

Eighth Asia Pacific Linguistics Olympiad

29 March – 12 April 2026

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 verbs in Ja'a Kumiai and all possible English translations:

ʔijŋ	<i>I give it to him</i>	ʔua:	<i>I make him go</i>
a:	<i>he goes</i>	kuamp	<i>make him walk!</i>
map	<i>I want him</i>	mijŋ	<i>you(sg) give it to him</i>
mnʔijŋ	<i>they give it to you(sg)</i>	mxuʔtup	<i>he makes you(sg) jump</i>
nua:	<i>we make him go</i>	ŋkmʔap	<i>want me!</i>
ŋmnʔa:	<i>you(pl) make me go</i>	ŋnʔar	<i>he steals me</i>
xtup	[<i>I jump</i> <i>he jumps</i>	namp	[<i>we walk</i> <i>they walk</i>
●nar	<i>I steal you(sg)</i>	●nma●	<i>we want you(sg)</i>

Some entries are partially obscured by spilled ink.

(a) Translate into English:

1. ʔamp
2. mnua:
3. ŋnmʔap

There is only one possible translation for each item.

(b) The following verbs have errors:

4. ŋʔa:
5. kuʔamp

Add a single letter to each to make them correct, and then translate to English.

(c) Translate into Ja'a Kumiai:

6. *I go*
7. *we go*
8. *make me jump!*
9. *you(pl) walk*
10. *you(sg) steal him*
11. *they want you(sg)*
12. *he gives it to me*

△ Ja'a Kumiai belongs to the Yuman family. It is spoken by 4 people in Mexico.

ʔ is pronounced by briefly blocking airflow in the throat, as in the middle of *uh-oh*. ŋ and x are consonants. The mark [̣] after a vowel indicates that it is pronounced long.

sg = singular; pl = plural.

— Arul Kolla

Problem 2 (20 points). Here are some sentences in Hiaki and their English translations:

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. u'u te:ko bwi:kan | <i>The chief is singing.</i> |
| 2. huhusai mi:sim bwa:nak | <i>Some brown cats cried.</i> |
| 3. u'u chukui se:wa ponwak | <i>The black flower was hit.</i> |
| 4. ume vakochim bwa:nak | <i>The snakes cried.</i> |
| 5. chu:'u ume mosenim bwanria | <i>A dog cries for the sea turtles.</i> |
| 6. tosai va:kot uka husai misita ponne | <i>A white snake will hit the brown cat.</i> |
| 7. mo:sen usita uka sewata ponria | <i>A sea turtle hits the flower for a child.</i> |
| 8. bwanwan | <i>Someone is crying.</i> |

Based on the data above, a linguist translated the following sentences but made errors:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| 9. u'u u:si wikitta ponriawa | — Incorrect: <i>The child is hit for a bird.</i>
Correct: <i>Someone hits a bird for the child.</i> |
| 10. u'u va:kot usita ponriawa | — Incorrect: <i>The snake is hit for a child.</i>
Correct: <i>Someone hits a child for the snake.</i> |

(a) Translate into English:

11. u:si bwi:kak
12. mo:sen ponwa
13. u'u wi:kit uka mosenta bwanriane
14. ume te:kom totosai se:wam po:na

(b) Translate into Hiaki:

15. *A bird is hitting a chief.*
16. *The black birds sing for the children.*
17. *Someone is hitting the brown dog for the cat.*

△ Hiaki belongs to the Uto-Aztecan family. It is spoken by approx. 20,500 people in the Sonora state of Mexico and in Arizona, USA.

bw, ch, and [ʔ] are consonants. The mark [ː] after a vowel indicates that it is pronounced long.
— Kazune Sato, Tsuyoshi Kobayashi

Problem 3 (20 points). Here are Ngiti numbers from 1 to 10, given in alphabetical order:

arɯ arɯbhɯ arɯgyetdi atdi aza imbo ɪbhɯ ɪdre ɪfɔ ɔɔ

For numbers above 10, Ngiti uses two distinct systems: one traditional and the other developed more recently. The table below presents some numbers greater than 10 in both systems with their corresponding values. They are listed in ascending order.

Traditional system	New system	Value
otsivi		
	ɪdre dɔna ɔɔ na	
otsi dɔ atdi		
ɔpɪ	ɪdre dɔna aza na	
(A)	ɪdre dɔna arɯgyetdi na	
arotsivi		23
adzoro dɔ atdi	ɔɔ kumi dɔna arɯgyetdi na	
(B)	ɪfɔ kumi dɔna arɯbhɯ na	
wadhɪ dɔ wadhɪvi	(C)	
ɔɔ wadhɪ dɔ otsi	arɯbhɯ kumi dɔna aza na	
(D)	arɯgyetdi kumi	
ɪbhɯ wadhɪ dɔ adzorovi	mɪya dɔna ɔɔ kumi dɔna ɪbhɯ na	
ɪfɔ wadhɪ dɔ ɔpɪ dɔ ɔɔ	(E)	146
imbo wadhɪ dɔ ɪdre	(F)	
arɯbhɯ wadhɪ dɔ aba dɔ atdi	ɔɔ mɪya dɔna ɪfɔ kumi dɔna imbo na	
(G)	ɔɔ mɪya dɔna arɯ kumi na	
(H)	ɪbhɯ mɪya dɔna imbo na	305

Fill in the blanks (A–H). No answers are required in the shaded areas.

