

Eleventh International Olympiad in Linguistics

Manchester (Great Britain), July 22–26, 2013

Individual Contest Solutions

Problem #1. Rules:

1. If the number of syllables in the word (= stem + ending) is even, all syllables are short. If the number of syllables in the word is odd, the last even-numbered syllable of the stem is lengthened.

2 = 2 + 0:	bu₁ja²-∅	3 = 2 + 1:	ba₁ma:²-gu₃
4 = 2 + 2:	bu₁ja²-gi₃mbal⁴	3 = 3 + 0:	gu₁da:²ga₃-∅
4 = 3 + 1:	gu₁da²ga₃-bi⁴	5 = 3 + 2:	ju₁du:²lu₃-mu⁴jay₅
4 = 4 + 0:	mu₁yu²ba₃ra⁴-∅	5 = 4 + 1:	ga₁ja²gi₃mba:⁴-gu₅

2. If the ending **-ni** or **-mu** immediately follows a long vowel, it loses its own vowel.

- (a) **mugaɕumu**, **waɲa:lgu**.
 (b) **bama:n** — of a person, **bupa:bi** — another woman, **maɟurmujay** — with a frog, **muja:mni** — of a mother.
 (c) of a stranger — **muyubara:n**, for a fishing net — **mugaɕugu**, father — **bimbi**, from a frog — **maɟu:rmu**, without a man — **wagu:ɟagimbal**, of a pigeon — **juduluni**, tortoise — **baɟi:gal**, without a boomerang — **waɲalgimbal**.

Problem #2. The compound noun has the following structure:

$$\boxed{\begin{array}{l} \text{modifier} \\ (-l \text{ is lost}) \end{array}} + \left\{ \begin{array}{l} -d- \text{ (before a vowel)} \\ -n- \text{ (before a consonant)} \end{array} \right\} + \boxed{\text{modified}}.$$

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|----------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| <i>ilennime</i> | herd of deer (“house of deer”) | <i>møŋer</i> | thunder |
| <i>joqonnime</i> | wooden house (“Yakut house”) | <i>ciremennime</i> | nest |
| <i>saancohoje</i> | wooden knife | <i>joqoncohoje</i> | Yakut knife |
| <i>johudawur</i> | nose case | <i>saadoŋoj</i> | wooden box |
| (a) <i>ilenlegul</i> | deer feed | <i>uoduo</i> | grandchild |
| <i>cireme</i> | bird | <i>oŋoj</i> | bag |
| <i>johul</i> | nose | <i>aariinjohul</i> | rifle’s muzzle |
| <i>aariinmøŋer</i> | gunshot (“rifle thunder”) | <i>uodawur</i> | cradle |
| <i>joqodile</i> | horse (“Yakut deer”) | <i>joqol</i> | Yakut person |
- (b) *aarii* — rifle, *aariidoŋoj* — rifle case, *ciremedawur* — nest (= *ciremennime*), *ile* — deer, *johudewce* — tip of nose, *legul* — food, *saal* — wood, *saannime* — wooden house (= *joqonnime*), *uo* — child.
- (c) iron bird — *cuoncireme*, snoring — *johunmøŋer*, tip of knife’s blade — *cohojedewce*, sack for provisions — *legudoŋoj*.

Problem #3. Rules:

1. x [ʔ].
2. A noun and a following modifier are pronounced as one word, but at the end of the first word of the phrase [i] after a vowel is lost and in the beginning of the second word [ʔ] is lost.

$$\textit{xisitai xagai}$$
 [ʔisitaɪ ʔagai] → [ʔisitaagai]

3. 1 syllable = CVV, CV or VV (C = consonant, V = vowel). The syllabification starts from the end of the word.

$$\begin{array}{l} \textit{xiaapisi} \rightarrow [\text{ʔiaapisi}] \rightarrow [\text{ʔiaapi.si}] \rightarrow [\text{ʔiaa.pi.si}] \rightarrow [\text{ʔii.aa.pi.si}] \\ \textit{hixi xitaixi} [\text{hiʔi ʔitaiʔi}] \rightarrow [\text{hiʔiitaiʔi}] \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow [\text{hi.ʔii.tai.ʔi}] \end{array}$$

