

Fourteenth International Linguistics Olympiad

Mysore (India), 25–29 July 2016

Individual Contest Solutions

Problem 1. The words **bete'**, **dai'**, **naung**, **pano**, **sau** and **tama** reflect the direction at the last stage of the journey:

- **bete'** — across a river;
- **dai'** — upwards;
- **naung** — downwards;
- **pano** — on a flat road;
- **sau** — downstream;
- **tama** — upstream.

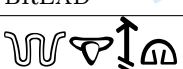
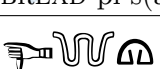
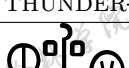
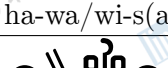
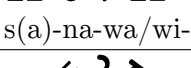
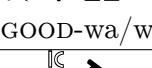
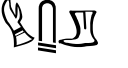
Answers:

1. In **Kahangang** hamlet: **Lamaoä' dai' di Palembang.**
2. In **Kombeng** hamlet: **Lamaoä' dai' di Palembang.**
3. In **Kota** hamlet: **Lamaoä' bete' di Bulung.**
4. In **Kota** hamlet: **Lamaoä' sau di Sohongang.**
5. In **Palempang** hamlet: **Lamaoä' naung di Bulung.**
6. In **Palempang** hamlet: **Lamaoä' sau di Kota.**
7. In **Palempang** hamlet: **Lamaoä' naung di Pahihuang.**
8. In **Bulung** hamlet: **Lamaoä' tama di Kota.**
9. In **Bulung** hamlet: **Lamaoä' naung di Pikung.**
10. In **Panampo** hamlet: **Lamaoä' pano di Kota.**
11. In **Pikung** hamlet: **Lamaoä' bete' di Bulung.**
12. In **Pikung** hamlet: **Lamaoä' tama di Kahangang.**
13. In **Pikung** hamlet: **Lamaoä' dai' di Panampo.**
14. In **Tamonseng** hamlet: **Lamaoä' bete' di Kahangang.**
15. In **Tamonseng** hamlet: **Lamaoä' dai' di Palembang.**

Problem 2. The direction of writing is from left to right. Words can be written in three ways:

- with a logogram;
 - with syllabograms;
 - with a logogram and syllabograms which partially or fully reflect the sound of the word.
- n before a consonant is never expressed by a syllabogram.

(a)

1. runtiyas 'deer'	B.  DEER	H.  DEER-ya-s(a)
2. patis 'foot'	E.  FOOT-s(a)	U.  FOOT
3. harnisas 'fortress'	J.  ha-FORTRESS	O.  FORTRESS-ni-s(a)-s(a)
4. iziyanta 'they made'	F.  i-zi-ya-ta	T.  i-zi-ya-ta
5. turpis 'bread'	L.  BREAD	W.  BREAD-pi-s(a)
6. tarhunzas 'thunder'	S.  THUNDER-hu-za-s(a)	V.  ta-THUNDER-s(a)
7. hawis 'sheep'	C.  ha-wa/wi-s(a)	K.  SHEEP-ha-wa/wi-s(a)
8. sanawas 'good'	I.  s(a)-na-wa/wi-s(a)	Q.  GOOD-wa/wi-s(a)
9. nimuwizas 'son'	M.  ni-mu-wa/wi-za-s(a)	Y.  ni-SON-za-s(a)
10. zitis 'man'	D.  MAN	N.  MAN-ti-s(a)
11. piyanti 'they give'	G.  TO GIVE	P.  TO GIVE-ya-ti
12. hantawatis 'king'	A.  ha-ta-wa/wi-ti-s(a)	X.  ha-ta-KING
13. istaris 'hand'	R.  HAND	Z.  i-HAND-s(a)

(b) 1.  — tarhunzas 'thunder'; 2.  — nimuwizas 'son'.

- (c) 1.  — ta;
2.  — KING (hantawatis);
3.  — wa, wi;
4.  — ta;
5.  — s(a);
6.  — ti, FOOT (patis);
7.  — zi, MAN (zitis).

