Q. 20 Zuni Tunes

Author: Michael Salter

Below are some verbs from the Zuni language of New Mexico:

ho’ a:wapsi – I cut them
ho’ aptsi – I cut it
a:pehe’a – he is tying them up
pehe’a – he is tying it up
a:hanlikä – he stole them
hanlikä – he stole it
a:wanhatiawa – listen to them!
anhatiawa – listen to him!
ho’ a:witcema – I love them
a:we’a – they are sick
we’a – he is sick
a:p’otuna:we – they fill them
a:p’alo – he buries them
p’alona:we – they bury it
p’iyana:we – they hang it
a:welatena:we – they overtake them
elatekä – he overtook him
a:ne – he goes
a:wa:ne – they go
a:wa:kä – they went
ho’ a:kä – I went

1. Translate into English: ho’ elate, p’alokä, hanlina:we.

2. Translate into Zuni: he went, they bury him, he fills it.

3. Explain why it is impossible to translate “he loves it” into Zuni with certainty.

4. Which of the Zuni verbs above could be considered “irregular”? Why?