

Sixth Asia Pacific Linguistics Olympiad

April 7 – 21, 2024

Problems

- Listen carefully to the invigilators and follow their instructions.
- The contest lasts five hours. The problem set consists of six pages and contains five problems. You may solve the problems in any order.
- You are not allowed to use any electronic devices, written or printed material, or other external sources of information during the contest.
- If you have a question about any of the problems, put up your hand and ask an invigilator. The invigilator will consult with the jury before answering.
- Rules for writing out solutions:
 - Do not copy the statements of the problems.
 - Write down your solution to each problem on a separate sheet or sheets.
 - Use only the front side of the answer sheet.
 - On each sheet, write your name, the number of the problem, and the page sequence of that sheet within the problem, e.g.:

| | |
|-----------|-------|
| Name | ... |
| Problem # | 5 |
| Page # | 1 / 3 |

| | |
|-----------|-------|
| Name | ... |
| Problem # | 5 |
| Page # | 2 / 3 |

| | |
|-----------|-------|
| Name | ... |
| Problem # | 5 |
| Page # | 3 / 3 |

meaning first, second, and third sheet out of three for the fifth problem.

Otherwise, your work may be mislaid or misattributed.

- Unless stated differently, you should describe any patterns or rules you identified in the data. Otherwise, your solution will not be awarded full marks.

The contest problems must be kept confidential until they are published on the official APLO website <https://aplo.asia>. Do not disclose nor discuss the problems online until that date.

Problem 1 (20 points). Here are some sentences in Tutuba and their English translations:

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. me ve urede am <i>He made your (SG) laplap.</i> | 7. e ote niu man dokta noku <i>You (SG) will bring my doctor's coconut water.</i> |
| 2. sube noku a sile boe nona <i>My chief will give away his pig.</i> | 8. nno ote niu an boe <i>I brought the pig's coconut meal.</i> |
| 3. o ve ti man tasim <i>You (SG) made your (SG) brother's tea.</i> | 9. arivitamaute bulana ma ati vidin boe <i>His cat bit the pig's tail.</i> |
| 4. viriu ma an toa bulaku <i>The dog ate my hen.</i> | 10. mesaku mo sor vamol aku <i>My wife looked at my orange.</i> |
| 5. ma an toa <i>He ate the chicken meat.</i> | 11. arivitamaute bulan mera noku a an masi <i>My boyfriend's cat will eat the fish (SG).</i> |
| 6. ka sor batuna <i>I will look at his head.</i> | 12. nno ve taŋa non tamana <i>I made his father's bag.</i> |

(a) On Tutuba Island, where the Tutuba language is spoken, one particular animal is regarded as property and an object. This animal is considered a symbol of wealth and power. Which animal is this?

(b) Translate into English:

13. **nno an boe non sube**
14. **a ati toa ana**
15. **o sor arivitamaute**

(c) Translate into Tutuba:

16. *Your (SG) dog ate the fish (SG)'s head.*
17. *He brought your (SG) coconut shell.*
18. *I will give away my orange juice.*

(d) Determine the correct correspondences:

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 19. baheo amiu | A. <i>our (INCL) guest</i> |
| 20. nani bulara | B. <i>our (EXCL) mother</i> |
| 21. tinamam | C. <i>their goat</i> |
| 22. voi noda | D. <i>your (PL) shark meat</i> |

△ Tutuba belongs to the Oceanic branch of the Austronesian family. It is spoken by approx. 500 people in Vanuatu.

ŋ is a consonant.

Laplap is a traditional dish in Vanuatu. Coconuts have various uses: the shell is used as a cup, the inside of the seed as feed (known as *coconut meal*), and the liquid inside as drinking water (known as *coconut water*).

SG = singular; PL = plural; *we (INCL)* = we including you; *we (EXCL)* = we without you.

— Tsuyoshi Kobayashi

Problem 2 (20 points). Here are some words and phrases in Wemba Wemba and their English translations in random order:

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. kali lar | A. <i>bad/evil spirit</i> |
| 2. kali mir | B. <i>big nose</i> |
| 3. katjin mir | C. <i>red eyes</i> |
| 4. kurrki mir | D. <i>brain</i> |
| 5. marti karr | E. <i>door</i> |
| 6. marti katjin | F. <i>eyelid</i> |
| 7. miRk-purrrp | G. <i>flood</i> |
| 8. purrrp | H. <i>head</i> |
| 9. purrrpi lar | I. <i>roof</i> |
| 10. puRt kurrk | J. <i>tears</i> |

(a) Determine the correct correspondences, given that **puRt** means *smoke*.

