Twenty-first International Linguistics Olympiad

Brasília (Brazil), 23–31 July 2024

Individual Contest Solutions

Problem 1. Structure of the verb form:

1. subject (**t-** 1st person sg, **mət-** 1st person du/1st person pl, ∅- 2nd person sg, **ne-** 3rd person du=3rd person pl)

2. **ə** materialises here if and only if needed to avoid a cluster of two consonants word-initially or word-finally, or a cluster of three consonants in any position.

3. tense (**ku-** present, **je-** future, ∅- past)

4. **ine-**: direct object = 1st person sg (subject = 2nd person du/2nd person pl)

5. verb root

6. **-la**: subject/direct object = 1st person pl/2nd person pl

7. tense (**-ŋ** present/future, **-∅** past)

8. **ə** materialises here if and only if needed to avoid a cluster of two consonants word-initially or word-finally, or a cluster of three consonants in any position.

9. **-tək**: subject = 2nd person du/2nd person pl (direct object = 1st person sg);
   direct object (**-tək** 2nd person du/2nd person pl, **-n** 3rd person sg, **-net** 3rd person du, **-new** 3rd person pl)

Sound changes:

1. the final vowel of a prefix is lost before another vowel;

2. **t+j > cc, t+l > ll, t+n > nn, t+ŋ > ṇŋ**;

3. if **a** is present, all **e/i/u** in the word become **a/e/o**, respectively.

(a)
19.	**kulleŋən**	*you*(sg) *lead him*
20.	**jinejguŋtək**	*you*(du) *will bite me*
21.	**tekminnew**	*I caught them*(pl)
22.	**təjohallaŋtək**	*I will wait for you*(pl)
23.	**mətkonŋevlaŋən**	*we*(pl) *send him*

(b)
24.	*you*(sg) *will see them*(du)	**jelhuŋnet**
25.	*we*(pl) *bit him*	**mətəjgolan**
26.	*you*(pl) *catch me*	**kenakmellaŋtək**
27.	*they send you*(du)	**nekunŋivŋətək**
28.	*you*(du) *led me*	**inelletək**