

# 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**.