How to format interlinearized linguistic examples

Three-line format

(1) ▶ a. ▶ʔu–gʷəč’–əd ▶čəxʷ ▶ti ▶sqʷəbay?
   ▶PFV–look for–ICS ▶2SG ▶SPEC ▶dog
   ▶‘you looked for the dog’

▶ b. ▶*ʔu–gʷəč ▶čəxʷ ▶ti ▶sqʷəbay?
   ▶PFV–look.for ▶2SG ▶SPEC ▶dog
   ▶*‘you looked for the dog’

(Hess 1993: 16)

(2) hay lax–du–b=əxʷ ▶ʔə tiʔiɬ c’iχc’iχ
then ▶look.for–LC–MD=now ▶PR ▶DIST ▶fish.hawk

     ▶tiʔiɬ tu=s=cut–t–əb=s ▶ʔə tiʔiɬ sčətxʷəd
     ▶DIST ▶PST=NP=speak–ICS–MD=3PO ▶PR ▶DIST ▶bear
‘then fish-hawk remembers what bear said to him’
(lit. ‘then his was-spoken-by-bear is remembered by fish-hawk’)  
(Hess 1993: 194, line 46)

Bella Coola

(3) ▶ʔalnap–is=kʷ=c’ ▶ta=qiiqtii=tɬx ▶wa=s=kʷacta–tu–m
know–3SG:3SG=QTV=now ▶D=baby=D ▶D=NP=NAME–CS–3SG.PASS

     ▶x=ti=man=ɬ
     ▶PR=D=father=1PL.PO
‘the baby knew what he had been named by our father’
(Davis & Saunders 1980: 108, line 12)

* Word-processing tip: use the “Keep lines together” option to prevent page breaks from interrupting interlinearized examples and separating lines across pages.
Four-line format

Four-line format is used for data where there are many phonological changes in the affixes that make up the word and the parsed form looks very different from the phonological form of the utterance.

Lushootseed (2)

hay lałdubəxʷ ?ə tiʔiɬ c’iƛc’iƛ ...
hay laƛ–dxʷ–b=əxʷ ?ə tiʔiɬ c’iƛc’iƛ
then look.for–LC–MD=now PR DIST fish.hawk
‘then fish-hawk remembers’

(first line reflects the phonological form of the utterance as a whole
second line reflects the phonological form of the individual affixes)

(based on Hess 1993: 194, line 46)

Upper Necaxa Totonac

ka–tamá:–ʔeː–w–Ø
nak=kin–štikat–kan
OPT–lie.down–DEB–1PL.SUB–PFV
LOC=1SG.PO petate–PL.PO
‘let’s lie down on our petates!’

(five-line format for some languages that have an established practical orthography or when there is a need for detailed phonetic representation)

Five-line format

Upper Necaxa Totonac

mat ho'lh chi:wakálh mat ta:lmá:n
mat ?oɬ či:wakál mat ta:lmá:n
mat ?oɬ čiː–wakál mat taː–lməːn
QTV tied.with.rope tie–be.high QTV CLF–long
‘they say he was tied up high with a rope’

(first line gives the utterance in orthography (shown here) or close phonetic transcription
the second line gives a phonemic transcription in IPA/APA)