

Twenty-first International Linguistics Olympiad

Brasília (Brazil), 23–31 July 2024

Individual Contest Solutions

Problem 1. Structure of the verb form:

1. subject (t- 1st person sg, mət- 1st person du/1st person pl, Ø- 2nd person sg, ne- 3rd person du=3rd person pl)
2. ə materialises here if and only if needed to avoid a cluster of two consonants word-initially or word-finally, or a cluster of three consonants in any position.
3. tense (ku- present, je- future, Ø- past)
4. ine-: direct object = 1st person sg (subject = 2nd person du/2nd person pl)
5. verb root
6. -la: subject/direct object = 1st person pl/2nd person pl
7. tense (-ŋ present/future, -Ø past)
8. ə materialises here if and only if needed to avoid a cluster of two consonants word-initially or word-finally, or a cluster of three consonants in any position.
9. -tək: subject = 2nd person du/2nd person pl (direct object = 1st person sg);
direct object (-tək 2nd person du/2nd person pl, -n 3rd person sg, -net 3rd person du, -new 3rd person pl)

Sound changes:

1. the final vowel of a prefix is lost before another vowel;
2. t+j > cc, t+l > ll, t+n > nn, t+ŋ > ŋŋ;
3. if a is present, all e/i/u in the word become a/e/o, respectively.

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| (a) | 19. | kulleŋən | you _(sg) lead him |
| | 20. | jinejgun̄tək | you _(du) will bite me |
| | 21. | tekminnew | I caught them _(pl) |
| | 22. | təjohallaŋtək | I will wait for you _(pl) |
| | 23. | mətkonŋevlaŋən | we _(pl) send him |
| (b) | 24. | you _(sg) will see them _(du) | jelhuŋnet |
| | 25. | we _(pl) bit him | mətəjgolan |
| | 26. | you _(pl) catch me | kenakmellaŋtək |
| | 27. | they send you _(du) | nekunŋivŋətək |
| | 28. | you _(du) led me | inelletək |