Problem 3. Rules:

- Word order: S (O') O V
(S = subject, O' = indirect object, O = direct object, V = predicate).
- noun:
 - ROOT
 - number:
 - * singular: -∅
 - * plural: $\begin{cases} -i & \text{after a consonant} \\ -\text{cci} & \text{after a vowel} \end{cases}$
 - case:
 - * S: -∅
 - * O', O: $\begin{cases} -\text{:g} & \text{after a vowel} \\ -\text{gi} & \text{after a sonorant consonant} \\ -\text{ki} & \text{after an obstruent consonant} \end{cases}$
- verb:
 - tense (present a-, future bi-)
 - ROOT
 - for somebody: 'to give' (to the first person: de:n, to the second or third person: tir)
 - | object: | singular | plural |
|---------------------|----------|------------------------|
| O', if there is one | -∅ | -ccir (-C > ∅ -ccir) |
| otherwise O | -∅ | -ir |
 - tense: past -s, present/future -r (r > d | n _)
 - subject: 1st person sg -i, 1st person pl/3rd person sg -u, 3rd person pl -a

- (a) 1. **magasi argi ajomirra.**
The thieves are striking us.
2. **ay kanarri:g ba:bki alletirsi.**
I repaired the door for the neighbour.
3. **hanu tirti:g elirsu.**
The donkey found the owners.
4. **tirti argi kamgi de:ccirsa.**
The owners gave us the camel.
5. **ay darbadki bija:ndi.**
I will buy the chicken.
- (b) 6. *The neighbours are giving the necklace to the owner.*
kanarri:cci tirtki beyye:g atirra.
7. *The young man bought the dog for us.*
jahal argi walgi ja:nde:ccirsa.
8. *We will steal him.*
ar mangi bima:gru.
9. *The owners struck the thieves.*
tirti magari:g jomirsa.
10. *The dogs found the chickens for the coward.*
wali sarka:ysi darbadi:g eltirsa.

Problem 4.

- | | | | |
|-----|-----------------------------|---|---------------------------------|
| (a) | 1. gu-na vaala | water- possessor canoe | c. canoe |
| | 2. ka'ik | picture/shadow | g. picture, shadow |
| | 3. ka'ik-gu | picture+water | j. mirror |
| | 4. kla-wun | to get- 1st person sg | i. I got |
| | 5. laavu | banana | a. banana |
| | 6. laavu-ga vi' | book+to see | n. to read |
| | 7. laavu-ga | banana+leaves | d. book |
| | 8. ni'bu | ground, land | o. ground, land |
| | 9. ni'bu-na vaala | ground, land- possessor canoe | h. car |
| | 10. nya-ka'ik | sun+picture | l. watch (timepiece) |
| | 11. vi | spear | m. spear |
| | 12. vi'-wun | to see- 1st person sg | k. I saw |
| | 13. walini'ba-na bâk | white people- possessor pig | b. cow |
| | 14. walini'ba-na gu | white people- possessor water | e. carbonated beverage, alcohol |
| | 15. walini'ba-na vi | white people- possessor spear | f. rifle |
- (b) 1. **vaala** — canoe
2. **gu** — water
3. **vi'** — to see

The word **vaala** is a synonym of **guna vaala** 'canoe'. The later expression **guna vaala** (lit. 'water canoe') came into use because the Iatmul people were introduced to cars (and also planes), and **vaala** has slowly started to expand its meaning.

- (c)
1. *pig* — **bâk**
 2. *banana leaves* $\equiv$ *book* — **laavuga** (because of similarity of shape and material)
 3. *sun* — **nya**
 4. *white people* — **walini'ba**

Problem 5. The word forms in the problem consist of a root and up to three suffixes. Each suffix may cause the elision of the preceding vowel:

	possessor	case	
oral suffixes	-p'a -sa	-p'a -t'a	-psa -txi
	always consume the vowel	consume the vowel if it belongs to another suffix, but leave it if it belongs to the root	
nasal suffixes	-nha, -ma	-na	
	consume the vowel if they keep theirs, but leave it if they give up theirs		

Answers:

- (a)
1. **utnhantxi** — *is it in my house?*
 2. **yapp'psa** — *his field too*
 3. **yapup'psa** — *through the field too*
- (b)
4. *our₁₊₂ cliff* — **qaqsa**
 5. *in your corner* — **chushumna**
 6. *in your corner too* — **chushmanpsa**
 7. *from your corner too* — **chushumt'psa**
 8. *is it from the cave?* — **aq'it'txi**
 9. *is it the house?* — **utatxi**