

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-muṇa	N-... -l-ṇay-muṇa
-ṇu	-y-muṇa	N-... -nay-muṇa

Every noun is preceded by an article:

O	S	
balan	baṅgun	women, dangerous animals and objects
bayi	baṅgul	men, animals
bala	baṅgu	all other things

The subject and its attributes get the ending

- **-ṇgu**, 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 **baṅgun bundiṇṇu** in example (14) was an error.

(b) 17. **balan paṇṇa baṅgul ṇumaṅgu guniymuṇagu bambunman**.

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

18. **bala diban bilmbalmuṇa baṅgun biṇṇiriṇṇu guniṇu**.

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

19. **bayi bargan baṅgul yaṇṇu gubimbuluṇṇanaymuṇagu baṇṇan**.

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

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

bayi yiriṇṇila baṅgul bargandu wuraṅgu buṇan.

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

bala yila baṅgun mugunaṇṇagu baṇṇalmuṇagu waṇuman.

22. The sleeping possum is ignoring the loud noise.

bala muṇga baṅgul midindu ṇagundu ṇaṇin.

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

bayi yaṇa dibandimbanaymuṇa baṅgul bayimbambu guniṇu.