

en(A)

Twelfth International Olympiad in Linguistics

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Individual Contest Solutions

Problem #1. Rules:

1. present: ***no-***

	singular	plural
2. object = 1	<i>nV-</i>	<i>lV-</i>
	<i>kV-</i>	<i>lenV-</i>

	'strike'	'pierce'
3. present, subject = 1st	<i>ho-</i>	<i>fu-</i>
otherwise	<i>ha-</i>	<i>fi-</i>

4. future, subject = $\begin{cases} 1\text{st} : & \textit{lu-} \\ 2\text{nd} : & \textit{la-} \end{cases}$

5. subject = dual: ***-'i***

	indicative	'because ...'
6. subject = 1st person pl or 2nd person sg	<i>-ne</i>	<i>-tagihe</i>
otherwise	<i>-be</i>	<i>-nagihe</i>

Answers:

- (a) ***nonifibe*** you_{pl} are piercing me
halu'ibe we both will strike him
liflatagihe because you_{sg} will pierce us
nokufune we are piercing you_{sg}
nolahanagihe because you_{pl} are striking us

- (b) ***noha'ibe*** you both are striking him
kifilune we will pierce you_{sg}
nolenohotagihe because we are striking you_{pl}
filanagihe because you_{pl} will pierce him

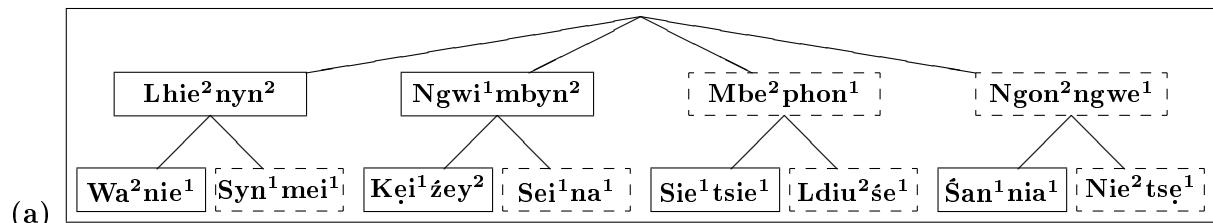
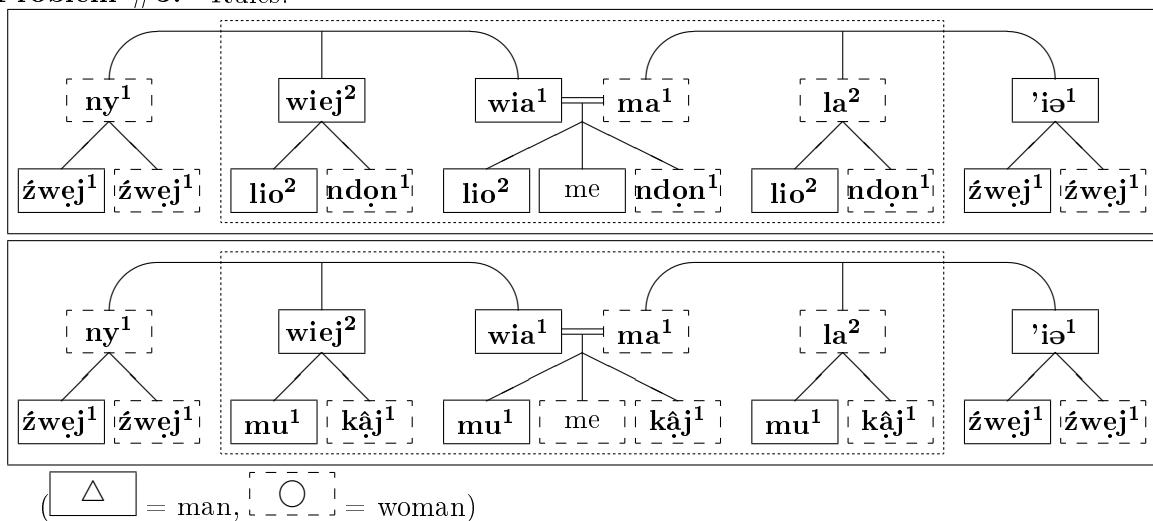
Problem #2. Rules:

	singular	dual	plural
people, animals, tools	-∅	-go	
	-n	-do	
fruit	-gɔ	-∅	-go
	-dɔ	-n	-do
all other things	-dɔ	-n)	

