As a linguist, you have been posted to an unknown remote location. You have been briefed that two tribes, who use very different languages, have come into contact for the first time on the banks of a lake. It is your job to help them communicate. Can you work out what each tribe is saying using the translations we already know?

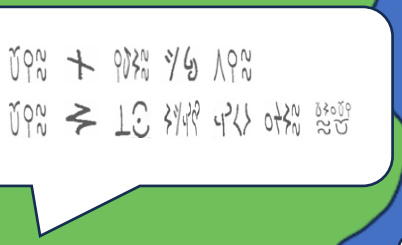
Hint: The forest-dwelling tribe use a made-up language with European roots. In contrast, the water-dwelling tribe use a made-up character-based system where more complex words are created by merging simpler ones.

NLC GCHQ National Language Competition





wirf neull khoteca dolschag tue; kommstowirfe zcemi archessolen wossaquat neutee obr wirntrep fasemilier ae animavot.







- we want a family ↔ wirf khoteca fasemilie
- you want a family ↔ khotectuea fasemilie
- we want an animal ↔ khotecwirfa animavo
- you don't want animals ↔ tue neull khoteca animavot
- the animals wanted food and water ↔ animavot khotecstoa maedie ae wossaquat
- our family has water ↔ wirntrep fasemilie habimet wossaquat
- our family had food ↔ wirntrep fasemilie habimetsto maedie
- fresh food for a family ↔ maedie neutee obr fasemilie
- we got an animal for you ↔ wirf archessolensto animavo obr tue
- you are coming here ↔ kommtuee zcemi
- the animal didn't hurt the families ↔ animavo neull dolschagsto fasemilier

person = 

internal/ownership = 

me = 

external = 

you/him/her/them/it = 

plural = 

object = 

non-existence = 

movement = 

process = 

knowledge = 

mind = 

happiness = 

largeness = 

excitement = 

sadness = 

harm = 

serious harm = 

location = 

there = 

area/region = 

nearby area = 

plant = 

field = 

my field = 

your [plural]/their field = 

connection = 

water = 

lake = 

sea = 

tears = 

vehicle = 