

# Sixth Asia Pacific Linguistics Olympiad

7 – 21 April 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. <b>me ve urede am</b><br><i>He made your (SG) laplap.</i>                   | 7. <b>e ote niu man dokta noku</b><br><i>You (SG) will bring my doctor's coconut water.</i>            |
| 2. <b>sube noku a sile boe nona</b><br><i>My chief will give away his pig.</i> | 8. <b>nno ote niu an boe</b><br><i>I brought the pig's coconut meal.</i>                               |
| 3. <b>o ve ti man tasim</b><br><i>You (SG) made your (SG) brother's tea.</i>   | 9. <b>arivitamaute bulana ma ati vidin boe</b><br><i>His cat bit the pig's tail.</i>                   |
| 4. <b>viriu ma an toa bulaku</b><br><i>The dog ate my hen.</i>                 | 10. <b>mesaku mo sor vamol aku</b><br><i>My wife looked at my orange.</i>                              |
| 5. <b>ma an toa</b><br><i>He ate the chicken meat.</i>                         | 11. <b>arivitamaute bulan mera noku a an masi</b><br><i>My boyfriend's cat will eat the fish (SG).</i> |
| 6. <b>ka sor batuna</b><br><i>I will look at his head.</i>                     | 12. <b>nno ve taŋa non tamana</b><br><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. <b>baheo amiu</b>  | A. <i>our (INCL) guest</i>     |
| 20. <b>nani bulara</b> | B. <i>our (EXCL) mother</i>    |
| 21. <b>tinamam</b>     | C. <i>their goat</i>           |
| 22. <b>voi noda</b>    | 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. <b>kali lar</b>     | A. <i>bad/evil spirit</i> |
| 2. <b>kali mir</b>     | B. <i>big nose</i>        |
| 3. <b>katjin mir</b>   | C. <i>red eyes</i>        |
| 4. <b>kurrki mir</b>   | D. <i>brain</i>           |
| 5. <b>marti karr</b>   | E. <i>door</i>            |
| 6. <b>marti katjin</b> | F. <i>eyelid</i>          |
| 7. <b>miRk-purrrp</b>  | G. <i>flood</i>           |
| 8. <b>purrrp</b>       | H. <i>head</i>            |
| 9. <b>purrrpi lar</b>  | I. <i>roof</i>            |
| 10. <b>puRt kurrk</b>  | 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. <b>kalki tjina</b>   | K. <i>bones of the foot</i>  |
| 12. <b>kalki werp</b>    | L. <i>kangaroo</i>           |
| 13. <b>kurri</b>         | M. <i>nostril</i>            |
| 14. <b>murti kalk</b>    | N. <i>octopus</i>            |
| 15. <b>murti paR</b>     | O. <i>river</i>              |
| 16. <b>paR</b>           | P. <i>short river</i>        |
| 17. <b>paR manya</b>     | Q. <i>short tree</i>         |
| 18. <b>putj</b>          | R. <i>sole (of the foot)</i> |
| 19. <b>putji karr</b>    | S. <i>spine, backbone</i>    |
| 20. <b>putji tjina</b>   | T. <i>stick</i>              |
| 21. <b>wartipi kalk</b>  | U. <i>stomach</i>            |
| 22. <b>wartipi kurri</b> | V. <i>toe</i>                |
| 23. <b>wartipi liti</b>  | W. <i>unmarried woman</i>    |
| 24. <b>wartipi tjina</b> | 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
<b>bāk</b>	<b>bāki</b>	<i>bank</i>	<b>brɔs</b>	<b>bɔrɔsi</b>	<i>brush</i>
<b>trē</b>	<b>terē</b>	<i>train</i>	<b>ābargo</b>	<b>ābarigo</b>	<i>embargo</i>
<b>spɔr</b>	<b>sipɔri</b>	<i>sport</i>	<b>enerzi</b>	<b>enerizi</b>	<i>energy</i>
<b>mɛrsənɛr</b>	<b>mɛrisenɛri</b>	<i>mercenary</i>	<b>ɛskro</b>	<b>ɛsikoro</b>	<i>crook</i>
<b>marto</b>	<b>marito</b>	<i>hammer</i>	<b>arikover</b>	<b>arikoweri</b>	<i>green bean</i>
<b>obɛrʒin</b>	<b>oberizini</b>	<i>aubergine</i>	<b>ētɛrnet</b>	<b>ēterinɛti</b>	<i>internet</i>
<b>furno</b>	<b>furuno</b>	<i>furnace</i>	<b>ʃarbɔ</b>	<b>sarabɔ</b>	<i>coal</i>
<b>dezɛr</b>	<b>dezɛri</b>	<i>desert</i>	<b>sēgapur</b>	<b>sēgapuru</b>	<i>Singapore</i>
<b>militer</b>	<b>militerɛ</b>	<i>military</i>	<b>lyksābur</b>	<b>likisāburi</b>	<i>Luxembourg</i>
<b>nɔrveʒ</b>	<b>nɔriwɛzi</b>	<i>Norway</i>	<b>prezidā</b>	<b>perezidā</b>	<i>president</i>
<b>vɛr</b>	<b>wɛrɛ</b>	<i>glass</i>	<b>tɔrʃ</b>	(1)	<i>torch</i>
<b>mɛrkyr</b>	<b>mɛrikiri</b>	<i>mercury</i>	<b>gitar</b>	(2)	<i>guitar</i>
<b>trāspɔr</b>	<b>tarāsipɔri</b>	<i>transport</i>	<b>frūs</b>	(3)	<i>France</i>
<b>traktɔɛr</b>	<b>tarakiteri</b>	<i>tractor</i>	<b>ēspektɔɛr</b>	(4)	<i>inspector</i>
<b>epinar</b>	<b>epinari</b>	<i>spinach</i>	<b>mɑrs</b>	(5)	<i>March</i>
<b>skanɔɛr</b>	<b>sikanɛri</b>	<i>scanner</i>	<b>ʒardē</b>	(6)	<i>garden</i>
<b>sɛktɔɛr</b>	<b>sɛkitɛrɛ</b>	<i>sector</i>	<b>dirɛktɔɛr</b>	(7)	<i>director</i>
<b>seminɛr</b>	<b>seminɛri</b>	<i>seminar</i>	<b>ɛtamazɔr</b>	(8)	<i>headquarters</i>
<b>gard</b>	<b>garadi</b>	<i>guard</i>	<b>mɔrfin</b>	(9)	<i>morphine</i>
<b>grɛs</b>	<b>gɛresi</b>	<i>Greece</i>	<b>ɛfɔrmatik</b>	(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**, **ʀ**, and **w** are consonants. **ɑ**, **ɔ**, **ɛ**, **ə**, **œ**, and **y** are vowels. The mark ~ indicates that the vowel is nasalised.

— Oh Haenaem

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

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

## Problems

**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!