

Q30. Hawaiian – Solution

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Hawaiian is a Polynesian language, spoken fluently by about 2000 people.
The following Hawaiian sentences, with their English translations, are about a girl

named Mele and a boy named Keone:

1. He has seven elder brothers. Ehiku ona kaikuaana.
2. Mele has one brother. Ekahi o Mele kaikunane.
3. Keone has one younger brother. Ekahi o Keone kaikaina.
4. Mele has no elder sisters. Aohe o Mele kaikuaana.
5. Keone has no sisters. Aohe o Keone kaikuahine.
6. I have one canoe. Ekahi ou waa.
7. Mele has no younger sisters. Aohe o Mele kaikaina.

A: There are two possible English translations for the following Hawaiian sentence.

What are they?

Aohe ou kaikuaana. **I have no elder brothers (Keone/male speaking) 2) I have no elder sisters (Mele/female speaking)**

B: Translate the following sentence into English and indicate who is speaking, Mele or Keone:

Aohe ou kaikuahine. **'I have no sisters' (Keone speaking)**

C. The following English sentences would be difficult to translate directly into Hawaiian. Explain why this is true.

Keone has one brother.

Because in Hawaiian, the word for the brother of a boy and a sister of a girl are the same, and they are always distinguished according to age – younger or older. Thus there is no way to say "Keone" has one brother in Hawaiian without saying whether the brother is younger or older.

Mele has one younger brother.

The words for brother of a girl and sister of a boy are not distinguished by age. So you could easily say 'Mele has one brother,' but not 'Mele has one younger brother' given the words available in this problem.