

Tenth International Olympiad in Linguistics

Ljubljana (Slovenia), 30 July – 3 August 2012

Individual Contest Solutions

Problem #1. The word order is **[OSV]** (O: object, S: subject, V: verb), **[NA]** (N: noun, A: adjective).

A → V ('make A'): **A-man.**

V → A:

V	'that is always being Ved'	'that is always Ving Ns'
-n	-l-muŋa	N-...-l-ŋay-muŋa
-nu	-y-muŋa	N-...-nay-muŋa

Every noun is preceded by an article:

O	S	
balan	baŋgun	women, dangerous animals and objects
bayi	baŋgul	men, animals
bala	baŋgu	all other things

The subject and its attributes get the ending

- **-ŋgu**, if the word ends in a vowel and has two syllables;
- **-gu**, if the word ends in a vowel and has more than two syllables;
- **-Du**, if the word ends in a consonant; **D** is a stop articulated in the same place in the mouth as the final sound of the word.

(a) The grasshopper is neither a woman nor a dangerous animal, but takes the same article, so it must be the “old woman” from the myth. The linguist thought that **baŋgun bundiŋju** in example (14) was an error.

(b) 17. **balan palŋga baŋgul ŋumaŋgu guniymuŋagu bambunman.**

The father that is always being searched for is healing the girl.

18. **bala diban bilmbalmuŋa baŋgun biŋjirinju guniju.**

The lizard is searching for the stone that is always being pushed.

19. **bayi bargan baŋgul yaŋaŋgu gubimbuluŋunjanaymuŋagu banjan.**

The man that is always blaming doctors is following the wallaby.

(c) 20. The little wallaby is looking at the dragonfly.

bayi yirinjila baŋgul bargandu wurŋgu buŋan.

21. The aunt that is always being followed is bending the feather.

bala yila baŋgun mugunanŋagu banjalmuŋagu waŋuman.

22. The sleeping possum is ignoring the loud noise.

bala muŋga baŋgul midindu jaŋundu ŋajin.

23. The caterpillar is searching for the man that is always carrying stones.

bayi yaŋa dibandimbanaymuŋa baŋgul bayimbambu guniju.