Turkish (Altaic)

1) deniz ...................... ‘an ocean’ 9) elim .......................... ‘my hand’
2) denize ...................... ‘to an ocean’ 10) eller .............................. ‘hands’
3) denizin .................... ‘of an ocean’ 11) diʃler .............................. teeth’
4) ev ......................... ‘to a house’ 12) diʃimizin ........................ ‘of our tooth’
5) evden ...................... ‘from a house’ 13) diʃlerimizin ................ ‘of our teeth’
6) evtʃikden .... ‘from a little house’ 14) eltʃike ........................ ‘to a little hand’
7) deniztʃikde ...... ‘in a little ocean’ 15) denizlerimizde ... ‘in our oceans’
8) elde .......................... ‘in a hand’ 16) evtʃikimde ... ‘in my little house’

17) kuʃʃuklarimiz ..‘our little birds’ 19) kizʃiklariniz ‘to your[pl] little girls’
18) kolumdan ............ ‘from my arm’ 20) gültʃüklerim’in ‘of my little roses’

Hints for this puzzle.

1) Don’t look at numbers 17-20 until you’ve worked for a while on 1-16. You’ll see why.

2) Turkish has suffixes, i.e, endings, that change the shape of the word, instead of using prepositions (of, from, etc.) like we do in English. This is called a case system, and each different ending is a different case.

3) One can stack several endings up, one after another, in Turkish (this is called agglutination, by the way). So you can have one ending for plural, followed by one ending meaning ‘possessed by first person’, followed by another meaning ‘possessed by plural’, followed by one meaning ‘of’. And that’s a short word.

4) Once you get to numbers 17-20, figure out what the changes are in the endings and what causes them. You may not be able to get it, but here’s a hint:

Check out the unchanging parts of the word (called roots) that one adds the endings to. What do all the roots in 1-16 have in common that none of the roots in 17-20 have in common?