* * *

Below are some more words and phrases in Wemba Wemba and their English translations in random order:

- | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| 11. kalki tjina | K. <i>bones of the foot</i> |
| 12. kalki werp | L. <i>kangaroo</i> |
| 13. kurri | M. <i>nostril</i> |
| 14. murti kalk | N. <i>octopus</i> |
| 15. murti paR | O. <i>river</i> |
| 16. paR | P. <i>short river</i> |
| 17. paR manya | Q. <i>short tree</i> |
| 18. putj | R. <i>sole (of the foot)</i> |
| 19. putji karr | S. <i>spine, backbone</i> |
| 20. putji tjina | T. <i>stick</i> |
| 21. wartipi kalk | U. <i>stomach</i> |
| 22. wartipi kurri | V. <i>toe</i> |
| 23. wartipi liti | W. <i>unmarried woman</i> |
| 24. wartipi tjina | X. <i>young kangaroo</i> |

(b) Determine the correct correspondences.

(c) Translate into English: 25. **kalk** 26. **katjin** 27. **liti**

One of the words has two possible translations. Provide them both.

(d) Translate into Wemba Wemba: 28. *old kangaroo* 29. *finger* 30. *skull*

(!) No additional explanation besides the answers is required, nor will be marked.

(continued on next page)

Problems

△ Wemba Wemba belongs to the Kulinic branch of the Pama-Nyungan family. It is extinct now. It was once spoken along the Murray River and its tributaries in northwestern Victoria and south-central New South Wales, Australia.

ng, **ny**, **rr**, **rt**, and **tj** are consonants. The symbol **R** represents an unknown **r**-like consonant.

— Vlad A. Neacșu

Problem 3 (20 points). Some words in the Bambara language are derived from French. Below are some such words along with their origins in French and their meanings:

| French | Bambara | meaning | French | Bambara | meaning |
|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|
| bāk | bāki | <i>bank</i> | brɔs | bɔrɔsi | <i>brush</i> |
| trē | tērē | <i>train</i> | ābargo | ābarigo | <i>embargo</i> |
| spɔr | sipɔri | <i>sport</i> | enerzi | enerizi | <i>energy</i> |
| mɛrsənɛr | mɛrisənɛri | <i>mercenary</i> | ɛskro | ɛsikoro | <i>crook</i> |
| marto | marito | <i>hammer</i> | arikoɔɛr | arikowɛri | <i>green bean</i> |
| obɛrʒin | oberizini | <i>eggplant</i> | ētɛrnet | ēterinɛti | <i>internet</i> |
| furno | furuno | <i>furnace</i> | ʃarbɔ | sarabɔ | <i>coal</i> |
| dezɛr | dezeri | <i>desert</i> | sēgapur | sēgapuru | <i>Singapore</i> |
| milɛtɛr | milɛtɛrɛ | <i>military</i> | lyksābur | likisāburi | <i>Luxembourg</i> |
| nɔrɔɛʒ | nɔriwɛzi | <i>Norway</i> | prezidā | perezidā | <i>president</i> |
| ɔɛr | wɛrɛ | <i>glass</i> | tɔɔʃ | (1) | <i>torch</i> |
| mɛrkyr | mɛrikiri | <i>mercury</i> | gitar | (2) | <i>guitar</i> |
| trāspɔr | tarāsipɔri | <i>transportation</i> | frās | (3) | <i>France</i> |
| traktɔɛr | tarakɛteri | <i>tractor</i> | ēspektɔɛr | (4) | <i>inspector</i> |
| ɛpinar | ɛpinari | <i>spinach</i> | mars | (5) | <i>March</i> |
| skanɔɛr | sikanɛri | <i>scanner</i> | ʒardē | (6) | <i>yard</i> |
| sɛktɔɛr | sɛkitɛrɛ | <i>sector</i> | dirɛktɔɛr | (7) | <i>director</i> |
| seminɛr | seminɛri | <i>seminar</i> | ɛtamazɔɔr | (8) | <i>headquarters</i> |
| gard | garadi | <i>guard</i> | mɔɔrfin | (9) | <i>morphine</i> |
| grɛs | gɛrɛsi | <i>Greece</i> | ēfɔɔrmatik | (10) | <i>computer science</i> |

Fill in the blanks (1–10).

