

## (R) The Obviative Solution (1/2) [10 Points]

Arapaho is an Algonquian language spoken by about 1,000 people in Wyoming and Oklahoma. Here are some Arapaho nouns in several forms and their English translations. Note that the shaded cells indicate that the form does not exist.

Singular	Plural	Obviative Singular	Locative Singular	Meaning
hisei	hiseinoʔ	hisein	hiseineweʔ	'woman'
hotii	hotiiwoʔ	hotiiw	hotiiwoweʔ	'car'
nebi	nebihoʔ	hibio	nebiheweʔ	'one's older sister'
neicet	neicetino		neicetineʔ	'one's hand'
nooku	nookuhoʔ	nookuo	nookuhoweʔ	'beaver'
hiseeθ	hiseetoʔ	hiseet	a.	'pine tree'
b.	ooto		ootoʔ	'leg'
beiciθ	beicito		beiciteʔ	'tooth'
coox	c.	d.	e.	'enemy'
ceʔeinox	ceʔeinoθo		ceʔeinoθeʔ	'bag'
hinen	hineninoʔ	f.	g.	'man'
wotoo	h.	i.	wotooheʔ	'pair of pants'
j.	woθonohoeno	k.	woθonohoeneʔ	'book'
l.	m.	niiʔeihiiio	n.	'eagle'
ceʔibes	ceʔibexo	o.	p.	'block (of wood)'
benes	q.	r.	s.	'arm'
t.	nesihoʔ	u.	v.	'one's uncle'

Notes: ʔ and θ are both consonants. ʔ is a glottal stop, the sound in the middle of “uh-oh,” and θ is pronounced like the “th” in the English word “think.” Arapaho pronunciation also involves tones, which have not been included in this problem.

The *obviative*, sometimes called the “fourth person,” is a noun form used in some languages to express how relevant an entity is. If some third-person entities (i.e., ones that are neither the speaker nor the listener) are less important than others to the conversation, they will be given the obviative marking, while the more important ones will take the standard third-person marking. The *locative* is a noun form used to indicate a location – e.g., the locative form of “field” would mean “in the field” or “on the field.”



# (R) The Obviative Solution (2/2)

R1. Fill in the missing cells (a., b., etc.). If you think the form does not exist, write N/A.

a.		l.	
b.		m.	
c.		n.	
d.		o.	
e.		p.	
f.		q.	
g.		r.	
h.		s.	
i.		t.	
j.		u.	
k.		v.	

R2. Explain your solution.

