

Week 3

Exercises

November 3, 2009

1 The genitive

The genitive singular is *-ren* for nouns ending in a vowel, and *-en* for nouns ending in a consonant.

- Mutila ‘the boy’ → Mutila-ren ‘of the boy’
- Miren (girl’s name) → Miren-en ‘of Miren’

The genitive plural is *-en*, regardless of whether the noun ends in a vowel or a consonant. However, if the noun ends in /a/ (which is common, because that is the definite article), the following rule applies: /a + e/ → /e/.

- Mutila ‘the boy’ → Mutil-en ‘of the boys’
- Aulkia ‘the chair’ → Aulki-en ‘of the chairs’

[NOTE: I’ve included dashes only to highlight the genitive marker. In reality, the spellings are *mutilaren*, *Mirenen*, *mutilen*, and *aulkien*]

The genitive phrase appears before the possessed noun –thus, ‘the friend of Miren’/‘Miren’s friend’ is *Mirenen laguna*, not *laguna Mirenen*.

2 Translate into English (or German)

- Emakumearen laguna ederra da.
- Gizonen etxeak mendian daude.
- Mirenen haurra oso argia da.
- Zaldiaren burua handia da.

Bonus: Alemaniaren hiriburua _____ da.

Fill in the blank. I haven’t told you what *hiriburua* means, but you should be able to guess it from the words I’ve given in the last two weeks. Hint: it is a compound word.

3 Translate into Basque

- Mikel's dog is small.
- The flowers of the mountain are pretty.
- The eyes of the friend are black.
- Kepa's cat is in the house.
- Miren's child is in bed.