4. Syllable weight hierarchy: TVV > DVV > VV > TV > DV (T = voiceless consonant ([h, k, p, s, t, ʔ]), D = voiced consonant ([b, g])). The rightmost syllable of the heaviest type among the last three syllables of the word receives primary stress.

$$\textit{giopai sabi}$$
 [giopaɪ sabi] $\xrightarrow{\text{TV=TV>DV}}$ [gio...pa.sa.bi] → [gio.pa.¹sa.bi]

5. A phrase has a secondary stress if the last three syllables of the phrase don't contain any part of the first word. It is placed according to the same rules as the primary stress, but disregarding the last three syllables.

$$\begin{array}{l} \textit{giopai sabi} [\text{giopaɪ sabi}] \rightarrow \overbrace{[\text{gio...pa.sa.bi}]}^1 \rightarrow [\text{gio.pa.}^1\text{sa.bi}] \\ \textit{giopai xaibogi} [\text{giopaɪ ʔaibogi}] \rightarrow \overbrace{[\text{gio.pa...ai.bo.gi}]}^1 \rightarrow [\text{2gio.pa.}^1\text{ai.bo.gi}] \end{array}$$

Answers:

<i>xaaibi</i>	ʔa. ¹ ai.bi	thin
<i>xaapisi</i>	¹ ʔaa.pi.si	arm
<i>xitiixisi</i>	ʔi. ¹ tii.ʔi.si	fish
<i>bigi</i>	bi. ¹ gi	ground
<i>kagahoagii</i>	ka.ga.ho.ao. ¹ gii	papaya
<i>kaibai</i>	¹ kai.bai	monkey
<i>kapiigaiitoo</i>	ka.pii.ga.ii.to. ¹ ii	pencil
<i>poogaihiiai toio</i>	poo.gai. ¹ hia.to.io	old banana
<i>xabagi kapiorio</i>	² ʔa.ba.gi.ka.pio. ¹ ʔio	another toucan
<i>xabagi xogiai</i>	ʔa.ba. ¹ gio.gi.ai	big toucan

Problem #4. The word order is

subject	verb	object
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. If the subject is neither possessed nor a proper name, it is preceded by the article *a*.

Noun:

root

 + [-*hi* plural] +

possessor:
- <i>ku</i> 1st person sg
- <i>no</i> 3rd person sg
- <i>ndo</i> 3rd person pl

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Proper name: *a* +

the first root syllable

 + *a* +

root

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Possession:

possessed	- <i>no</i>	possessor (singular)
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,

possessed	- <i>ndo</i>	possessor (plural)
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Verb:

<i>d-</i> anim and plural
<i>n-</i> inan or singular

 +

<i>o-</i> present
<i>a-</i> future

 +

root

.

Future: if the first sound of the root is *f-*, it is replaced by *m-*, otherwise *-um-* is inserted after the first consonant.

The preposition *we* indicates the direction of motion.

1. *andoandoke nogholi lagahiku*.
- (a) The Monkey is buying my ants.
2. *a dhinihi dasumuli we murindo robhinehi*.
- The demons will return to the women's pupil.
3. The Ant will climb the pupil's stone.
- a-la-a-laga na-moni we kontu-no muri*.
4. The ants are going to the Demon.
- a laga-hi do-kala we a-dhi-a-dhini*.
- (b) 5. My women's monkeys will cut my bananas.
- ndoke-hi-ndo robhine-hi-ku da-dumodo kalei-hi-ku*.
6. The monkey's mountains are far.
- molo-hi-no ndoke no-kodoho*.

Problem #5. Location A is activated by the idea of shelter. Location B is activated by the idea of manipulation. Location C is activated by the idea of eating. Location D is activated by long words. The researchers claim that the first three factors have high ecological validity (i. e., the results of the experiment conform to the data on human behaviour in real life) and survival value, and that Location D is responsible for a low-level visual representation of the printed word.

Word	Translation	Location A (shelter)	Location B (manipulation)	Location C (eating)	Location D (long words)
<i>refrigerator</i>	'refrigerator'	low	low	high	high
<i>cow</i>	'cow'	low	low	high	low
<i>bed</i>	'bed'	high	low	low	low
<i>butterfly</i>	'butterfly'	low	low	low	high
<i>spoon</i>	'spoon'	low	high	high	low
<i>cat</i>	'cat'	low	low	low	low