ə-C_3-ə Imperative: C_1-i-C_2-ə-C_3

Present Tense: yi-C_1-ə-C_2-i-C_3-al Infinitive: mə-C_1C_2-ə-C_3

4. Mexican Spanish

Roots (nouns, then adjectives, each in inflection class I or II):

I: *mučač-* 'child' [noun] *ix-* 'offspring' *sobrin-* 'nibling' *ti-* 'aunt/uncle'

II: *poeta* 'poet' (Masc) *padre* 'father' (M) *ombre* 'man' (M) *amante* 'lover' (M/F)

II: *muxer* 'woman' (Fem) *madre* 'mother' (F) *xente* 'people' (F; Singular)

I: *buen-* 'nice' [adj] *brab-* 'brave' *čik-* 'little' *biex-* 'old'

I: *guap-* 'pretty/handsome' *preferid-* 'favorite' *řik-* 'rich'

II: *grande* 'big' *pobre* 'poor'

Inflections (all suffixes): Gender = Masc: *-o* Fem: *-a* Number = Singular: *-Ø* Plural: *-(e)s*

Inflection order: Root (+ Gender, in Class 1) + Number. (The 'e' appears before *–s* after a consonant)

Inflection Classes: Class I nouns and adjectives mark Gender overtly, with *-o* and *-a*

Class II nouns have covert (unmarked) Gender

Class II adjectives have no Gender at all (i.e, they may modify either M or F nouns)

Agreement: Adjectives agree with the nouns they modify in gender and number

Syntax: Adjective follows noun [Exception: *buena xente*. Is this idiomatic?]

Remarks: *amante* can be either M or F; *xente* is Singular only; *poeta* is idiosyncratically Masculine.

One might hypothesize that *m-* is Fem and *p-* is Masc; what evidence exists for or against this?

English uses two roots where Spanish uses only one for *guap-*, *sobrin-*, *ti-*, and *ix-*;

on the other hand, Spanish has no single word for *brave*, *little*, or *old*; gender <u>must</u> be marked.