Chapter 4: Word Classes

Cherokee

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I. Cherokee

1. u:-li:ye:t-iha 3SG-moan-PRES
   'S/he's moaning.'

2. uw-otú:hi 3SGPRETTY
   'S/he's pretty.'

3. hla y-u:-li:ye:t-iha not NEG-3SG-moan-PRES
   'S/he's not moaning.'

4. hla uw-otú:hi yi-ki not 3SG-prety NEG-be
   'S/he's not pretty.'

5. u:-li:ye:t-i:sk-v:?i 3SG-moan-IMPERF-PAST
   'S/he was moaning.'

6. uw-otú:hi ke:s-v:?i 3SG-prety be-PAST
   'S/he was pretty.'

7. u:yo:siha
   'S/he's hungry.'

8. hla yu:yo:siha

9. u:yo:si:skv:?i

Notes: Do not be concerned with the morphophonemics in this problem. Forms that have the same English gloss are the same morpheme (for this problem only!).

PRES = 'present tense'; IMPERF = 'imperfective' aspect, a kind of 'ongoing event';
NEG = negation

[v] = a nasalized [o];  : = length

A. What language family does Cherokee belong to? ____________________

   Where is it currently spoken? ______________________

B. Fill in the missing translations.
C. In Cherokee, is there a distinction between the class of verbs and the class of adjectives? What is the syntactic and morphological evidence that supports your answer? (You should be able to give at least 3 pieces of evidence.)

D. What do 7 - 9 tell us about the root translated as "hungry"? Is it a verb or an adjective in Cherokee? Give your evidence.