Hawaiian

Puzzle by V. Belikov. English adaptation by Valentin Vydrin and Thomas E. Payne

Hawaiian is a Polynesian language, spoken fluently by about 2000 people.

The following Hawaiian sentences, with their English translations, are about a girl named Mele and a boy named Keone:

1. He has seven elder brothers.  Ehiku ona kaikuaana.
2. Mele has one brother.      Ekahi o Mele kaikunane.
3. Keone has one younger brother.   Ekahi o Keone kaikaina.
4. Mele has no elder sisters.  Aohe o Mele kaikuaana.
5. Keone has no sisters.   Aohe o Keone kaikuahine.
6. I have one canoe.   Ekahi ou waa.
7. Mele has no younger sisters.  Aohe o Mele kaikaina.

A: There are two possible English translations for the following Hawaiian sentence. What are they?

Aohe ou kaikuaana.

B: Translate the following sentence into English and indicate who is speaking, Mele or Keone:

Aohe ou kaikuahine.

C. The following English sentences would be difficult to translate directly into Hawaiian. Explain why this is true.

Keone has one brother.

Mele has one younger brother.