Wh-Words and Question Formation in Shughni

1. Yes/No Question Formation

Yes/no question formation is done with intonation leaving the syntactic structure as in statements.

You see it.  wεneyo (wineyo)
You saw it.  tut wint
Do you see it?  wεneyo (wineyo)
Did you see it?  wint tat to
Can you see it?  wεneyo (wineyo)
Could you see it?  wint tat to

2. Wh-Question Formation

Wh-questions are structured much as in English. Wh-words move in Shughni to the front of the sentence and rising intonation occurs on the final syllables of the sentence. Presumably, the DP is replaced by a trace marker which connects to SpecCP which the wh-word occupies.

Who – čaiy
What – čiz
Where – kadand
When – tsawaxt
How – tsaraŋg
Why – čizzhat
tsawaxtum oz pɛxt
when-1st sing. I [did] cook?

mašam <maš-am> čiz pɛxt
We-1st pl. what [did] cook?

čizzhatam maš pɛxt
Why-1st pl. we [did] cook?

tsaraŋgam maš pɛxt
How-1st pl. we [did] cook?

tsawaxtam maš pɛxt
When-1st pl. we [did] cook?

kadandam maš pɛxt
Where-1st pl. we [did] cook?

3. Multiple Wh-Constructions

čaiye čiz pɛxt
Who-3rd sing. what cooked?

4. Person Markers

A person marker occurs on many of the wh- words which corresponds with the subject.

1st person singular marker → -um
1st person plural marker → -am
2nd person singular marker → -at
3rd person singular marker → -ɛ
Examples with 1st singular and plural are given above in 1. Examples of 2nd and 3rd person follow.

čizut p̂εxt
What-2nd sing. [did] you cook?

kadandat to p̂εxt
Where-2nd sing. [did] you cook?

tsawaxtat p̂εxt
When-2nd sing. [did] you cook?

tsaranγat dε p̂εxt
How-2nd sing. it [did] you cook?

čizzhatat p̂εxt
Why-2nd sing. [did] you cook?

ozum azwe p̂εxt čaiye p̂εxt
I him asked who-3rd sing. cooked

čaiye p̂εxt
Who-3rd sing. cooked?

čizε monan p̂εxt / monan čizε p̂εxt

kadande yö p̂εxt
Where-3rd sing. [did] he cook?

tsawaxtε yö p̂εxt
When-3rd sing. [did] he cook?
tsaranγę yō pɛxt
How-3rd sing. [did] he cook (it)?
čizzhatę yō pɛxt
Why-3rd sing. [did] he cook?

Prepared by: Sarah R. Watsky; 30 March 2007