Answers:

singular	dual	plural	
aləsəhjego	aləsəhje	aləsəhjego	plum
tsegun	tsegun	tsegudo	dog
aləguk'ogɔ	aləguk'o	aləguk'ogɔ	lemon
k'ap^ht^hɔ	k'ap ^h t ^h ɔ	k'ap ^h t ^h ɔgɔ	old man
k ^h ɔpɔ	k ^h ɔ	k^hɔ	blanket
k'ɔdɔ	k'ɔn	k'ɔdɔ	tomato
aləgɔ	alo	aləgɔ	apple
p^hɔ	p ^h ɔ	p^hɔgɔ	buffalo
san	san	sadɔ	child
əlsun	əlsun	əlsudɔ	comb
pitsɔ	pitsɔ	pitsogɔ	fork
t^hɔp^hpaadɔ	t ^h ɔp ^h paa	t^hɔp^hpaa	chair

Problem #3. Rules:



(b) Nie² tse¹ Sie¹ tsie¹ 'yn¹ ndon¹ ngu².

Problem #4. Rules:

- Word order:



- Choice of pronoun (S_2):

$$S_1 = S_2 \Rightarrow S_2 = \dot{\mathbf{o}}k\mathbf{i}; S_1 \neq S_2 \Rightarrow S_2 = \mathbf{o}$$

- Vowel lowering: $(W = \text{word with lowered vowels}; \mathcal{W} = \text{word without lowered vowels})$

$$\begin{array}{ll} \dots \mathbf{o} W \dots > \dots \dot{\mathbf{o}} W \dots & \dots W \dot{\mathbf{a}}no \dots > \dots W \mathbf{\dot{a}}no \dots \\ \dots \mathbf{o} W \dots > \dots \mathbf{o} W \dots & \dots W \mathbf{\dot{a}}no \dots > \dots W \mathbf{\dot{a}}no \dots \end{array}$$

- Tone changes: $(J = \text{word boundary}; A = \text{adjective}; V is a vowel; C is a consonant)$

– caused by adjectives: $\dots V] A > \dots \acute{V}] A$

– caused by verb forms:

* affirmative form, past: $\dots \acute{V}] [CV(C)V\acute{C}V]_{\text{verb}}$

* affirmative form, future: $\dots V] [C\acute{V}(C)V\acute{C}V]_{\text{verb}}$

* negative form:¹ $\dots \acute{V}] [CV(C)V\acute{C}V]_{\text{verb}}$

Answers:

- (a) 8. Did this man frighten the thief?
The girl said that he_{this man} did frighten the thief.
9. Will the deceived girl kill this youth?
The deceived girl said that she_{the deceived girl} would kill this youth.
10. This thief said that the child did not heal the man. or
This thief said that the child would not heal the man.
- (b) 11. *okàà kínonò ọmodhyòmú kofilomù ànò à?*
amò wei ga ó kínono ọmodhyòmú kofilomù ànò.
12. *avùràmú nụamù ànó nwasese edèì à?*
avùràmú nụamù ànò wei ga òkí nwasese edèì.
- (c) Nouns are not affected by any grammatical tone changes when placed at the very end of the sentence, before **à** or before **ànò**. Because of this, the base form for ‘thief’ is **ozyi** (7.), and the base form for ‘girl’ is **amemùrè** (2.).

¹Usually has negative past interpretation, but can denote negative future if the surrounding context requires it.

Problem #5. body part – **wí** ‘human’ = spatial preposition:

sèè	(liver)	at the center
yík	(face)	at the surface
zù	(head)	above, on

Answers:

- (a) **?áá** (to put) to put
?áá náng nú kò (to put + foot + edge + hole) to be dying
?áá sèè (to put + liver) to envy
búmá yík (hair + eyes) eyelash
búmá zù yík (hair + above, on + eyes) eyebrow
dáng gòk (bad + snake) poisonous snake
dí fò (good + field) good field
dí sèè (good + liver) happiness
kò yík (hole + eyes) eye socket
kò zòk (hole + nose) nostril
náng wí (foot + human) foot
nú fò (edge + field) field edge
nú lébé (edge + tongue) tip of the tongue
sèè wí (liver + human) liver
yík (face) at the surface
yík wí (face/eyes + human) face/eyes
zù (head) above, on
- (b) **búmá zù** (hair + head) hair (on the head)
kò (hole) hole
lébé gòk (tongue + snake) snake's tongue
lébé wí (tongue + human) tongue
- (c) **sèè** (liver) at the center
zù wí (head + human) head
dáng sèè (bad + liver) displeasure
zòk wí (nose + human) nose