Lesson 2: Asking Nationality & Language

Setting	Nuj Nphlaib and Ntxawm is having a conversation at the UC Davis bus stop. Leej shows up and joins in the conversation.

Dialogue

Nuj Nplhaib :	Ntxawm, koj yuav mus qhov twg?
Ntawm :	Kuv tseem tos kuv tus phooj ywg, wb yuav mus hoob ua ke.
Leej :	Nyob zoo ob tug phooj ywg.
Nuj Nplhaib :	Koj yog?
Ntxawm :	Nuj Nplhaib, nws yog kuv tus phooj ywg. Nws lub npe hu ua Zhuge Liang, tab sis kuv hu nws ua Leej.
Nuj Nplhaib :	Zoo siab ntsib koj Leej. Koj yog haiv neeg dab tsi?
Leej :	Kuv yog neeg Suav. Kuv hais tau lus Hmoob yeeb vim kuv kawm lus Hmoob tau 3 xyoo lawm.
Ntxawm :	Yog lawm. Thaum wb nyob high school wb kawm lus Hmoob thiab lus Mev ua ke.
Nuj Nplhaib :	Koj paub lus Mev thiab?
Leej :	Paub me me thiab mas. Koj paub pes tsawg yam lus Nuj Nplhaib?
Nuj Nplhaib :	Kuv paub lub Hmoob, As kiv, me ntsis lus Thaib thiab lus Suav.
Ntxawm :	Koj paub lus ntau kawg, Nuj Nplhaib.
Nuj Nplhaib :	Tsis yog, paub me me xwb.

Vocabulary

1)	yuav	will
2)	mus	go

3)	qhov twg	where
4)	tseem tos	still waiting
	tos	wait , to wait
5)	tus , tug	classifier for people, animal, long objects
6)	phooj ywg	friend
7)	wb	we , us , you and I
8)	hoob	class , room
9)	ua ke	together
10)	ob (2) tug	2 , two person
11)	nws	he, him , his
12)	tab sis	but
13)	haiv neeg	nationality , race
	haiv	nation , nationality
	neeg	people , person
14)	dab tsi	what , question particle
15)	hais lus	speak , to speak , spoken
16)	lus	language , word , speech
17)	yeeb vim	because
18)	kawm	learn , to learn
19)	tau peb (3) xyoo lawm	for 3 years already
20)	3 (peb)	3 (three)
21)	xyoo	year
22)	lawm	particle indicating completion of action
23)	yog lawm	that's right , yes
24)	thaum	when
25)	paub	know , to know
26)	me me	little , small

	me ntsis	a little
27)	pes tsawg	how many , how much
28)	yam	kind
29)	ntau kawg	a lot , very much
	ntau	a lot , much
	kawg	particle measuring extremity
30)	tsis yog (tsi yog)	no , it's not right
	tsis (tsi)	no
31)	me me xwb	only a little
32)	xwb	only

Pronouns:

33)	Zhuge Liang	Chinese personal name
34)	Leej	Hmong personal name
35)	Suav	Chinese
36)	Mev	Spanish , Mexican
37)	As kiv	English
38)	Thaib	Thai

Helpful and Interesting Notes

1) The two words "tus" and "tug" are classifier for people, animal, and certain object, mainly long shape objects. "tus" is used to show ownership of people, animal, certain object. "tug" is a classifier used for people, animal, or certain object when it does not classify who it belong to.

Ex.   Kuv <u>tus</u> phooj ywg - My friend

Nws <u>tus</u> miv - His cat.

Wb <u>tus</u> choj - Our bridge.

Ob <u>tug</u> phooj ywg - Two friends.

Ob <u>tug</u> dev thiab <u>tug</u> miv - Two dogs and two cats.

<u>Tug</u> neeg Suav - The Chinese person.

2) The word "dab tsi" means what. But having "dab tsi" at the end of a word or a sentence, turns the word or sentence into a question.

Ex. Yog dab tsi? - What is it?

Koj kawm dab tsi ne? - You are learning what?

Nws hias lus dab tsi? - What language is he/she speaking?

3) The particle "lawm" 1) signifies the occurrence or completion of an action or event, or 2) the emergence of a situation. The action, event, or situation usually pertains to the past, but can sometimes refer to the future. Therefore "lawm" is not a past tense marker and is not equivalent to the past tense in English.

Ex. Nws mus qhov twg lawm? - Where did he/she go?

Kuv paub me me lawm. - I know a little now.

Wb yuav tsis mus lawm. - We will not go anymore.

4) The word "kawg" literally means end or to end. Using "kawg" after an adjective makes the adjective more extreme. In a way, it can be used as the word "very" in english. For example, very good means zoo kawg and very true means yog kawg.

Ex. Nws hais lus Hmoob zoo kawg! - He/She speak Hmong very well!

Koj mus los tau kawg! - You can go!

5) Using "tsis or tsi" in front of a verb or adjective makes it negative or opposite to the original word. For example, "yog" means yes, but adding "tsis or tsi" in front of "yog" means no.

Ex. Koj puas tau hais. - Did you said? Kuv <u>tsis</u> tau hais. - I did not said.

Nws <u>tsi</u> yog kuv tus phooj ywg. - He is not my friend.

Translation of Dialogue

Nuj Nplhaib :   Ntxawm, where are you going?

Ntawm :   I am still waiting for my friend, we are going to class together.

Leej :   Hello friends.

Nuj Nplhaib :   You are?

Ntxawm :   Nuj Nplhaib, he is my friend. His name is Zhuge Liang, but I called him Leej.

Nuj Nplhaib :   I am happy to meet you Leej. What nationality are you?

Leej :   I am Chinese. I can speak Hmong because I learned Hmong for three years already.

Ntxawm :   That's right. When we were in high school, we learned Hmong and spanish together.

Nuj Nplhaib :   You know spanish too?

Leej :   Just a little. How many language do you speak, Nuj Nplhaib?

Nuj Nplhaib :   I know Hmong, English, and a little of Chinese and Thai.

Ntxawm :   You know a lot, Nuj Nplhaib.

Nuj Nplhaib :   Only a little.

Progress Check

 After finishing this lesson, you should be able to

☐   Ask where someone is going.

☐   Ask someone's nationality.

☐   Ask and answer how many language you or someone speak.

* When you are able to do the above, move on to lesson 3! If you are still having trouble, review the lesson until you fully understand all the vocabularies and the dialogue.

Total New Words: 38

Total Words: 60

Next Lesson : Asking Age & Residence