(Q) Better Left Unsaid (1/3)

Here is a summary of all the answers--more detailed descriptions follow these answers:
    (a) membuat
    (b) memilih
    (c) mattimbe
    (d) mappande
    (e) hatumba
    (f) hatumbi
    (g) flawta
    (h) ndisko
    (i) ŋgopak
    (j) esosi
    (k) embafu
    (l) epagi
    (m) etambi
    (n) nasal
    (o) voiceless consonant
    (p) sentence

Part 1:
Every verb has a root. To form the passive of the verb, simply add the prefix *di-*. To form the active, add the prefix *meN-*, where *N* is the nasal at the same place of articulation as the following consonant (or is *n* if the root is vowel-initial). If this prefixing results in a nasal being directly followed by a voiceless stop, delete the voiceless stop; e.g., underlying /mentulis/ becomes /ditulis/.
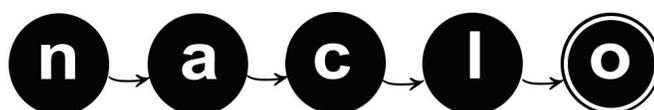
From *dibuat* and *dipilih*, we can see that the roots for "make" and "choose" are *buat* and *pilih*, respectively. In both cases, the active prefix would then be *mem-* since the start of the root is bilabial; but for *pilih* the *p* must then be deleted because *mempilih* has a nasal followed by a voiceless stop. Thus, the answers are:
(a) membuat
(b) memilih

Part 2:
Mandar is very similar to Indonesian but with a couple of differences: First, the default nasal (ie the one before vowels) is *ŋ* rather than *n* as in Indonesian. Secondly, when a configuration of a nasal followed by a voiceless consonant occurs, it is not repaired by deleting the voiceless consonant but rather by turning the nasal into the voiceless consonant; e.g., underlying /mantunu/ becomes /mattunu/. Finally, the active prefix is *maN-* rather than *meN-*.

From *ditimbe* and *dipande*, we can see that the roots for "throw" and "feed" are *timbe* and *pande.* Both of these start with voiceless sounds, so in both cases the nasal turns into a copy of the voiceless sound. Thus, the answers are:

(c) mattimbe
(d) mappande

Part 3:
From the examples, you can see that *-pa* is a possessive prefix while *-pi* means "in". However, the *p* in these suffixes becomes *b* if the preceding sound is a nasal. Using this info, we get the following answers:
(e) hatumba
(f) hatumbi

Part 4:
From the examples, you can see that the prefix *N-* means "my" (where *N* is a nasal at the same place of articulation as the following sound). If the word begins with a voiceless stop, then the *m-* prefixation also results in voicing of the voiceless stop. If it begins with a voiceless fricative, then the *N-* is not realized at all. Using these rules, we get:
(g) flawta
(h) ndisko
(i) ŋgopak

Part 5:
Each noun has a stem. To make the singular, you give the stem the prefix *olu-*, while to make it plural you add the prefix *eN-* (where *N* is a nasal at the same place of articulation as the following sound). However, the nasal is deleted from the *eN-* prefix is the following sound is voiceless. Thus, we get the following answers:
(j) esosi
(k) embafu
(l) epagi
(m) etambi

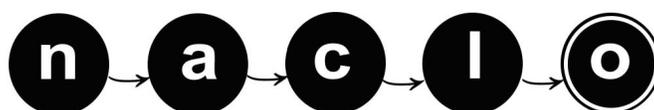**Part 6:**
In all 5 previous parts, the relevant phonological process(es) all worked to avoid having a configuration of a nasal followed by a voiceless stop. Indonesian did this by deleting the stop (which might in fact be better viewed as the nasal and stop coalescing); Mandar did this by turning the nasal consonant pair into a geminated version of the consonant; Quechua did this by voicing the consonant; Zoque did this by deleting the nasal (if before a voiceless fricative) or by voicing the stop if before a vocieless stop; and Lunyole did this by deleting the nasal. Thus we can sum it up by answering:
(n) nasal
(o) voiceless consonant

The word in the bolded sentence that violates the rule is *sentence*, which contains *nt* (as well as [ns] if you think phonetically!):
(p) sentence

(Q) Better Left Unsaid (3/3)

Sources:

- *General inspiration and source for some language data:*
  ◊ Pater, Joe. "Austronesian nasal substitution and other NC effects." *The prosody-morphology interface* (1999): 310-343.
- *Puyo Pungo Quechua:*
  ◊ Orr, Carolyn. 1962. Ecuador Quichua Phonology. Studies in Ecuadorian Indian Languages, ed. by Benjamin Elson, 60-77. Norman, Oklahoma: Summer Institute in Linguistics.
- *Indonesian:*
  ◊ The following dictionary: http://www.lexilogos.com/english/indonesian_dictionary.htm
- *Mandar:*
  ◊ Mills, Roger F. 1975. Proto South Sulawesi and Proto Austronesian Phonology. University of Michigan doctoral dissertation
- *Lunyole:*
  ◊ The following dictionary: http://lunyole.webonary.org/
- *Zoque:*
  ◊ Padgett, Jaye. "Stricture and nasal place assimilation." *Natural Language & Linguistic Theory* 12.3 (1994): 465-513.

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