Fifth International Olympiad in Theoretical, Mathematical and Applied Linguistics

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Solutions of the Problems of the Individual Contest

Problem #2

The negative forms are composed of a particle kas followed by a modification of the original form which contains the marker -(k)a'- in one form or another. The rules for insertion of this marker are as follows:

(1) The marker is inserted after the first syllable of the word if this syllable is either closed (i.e., ends in a consonant) or long (i.e., contains a long vowel); otherwise the marker is inserted after the second syllable of the word.

(2) If the marker is inserted after a long vowel, this vowel loses its length.

(3) If the marker is inserted after an open syllable, it retains its original form -ka'-; if it is inserted after a closed syllable (i.e., after a consonant), it loses its initial -k- and assumes the shape -a'-.

(4) If the marker is attached to the end of the word (by Rule (1), only possible in case of mono- and disyllabic words), it assumes the shape of -(k)a:®a', where (k) stands or falls as predicted by Rule (3) above and ® is a copy of the preceding consonant. This shape can be regarded as the same -(k)a'- as above, but with -a:®- infixed into it.

§1. The combination in question is kw. We can see this, for example, from the word bakwanyiń 'my wrist' inserting the marker -ka'- after the second syllable, which implies that its first syllable is open.

§2.

base form		negative form
as	to sit	kas asa:sa'
enferme:ra	nurse	kas ena'ferme:ra
jiła:pa	to grate manioc	kas jiłaka'pa
de	to lie	kas deka:ka'
rulrul	jaguar	kas rula'rul
tipoysu:da	dressed in *tipoy*	kas tipoya'su:da
wurul	to roar	kas wurula:la'
dewajna	to see	kas dewaja'na
de:wajna	to see traces of somebody	kas deka'wajna