

# 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-muña	N-...-l-nay-muña
-nu	-y-muña	N-...-nay-muña

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 ɻumaŋgu guniymuŋagu bambunman.**  
The father that is always being searched for is healing the girl.
  18. **bala diban bilmbalmuña baŋgul bijiriŋju 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 yiriŋjila 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 jagundu ɻajin.**
  23. The caterpillar is searching for the man that is always carrying stones.  
**bayi yaŋa dibandimbanaymuŋga baŋgul bayimbambu guniju.**