

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:@-* infixated into it.

§1. The combination in question is *kw*. We can see this, for example, from the word *bakwanyí* ‘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	<i>kas asa:sa'</i>
enferme:ra	nurse	<i>kas ena'ferme:ra</i>
jiłpa:pa	to grate manioc	<i>kas jiłaka'pa</i>
de	to lie	<i>kas deka:ka'</i>
rulrul	jaguar	<i>kas rula'rul</i>
tipoyusu:da	dressed in <i>tipoy</i>	<i>kas tipoya'su:da</i>
wurul	to roar	<i>kas wurula:la'</i>
dewajna	to see	<i>kas dewaja'na</i>
de:wajna	to see traces of somebody	<i>kas deka'wajna</i>