

### Problem 4. Khana (25 marks)

Khana is an Atlantic-Congo language spoken by the Ogoni people of Rivers State, Nigeria (pictured in red). It has around 450,000 native speakers, but it is also considered the prestige variety of the Ogoni languages, so has many second-language speakers.

Below are some sentences in Khana with their English translations. Note that the *kola nut* is the seed of the *cola tree*, traditionally chewed for its stimulating effects. *Yam* is a long edible tuber, similar in appearance to a sweet potato. **gb**, **kp**, **j** and **ʔ** are consonants; **ε** and **ə** are vowels.

The symbol **ɔ̃** over a vowel indicates that it is pronounced with airflow through the nose. Khana also has a tonal system, but for simplicity this has not been marked.



- |                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| 1. Pia gbo de na εreta apεε zĩã.    | The dogs eat my eight slices of yam.            |
| 2. Baε ka wa yaε nia akpo zĩããde.   | Two wives buy four yams to eat.                 |
| 3. Pia dẽẽ wa muε zĩ bee mũũ.       | Their eyes see one fist.                        |
| 4. Wa oʔoo apεε mãã fε zĩ ãkpo mĩã. | Their five splashes of water kill one flame.    |
| 5. Ka gbĩ εreba bee būũãyaε.        | The mother wants seven kola nuts to buy.        |
| 6. Baε bee dẽẽ mε muε aba kẽ.       | My two eyes see just the egg.                   |
| 7. Ye wa εre aba lob akpo kaaniaəb. | His wife has just ten logs to burn.             |
| 8. Na ka yib na iniĩĩ ãkpo asã.     | My mother steals my six broom handles.          |
| 9. Ka oo aba ye zĩ ãpεε zoo.        | The mother sells just his one piece of coconut. |
| 10. Tə ye tεre taa apεε mĩĩ.        | His leg drops three splashes of blood.          |
| 11. Pia yəə muε baε akpo mεεba mε.  | The snakes see my two arms.                     |
| 12. Aninia ka tε de εreta bee asuu. | Nine fathers eat eight seeds.                   |

**Q 4.1** A student learning Khana translated *my heart* as **na jniε**. They were told by their teacher that, although people would understand them if they said this, it was incorrect. Instead, they should have said **jniε mε**. Give a short sentence explaining why.

**Q 4.2** Translate into English:

13. Pia wa wa tεre aba pia na būũ.
14. Lob ka tε gbĩ oʔoo akpo kaaniaoo.
15. Pia mεεba ye εre nia apεε mãã.
16. εreba ka ka fε aba na zĩ ka yəə.

**Q 4.3** Translate into Khana:

17. Nine sparks [=splashes of fire] burn my two legs.
18. Their fists have six pieces of kola nut to steal.
19. His three dogs want my eight coconuts to eat.
20. His eyes see just one egg.

**Problem 4. Khana Answers**

<b>4.1</b>	The heart is a body part.
<b>4.2</b>	13. <i>Their wives + drop just + my kola nuts.</i>
	14. <i>Ten fathers + want five + logs to sell.</i>
	15. <i>His arms + have four + splashes of water.</i>
	16. <i>Seven mothers + kill just my + one snake.</i>
<b>4.3</b>	17. <b>Aninia apee + mĩã + əb + [na] bæ akpo + tɔ mɛ.</b>
	18. <b>Pia + mũnũ wa + ɛɛ + iniʔĩ ăpee + būũăyib.</b>
	19. <b>Ye taa + ka gbo [ye] + gbĩ + na ɛɛta bee + zooade [mɛ].</b>
	20. <b>Pia + dẽẽ ye + muɛ aba + zĩĩ bee + kẽ.</b>

Maximum 35 pts.

**Q 4.1** Max 3. Award 3 pts for any correct statement that the heart is a body part, and therefore uses X **mɛ** rather than **na** X. E.g. “A heart is a part of you”; “**mɛ** is used for inalienable possession”, etc, all score 3 pts. Do not require an explanation of why that affects word choice or word order. Do not award e.g. “**ɲiɛ** must come first” without explanation of why.

**Q 4.2** Max 12. Split each response into three regions as closely as possible to the official solution. A region may be empty. For each region, award 1 pt if it is correct.

Do not penalise incorrect English tense. Do not penalise minor grammatical mistakes or variations in the English, e.g. *just drops* or *drops just* for *drop just*, or *to sell five logs*, unless they impact the meaning. Do require *kola nuts* in 13, not just *kola*, since this relates to the choice of Khana classifier.

**Q 4.3** Max 20. Split each sentence into five regions as closely as possible to the official solution. A region may be empty. For each region, award 1 pt if correct. Split the sentences however allows you to award the most points. Where a word is given in [square brackets], award the point for the region whether it is present or not.

Do not penalise clear copying errors within roots, e.g. **anina** for **aninia**. Note however that nasalisation (**a** vs **ã**) is significant, so should not be treated as a copying error.

E.g. **Taa ka gbo ye gbi na ɛɛta zooade.** score  $0+1+0+0+1 = 2/5$  for 20.

## Problem 4. Khana Commentary

- Syntax:
  - Subject – Verb – [**aba** = *just*] – Object
  - Plural – Possessor – Numeral – Classifier – Noun[+Purpose] – Possessor
- Plural = **pia**. This does not appear with numerals.
- Numerals: 1 = **zĩĩ**, 2 = **baε**, 3 = **taa**, 4 = **nia**, 5 = **oʔoo**, 6 = **iniʔĩ**, 7 = **εrεba**, 8 = **εrεta**, 9 = **aninia**, 10 = **lob**.
- Classifiers:
  - **apεε** = pieces of a whole, and splashes
  - **akpo** = long things, and drops
  - **bee** = small round things
  - **ka** = people and animals
- Purpose: to mark the purpose of a noun, add the suffix **-a-Verb**
- Possession:
  - Possessive pronouns go after the noun when possessing body parts, and before the noun otherwise.
  - *their* = **wa**, *his* = **ye**, *my* = **mε** (for body parts) or **na** (otherwise).
- Nasalisation: **a** > **ã** following a nasal vowel, even across word boundaries.

### References and further reading:

- Ikoru, Suanu M. The Kana Language. Netherlands: Research School CNWS, 1996.
- Ikoru, Suanu M. “Numeral classifiers in Kana.” (1994): 7-28.
- Isaac, Baridisi Hope, and Iniah Barikpe. “Nominal Modifiers in Kana.”

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