

Fourth International Olympiad in Theoretical, Mathematical and Applied Linguistics

Solutions of the Problems of the Individual Contest

Problem #1

The word order is SOV.

Nouns are followed by *ki* {this is actually an article}.

Interrogative sentences end by *he*.

The subject and object markers on the verb are as follows:

	subject	object
1sg	<i>wa-</i>	<i>ma-</i>
2sg	<i>ya-</i>	<i>ni-</i>
3sg	0	0
3pl	<i>-pi</i>	<i>wičha-</i>

If there is an object prefix as well as a subject prefix, they come in this order.

The number of the nouns is not expressed by the nouns themselves, only by the verbs.

tuwa means ‘who’ as well as ‘someone’.

Coordinating constructions use the two conjunctions *nä* and *čha*: *nä* means that the subject is the same, *čha* indicates different subjects (or: coordinated predicates are joined by *nä*, clauses within a composite sentence by *čha*; or any other statement to the same effect).

Assignment 1.

1. I came and the Indians called the bears.
2. The man killed you and called me.
3. The man killed you and he called me. (So it is rendered in English at any rate; we can't be sure whether ‘he’ can be ‘the man’ from the first clause or has to be someone else.)
4. He killed you.

Assignment 2.

1. Whom did he kill? 2. Who killed him?

There is not enough evidence to support the existence of other translations.

Assignment 3.

1. *lakhota ki hokšita ki ktepi čha matho ki hi*
2. *yahi nä lakhota ki yakte*
3. *tuwa wačho he*
4. *wičhaša ki hipi čha tuwa wičhakte*