

**Problem #2 (20 points).** The following are words of the Maninka and Bamana languages written in the N’Ko and the Roman script and their English translations:

(a)

<b>ƳΨԱՐԻՎՈՒԺ</b>	bàlákàwúli	unexpectedness; sandgrouse (a kind of bird)
<b>սԵՒԽԾ</b>	játùrú	hyena
<b>ԿՀՎԳԾ</b>	kòlijí	washing water
<b>ՓՌ</b>	wàlá	slate
<b>ԼԵՎՈՂԱՄ</b>	kúmayira	advertising
<b>ԴԵՂԱԲԻՖԻՆ</b>	tùbabumóri	Christian priest
<b>ԵՒՑԱՎՈՒԺ</b>	?	uncircumcised boy
<b>ՎԱՐՆԱ</b>	?	match-seller
?	kòrikóri	rust
?	báwò	because

(b)

ይደንተል	márajàba	hail!
ልብናዋን	jílasama	hippopotamus
የጊዢተቅተ	kòrəkarasí	gerontocracy
ቁሳ	kàna	may it be that
ለለርሃዊ	bàsitéme	wide-meshed sieve
ባዕትከላይ	nàmátòrokó	hyena
ዓፋሻ	?	rainbow
አላፊ	?	light (of a lamp)
በፋይታዊ	?	a kind of midges; honey from such midges
?	jàmanaké	the joys, pleasures of youth
?	létére	letter, missive
?	bìlakóro	uncircumcised boy

Fill in the gaps.

**⚠** The N’Ko script was invented in 1949 by the Guinean enlightener Soulemayne Kante.

In the Roman script  $\mathbf{j} = j$  in *judge*,  $\mathbf{y} = y$  in *yay!*,  $\mathbf{\epsilon} \approx a$  in *hat*,  $\mathbf{\circ} \approx a$  in *hall*. The marks  $\mathbf{\acute{e}}$  and  $\mathbf{\grave{e}}$  indicate high and low tone (level of voice when pronouncing the syllable), respectively; if neither is present, the syllable has middle tone.

The Bamana and Maninka languages belong to the Manding group of the Mande language family. They are spoken in Mali, Guinea and other countries in West Africa. These languages are very close to one another; the distinction between them is of no consequence to the problem.

*—Ivan Derzhanski*