

Twelfth International Olympiad in Linguistics

Beijing (China), July 21–25, 2014

Individual Contest Problems

Do not copy the statements of the problems. Write down your solution to each problem on a separate sheet or sheets. On each sheet indicate the number of the problem, the number of your seat and your surname. Otherwise your work may be mislaid or misattributed.

Your answers must be well-supported by argument. Even a perfectly correct answer will be given a low score unless accompanied by an explanation.

Problem #1 (20 points). Here are some verb forms of Benabena and their English translations:

<i>nohobe</i>	I am striking him
<i>kahalune</i>	we will strike you _{sg}
<i>nokoho'ibe</i>	we both are striking you _{sg}
<i>nolenufu'inagihe</i>	because we both are piercing you _{pl}
<i>nolifi'ibe</i>	you both are piercing us
<i>nofunagihe</i>	because I am piercing him
<i>nofine</i>	you _{sg} are piercing him
<i>nifila'ibe</i>	you both will pierce me
<i>nonahatagihe</i>	because you _{sg} are striking me
<i>lenahalube</i>	I will strike you _{pl}
<i>nahalanagihe</i>	because you _{pl} will strike me
<i>lahala'ibe</i>	you both will strike us
<i>nofutagihe</i>	because we are piercing him
<i>lenifilu'ibe</i>	we both will pierce you _{pl}
<i>noho'inagihe</i>	because we both are striking him

(a) Translate into English:

nonifibe, halu'ibe, lifilatagihe, nokufune, nolahanagihe.

(b) Translate into Benabena:

- you both are striking him;
- we will pierce you_{sg};
- because we are striking you_{pl};
- because you_{pl} will pierce him.

⚠ The Benabena language belongs to the Trans-New Guinea family. It is spoken by approx. 45,000 people in Papua New Guinea. —Ivan Derzhanski