

Seventh International Olympiad in Theoretical, Mathematical and Applied Linguistics

Wrocław (Poland), 26–31 July 2009

Individual Contest Solutions

Problem #1. Here are the words from which the Sulka language constructs its numerals:

- *tgian* 1, *lomin* 2, *korlotge* 3, *korlolo* 4, *ktiëk* 5, *mhelom* 20;
- *hori orom* addition, *lo* doubling;
- *a* singular, *o* plural (from 3 on).

Nouns have different forms for the two numbers (*tu*, *sngu*; *vhoi*, *vuo*). There are separate words for a foursome of coconuts, for a twosome and foursome of breadfruit (*ngausmia*, *moulang*, *ngaitegaap*).

Answers:

- (a)
- *a ksie a tgian*: 1 coconut
 - *o ngaitegaap a korlotge*: 12 breadfruits
 - *o ngausmia a ktiëk*: 20 coconuts
 - *o vuo a lo ktiëk hori orom a tgian*: 11 betel nuts
- (b)
- 2 yams: *a lo tu a lomin*
 - 14 yams: *o sngu a lo ktiëk hori orom a korlolo*
 - 15 breadfruits: *o ngaitegaap a korlotge hori orom a moulang hori orom a tgian*
 - 20 betel nuts: *o vuo a mhelom*

Problem #2. The N’Ko script is written and read from right to left. The script is an alphabet: each letter stands for a consonant or a vowel. The letters within a word are joined.

- (a) A tilde above a vowel letter means low tone, its absence means high tone. But a vowel has middle tone if it is marked in the same way as the one before it (if both either have or lack tildes).

ɓɓɓɓɓɓɓɓ — bɪlákòró
tájula

kòrikóri — ɓɓɓɓɓɓɓɓ
báwò — ɓɓɓɓ

- (b) If two adjacent syllables have the same vowel and both letters should have a tilde or neither should have one according to the rules, only the second vowel is written.

kòlóló — kòlóló
támene
wólowolo

létère — létère
bɪlakóro — bɪlakóro
jàmanaké — jàmanaké

Problem #3. We can see that the names of the children born on the same day of the week have similar first sounds:

- Monday: kaun mya?, khin le nwε, khain min thun, kepi thun
- Tuesday: zeya cɔ, su mya? so, susu win, shan thun, shu man cɔ
- Wednesday: win i mun, win koko, win cɔ aun, yadana u, yinyin myin
- Thursday: pan we, pyesoun aun, mimi khain, phou nain thun, myo khin win
- Saturday: thou n, ne lin, tin man la?, the? aun, tin za mɔ

Answers:

- nwe sinpu — 07/13/2009 (Monday);
- so mo cɔ — 06/16/2009 (Tuesday);
- yε aun nain — 06/24/2009 (Wednesday),
- daliya — 07/18/2009 (Saturday),
- e tin — 06/14/2009 (Sunday: there are no Sunday-born children in the data, nor any names beginning with vowels),
- phyuphyu win — 07/09/2009 (Thursday).

Problem #4.

If the stop consonant in the root	and the vowel in the suffix is <i>a</i> ,	and the vowel in the suffix is <i>i</i> ,
is voiced	the stress is on the suffix.	the stress is on the root.
is voiceless	the stress is on the root.	the stress is on the suffix.

- (a) This rule holds if the root contains precisely one stop consonant. If there are two (*bhāg-a-*, *pad-a-*, *pat-i-*), or if there are none (*us-ri-*), the place of the stress can't be determined.
- (b) *mṛdh-rá-*, *phé-na-*, *stu-tí-*, *tan-tí-*, *bhār-á-*, *dū-tá-*, *sváp-na-*, *bhū-mi-*, *ghar-má-*, *abh-rá-*, *ghan-á-*, *ghṛṣ-vi-*.

Problem #5. The Nahuatl sentences begin with the predicate. The subject and object (or objects) follow in any order, preceded by *in* (a definite article).

The verb receives the following prefixes:

- subject: *ni-* 1st person sg, *ti-* 2nd person sg, — 3rd person sg;
- object: *nēch-* 1st person sg, *mitz-* 2nd person sg, *k-* 3rd person sg;
- another object: *tē-* ‘somebody’, *tla-* ‘something’.

As well as the following suffixes:

- ‘make ...’:
 - <intransitive verb>-*tia* (with lengthening of a preceding *i*),
 - <transitive verb>-*ltia*;
- ‘do for ...’: *-lia* (with change of a preceding *a* to *i*).

Often the same action with and without an object is expressed by different verbs.

Answers:

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| (a) | 18. <i>tiktlazohltaltia</i>
<i>in zihuātl in kuauhxīnki</i>
19. <i>nēchtzāhtzītia</i>
20. <i>tikhuīteki</i>
21. <i>nikēhuilia in kikatl in tīzītl</i>
22. <i>nikneki in ātōlli</i>
23. <i>mitztlakāhualtia</i> | you make the woman love the carpenter;
you make the carpenter love the woman
he makes me shout
you beat him
I sing the song for the healer
I want the atole
he makes you leave something |
| (b) | 24. he makes me prepare the atole
25. you prepare the wine for somebody
26. the healer makes you sleep
27. I sing something
28. I fall | <i>nēchchīhualtia in ātōlli</i>
<i>tiktēchīhuilia in oktli</i>
<i>mitzkochītia in tīzītl</i>
<i>nitlaēhua</i>
<i>nihuetzi</i> |