(M) Quests and Requests in Nivkh (1/2)

M1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1</th>
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<th>21</th>
<th>22</th>
<th>23</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>G</td>
<td>Q</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>K</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>D</td>
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<td>H</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>J</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

M2.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ŧi</th>
<th>ṭịpikamuxeliḑ</th>
<th>I need your big boat</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ŧi</td>
<td>hazyafk’eliḑ</td>
<td>I need that bear</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ŧi</td>
<td>ṭaflangxeliḑ</td>
<td>I need this big ash</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ŧi</td>
<td>p’eţusk’eliḑ</td>
<td>I need my own meat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ŧi</td>
<td>ahaqxekid</td>
<td>I need that cap over there</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

M3.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>I need your big track.</th>
<th>Ŧi ṭpilaṭifk’ekid / xekid</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I need my knife.</td>
<td>Ŧi Ŧzaqoxekid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I need that cap over there.</td>
<td>Ŧi ahaqxekid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I need your hare.</td>
<td>Ŧi ṭajkxekid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I need my nail.</td>
<td>Ŧi Ŧzrovsk’ekid/ xekid</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

How to solve:

Easy step 1
See that Ŧi = I
See that xekid = need (x → k’ after f and s)
alternate analysis zyafk’ and liysk’ end in k’ (x → c/after k’)
These analyses might not pop out at first, but they are seeable.

Easy step 2
Count the nouns in the English translations.
See that fish shows up 3 times.
See that cap shows up 5 times.
See that hut shows up 1 time.
See that all other nouns show up twice.

![](naclo.png)

Step 3a
Look for correspondences in the Nivkh data (looking for fish, cap, and hut)

Step 3b
Notice ‘pila’ (could initially mean ‘big’ or ‘over there’ by factoring out all of the nouns – cap is tricky, but the others are easy)
Notice Ŧo 3 times (after segmentation of pila), Ŧo = fish
Notice Ŧi vra = my hut, so vra = hut, Ŧi means my, which is nice because it goes with Ŧi=I
Notice (h)aq = hut (5 times) – the h will be tricky
(M) Quests and Requests in Nivkh (2/2)

Step 4
figure out if pila is ‘big’ or ‘over there’
compare ţpila and tapila = ??(that or this)- pila –fish
Notice that the two words containing pila have different prefixes (t vs. ţ)
Look at the other sentences that contain ‘big’ or ‘over there’ in their translations.
zyafk’ = either boat or bear
Compare I need that boat over there vs I need that fish over there
Notice that the prefixes don’t match
Now you can match up 13 with D, 19 with H, 7 with P and 8 with A, ...

Step 5
You still have ţo and a-ţo – one means a fish and the other means that fish over there
Notice a-mu and ţ-mu. ţmu is my ___. Of the nouns that appear twice, boat, branch, and picture have ‘my’ in their translation.
Only ‘boat’ also goes with ‘that over there’, none have ‘a’ translations. So mu = boat, ţ = my, and a= that over there.
So 1=G, 16=S, 14=F and 20=O

Step 6 : Cap
aq shows up 5 times (it is haq, and x→∅/after a prefix)
2: ţi ha-haq-xekiḑ
5: ţi ţ-aq-xekiḑ
12: ţi ţ- tầng-xekiḑ
17: ţi ţ-it’ulv-haq-xekiḑ
21: ţi haq-xekiḑ

Meanings :
B: ‘I need my cap’
E: ‘I need my winter cap’
L: ‘I need a cap’
Q: ‘I need that cap’
W: ‘I need your cap’

evident that 12=W, 5=B, 17=E (so it’ulv(h) = winter, but the ‘h’ shows up in 21 too, so it’ulv)
a cap vs that cap, we know ‘a’ = no prefix on fish, and haqxekiḑ is obviously less prefixed than hahaxekiḑ, so haq = cap (h deletes after a C, or after ‘my’ and ‘your’) ha = that
21=L, 2=Q

Step 7
ha-zaqo and ţ-zaqo = that X and your X , so zaqo = knife and 9=R and 18=U
liy sk’ and ţ-liy sk’ = a X and your X, so liy sk’ = wolf and 10=N and 23=J
ţ-eflan and ţ-eflan = your X and my X, so 22=C and 4=K
p’ezjai and ţ-ezjai = my own X (we haven’t seen p’ before, but we know ţ is ‘your’) and your X, so 6=M and 15=V
i-tafk’ and tafk’ = his/her X (by elimination) and a X, so 3=T and 11=I

The only thing left was the vowels of the prefixes of a few forms. I took the offenders out. I modified the answers so that there are 2 right answers for 2 of the Eng à Nivkh translations.