△ Bambara belongs to the Mande family. It is spoken by approx. 4.1 million people in Mali.

The words are given in phonetic transcription. **ʃ**, **ʒ**, **ɔɔ**, and **w** are consonants. **ɑ**, **ɔ**, **ɛ**, **ə**, **œ**, and **y** are vowels. The mark ~ indicates that the vowel is nasalized.

— Oh Haenaem

Problem 4 (20 points). Here are some sentences in Mairasi and their English translations:

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. omo obae avu nayomnai | <i>I chased my grandfather.</i> |
| 2. eeme domba teosnyai | <i>We sacrificed the sheep (SG).</i> |
| 3. sika nasai uratu imbiemnyai | <i>The black cat dropped the fish (SG).</i> |
| 4. neme uratu neii navairjonnev | <i>You (SG) caught the small fish (PL).</i> |
| 5. tat naii nabae nani navaseen bumbuemnyai | <i>The small child kept hitting his tired father.</i> |
| 6. eme tat javiit mesionyev | <i>You (PL) hid the children using the basket.</i> |
| 7. aasi nevwer domba nayemnyev | <i>The big dogs chased the sheep (PL).</i> |
| 8. eme onggwasa teoiei | <i>You (PL) cut (PAST) my hair.</i> |
| 9. eme nebae fuati avwer uvuoiei | <i>You (PL) dipped their big net in the water.</i> |
| 10. nebae avu javii asai maimaitavemai | <i>Your (SG) grandfather kept carrying the black basket.</i> |
| 11. ebae bembe newas namor buenggei | <i>Your (PL) angry pigs hit (PAST) him in the face [literally: hit his face].</i> |
| 12. obae nani jerung narovot navairjemai | <i>My father drew the bow [literally: pulled back the bow] using his hand (in preparation to shoot).</i> |

Sentences 9 and 10 can be translated into English in two different ways, but only one translation for each is provided here.

(a) Translate into English:

13. **omo domba nesai maitavomnev**
14. **neme eebae jerung imbionai**
15. **eeme eenggwasa eerovot uvuosei**
16. **omo fuati aii teonggai**

(b) The following sentence is grammatically incorrect:

17. **tat neii javii avwer imbiemai**

Explain why.

(c) Translate into Mairasi:

18. *We sacrificed the big fish (PL).*
19. *I made your (SG) black dog swim.*
20. *You (PL) hid his grandfather using the net.*
21. *You (SG) kept hitting their small basket using your (SG) hand.*

△ Mairasi belongs to the Mairasi family. It is spoken by approx. 2,500 people in the Indonesian province of West Papua.

ng = *ng* in *king*; **y** = *y* in *yet*.

SG = singular; *PL* = plural; *PAST* = past tense.

— Kazune Sato, Minkyu Kim

Problem 5 (20 points). Here are some equalities written in the Chungli dialect of the Ao language:

- (1) **tenemri ka + metsyri asym = tenem ser metsyri pezy**
- (2) **liri pezy + semyr maben pungu = tenem ser metsy maben tyko**
- (3) **tenet + ti = metsy maben pungu**
- (4) **metsy maben trok × pungu = lir anasy**
- (5) **teri ana × ana + rokyri asym = telang tyko maben tenet**
- (6) **semyr maben ti + liri ana = tenem ser metsy**
- (7) **tyko × trok = tenemri pezy**
- (8) **lir anasyri pezy – lir maben pungu = tenem maben tyko**
- (9) **teri asym × trok = lir anasy maben ti**

(a) Write the equalities (1–9) in digits, given that **metsy maben ti** is 18.

(b) Write in Chungli Ao: 10, 31, 36, 58, 93.

If an exact expression cannot be determined from the given data, write out all possibilities.

△ Chungli is one of five dialects of the Ao language, which belongs to the Sino-Tibetan family. It is spoken by approx. 130,000 people in Nagaland, India.

ɿ is a vowel.

— Vlad A. Neacşu

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Good luck!