Puzzle 4: articles in Skwxwú7mesh

If submitting for <u>feedback</u>, submit electronically via QM+ on Monday, **20 February 2023 by 11.55pm**

If submitting for <u>assessment</u>, submit electronically via QM+ on Thursday, **20 April 2023 by 11.55pm**

The following data is from Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), a Salish language spoken in British Columbia (Canada) that is nearly extinct. It is taken from Carrie Gillon's (2006) dissertation. There is an article *ta* in Skwxwú7mesh that precedes nouns:

(1) Tsí7   ta   shá7yu   ná7   tan   lám'
    exist   ART   ghost   LOC   1SG.POSS   house
    'There is a ghost in my house'

(2) Chen-t   wa   í7imesh.   Chen kw'áchnexw ta   míxalh.
    1SG-PST IMPF walk   1SG   look   ART   bear
    Ta   míxalh   na   mi   ch'ich'áysttsas
    ART   bear   AUX   come follow
    'I was walking. I saw a bear. The bear followed me' (one bear)

(3) Mí7shits chexw   ta   lapát
    bring.me 2SG   ART   cup
    'Bring me one of the cups'
    Context: two identical cups, side by side

(4) Chen   nam   ch'áatl'am   kwi   chel'áklh.
    1SG   go   hunt   ART   yesterday
    Chen   kw'áchnexw ta   xa7útsn   míxalh.
    1SG   look   ART   four   bear
    Sen   men   kwélasht   ta   mex-míxalh.
    1SG   just   shoot   ART   REDUP-bear
    'I went hunting yesterday. I saw four bears. I shot the bears' (the four bears)

(5) Chen   nam   ch'áatl'am   kwi   chel'áklh.
    1SG   go   hunt   ART   yesterday
    Chen   kw'áchnexw ta   xa7útsn   míxalh.
    1SG   look   ART   four   bear
    Sen   men   kwélasht   ta   mex-míxalh, welh   na   tl'íw'numut
    1SG   just   shoot   ART   REDUP-bear but   AUX   escape
    ta   nch'u7   míxalh
    ART one   bear
    'I went hunting yesterday. I saw four bears. I shot some of the bears, but one of them escaped'

Describe the semantics of the *ta* article—is it presuppositional? How do you know? You don't have to specify a semantic rule for *ta,* but you need to discuss its semantics in terms of the distinctions and notions introduced in class. A useful way of doing that is to compare the

behavior of S<u>k</u>w<u>x</u>wú7mesh *ta* with the behavior we observed in class for English *the* and Lithuanian bare nouns. Discuss any problems that arise (e.g., if you'd need more data—if so, describe what you'd need).

Key: 1 = first person; ART = article; AUX = auxiliary; IMPF = imperfective; LOC = locative; POSS = possessive; PST = past; REDUP = reduplicated; SG = singular

Note on word count. Examples, definitions, tests, etc. do not count towards the word count. You should aim for 600-700 words of prose per puzzle.