24.900 Problem set #1: Morphology

Part 1: Tagalog

The following data are from Tagalog, a language of the Austronesian family, spoken in the Philippines.

Data:

Note: The dotless question mark (ʔ) is a consonant called a *glottal stop*. Some Tagalog sound changes have been silently undone, just to make the problem easier--so if you show this to Tagalog-speakers, a few things will look funny to them. Just so you know.

1	sumulat	write!	16	ʔumabut	reach!
2	sumulat	wrote	17	ʔumabut	reached
3	susulat	will write	18	ʔaʔabut	will reach
4	sumusulat	is writing	19	ʔumaʔabut	is reaching
5	sulatin	be written!	20	ʔabutin	be reached!
6	sinulat	was written	21	ʔinabut	was reached
7	susulatin	will be written	22	ʔaʔabutin	will be reached
8	sinusulat	is being written	23	ʔinaʔabut	is being reached
9	hahanap	will seek	24	ʔumibig	love!
10	hanapin	be sought!	25	ʔumibig	loved
11	hinahanap	is being sought	26	ʔumiʔibig	is loving
12	hinanap	was sought	27	ʔiʔibig	will love
13	bumabasa	is reading	28	ginawaʔ	was done
14	bumasag	broke	29	lumapit	approach!
15	dumating	arrived	30	tinawag	was called

Question 1: List the roots:

_____	'write'	_____	'reach'
_____	'seek'	_____	'love'
_____	'read'	_____	'do'
_____	'break'	_____	'approach'
_____	'arrive'	_____	'call'

Question 2: List the affixes that create the various verb forms. Either give the "sound" of the affix, or describe how the sound is determined (using the appropriate technical term). <u>Also</u>:

indicate whether each affix is a prefix, a suffix, or an infix. If it is an infix, indicate where it is attached.

Some verb forms involve <u>two</u> affixes. In some cases, it might be important to attach the affixes in a particular order. For each verb form that involve two affixes, state whether the order matters and justify your statement. The way to do this is to show the wrong form you would get if you applied the affixes in the wrong order (mark the form with an asterisk to indicate it is "wrong"). If the order does not matter, demonstrate this fact. Use the verb "write" in your examples.

Note: The term *passive* refers to forms like *be written!*, *will be written*, *is being written* etc.

Active:
commands

past

future

present

Passive:
commands

past

future

present

Question 3: Translate into Tagalog

_____ 'call!'   _____ 'is calling'
_____ 'approached'   _____ 'will arrive'
_____ 'will be sought'   _____ 'is being called'
_____ 'be done!'   _____ 'was read'

Part 2: Sierra Popoluca

Sierra Popoluca is a Mixe-Zoquean language spoken in Veracruz State, Mexico. Just for your information; the symbol [e:] in this problem represents a long [e] sound, and the symbol [ñ] represents an 'ny' sound, as in Spanish (what we'll soon be learning to call an alveopalatal nasal consonant).

1. miñpa   'he comes'
2. miñum   'he came'
3. miñyahpa   'they come'
4. miñyahum   'they came'
5. miñumtyim   'he also came'
6. miñyahumtyim   'they also came'
7. se:tpa   'he returns'
8. se:tyahpa   'they return'
9. se:tyahum   'they returned'
10. se:tpanam   'he still returns'
11. se:tpatyim   'he also returns'
12. se:tyahpanam   'they still return'

Question 1: Give the Sierra Popoluca morphemes for the following:

_____ come   _____ past tense
_____ still   _____ also
_____ return   _____ he
_____ they   _____ present tense

Question 2: Give the Sierra Popoluca forms for the following:

'they still come'   _____
'he returned'   _____

Question 3: Give the English translation for the following:

se:tyahumtyim   _____
miñumnam   _____

Part 3: Fieldwork

Find out how negation is expressed in the language you are working on. You should get translations for at least five sentences, with and without negation (so, at least ten sentences in all). For example, you could find out how to say pairs like:

1.   The man read the book
2.   The man did not read the book

Give us the data you collect with *glosses* for each word in each sentence, followed by translations into English, like this:

3.   Yukarrbarda kurri kawani
        man   read   book
        'The man read the book'

Answer at least the following questions:

Question 1: List at least one allomorph for negation (it's entirely possible that there will only be one). You don't have to find <u>all</u> the allomorphs to get full credit for this question, and in fact you may want to limit the variables you consider in your sentences, just to make life easier (for example, you could give them all the same subject, make them all in the same tense, and so forth).

Question 2: Are the negative morphemes bound or free?

Question 3a: If negation is bound, what kind of bound morpheme is it? a prefix? a suffix?

Question 3b: If negation is free, are there any constraints on the place it appears in the sentence? e.g., can it be before the verb? after the verb? separated from the verb by other words?