△ Ngiti belongs to the Central Sudanic branch of the Nilo-Saharan family. It is spoken by approx. 85,000 people in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Today, only a few elders still remember its traditional numeral system.

ɛ, ɪ, ɔ, and ɯ are vowels. Although Ngiti has tone, tone is not marked in this problem for simplicity.

— *Minkyu Kim, Vlad A. Neacșu*

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

βatólóka	<i>they escape</i>
tíβálíkukyaagálá	<i>they are not searching for it</i>
βálikutuvunáánízyá	<i>they are giving us responsibility</i>
tíβasééhúlíká	<i>they do not migrate</i>
titúkihalákátá	<i>we do not scrape it</i>
alikuβálá	<i>he is counting</i>
aalya	<i>he eats</i>
túlikugwá	<i>we are falling</i>
tyalíkuβakuléémbéla	<i>he is not leading them</i>
tufúkámíla	<i>we kneel</i>
βálikwagálá	<i>they are searching</i>
tyaβiikúlá	<i>he does not uncover (something)</i>
tyaagwá	<i>he does not fall</i>
títúlíkuseehúlíká	<i>we are not migrating</i>
túmwaazíka	<i>we lend (something) to him</i>
βátukuléémbéla	<i>they lead us</i>

(a) Mark the correct tones:

1. tumutya *we fear him*
2. tiβalikwanzulula *they are not extending (something)*
3. titwoonoona *we do not spoil (something)*
4. alikutusiβa *he is tying us*
5. βaholoota *they snore*

(b) Translate into Lulamogi:

6. *he is not spoiling him*
7. *we give them responsibility*
8. *we do not extend (something)*
9. *they are escaping*
10. *he does not fear*

△ Lulamogi belongs to the Bantu group of the Atlantic-Congo family. It is spoken by approx. 185,000 people in Uganda.

β, w, and y are consonants. Doubled vowels are pronounced long. Lulamogi has two tones: the mark above the vowel denotes the high tone, while the low tone is unmarked.

Problems

Problem 5 (20 points). Here are some words and phrases in Bangime and their English translations:

à bìì ⁿ	<i>the goat</i>	ɖʒèndʒé	<i>crocodile</i>
à gàrìbù	<i>the beggar</i>	màà ɖʒéndʒè	<i>his crocodile</i>
tùùré	<i>hyena</i>	ɖʒèndʒéndè	<i>crocodiles</i>
ā tūūrè	<i>the hyena</i>	àà màà ɖʒéndʒéndè	<i>your(pl) crocodiles</i>
à kwàà	<i>the neck</i>	kwāāndè	<i>necks</i>
máá bújágíndè	<i>my guavas</i>	nì màā kwààndé	<i>their necks</i>
tājndè	<i>straw baskets</i>	bùtígé	<i>porcupine</i>
tāārè	<i>spider</i>	ā bûtīgè	<i>the porcupine</i>
máá tààrè	<i>my spider</i>	àà bûtígè	<i>your(sg) porcupine</i>
à dijàndé	<i>the villages</i>	pījèw	<i>hornbill</i>
māā dijà	<i>his village</i>	àā pījèw	<i>your(sg) hornbill</i>
tùndúró	<i>tale</i>	nè màā pījèwndé	<i>our hornbills</i>
màà túndúróndè	<i>his tales</i>	màà kwáábéndè	<i>his succulents</i>

Translate into Bangime:

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. <i>village</i> | 6. <i>my hyena</i> |
| 2. <i>goats</i> | 7. <i>your(pl) hyenas</i> |
| 3. <i>his goat</i> | 8. <i>the beggars</i> |
| 4. <i>the spider</i> | 9. <i>their straw basket</i> |
| 5. <i>the guava</i> | 10. <i>our succulent</i> |

△ Bangime is a language isolate. It is spoken by approx. 3,500 people in southern Mali. Bangime has three tones: high (´), mid (¯), and low (`).

ɖʒ is a consonant. ε is a vowel. Doubled vowels are pronounced long. The mark ⁿ after a vowel indicates that it is nasalised.

Hyena, *hornbill*, and *porcupine* are kinds of animals. *Succulent* is a kind of plant. *Guava* is a kind of fruit.

sg = singular; pl = plural.

— Panawat Tiacharoen, Faraz Ahmed

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Good luck!