Problem 2. Sakata (20 marks)

Sakata (also known as Kisakata) is a Bantu language spoken by several thousand people in the Democratic Republic of Congo. It consists of several quite distinct dialects; this problem features the dialect spoken in the village of Bosobe in the 1980s.

Below are some Sakata sentences, with their English translations. Note that **ə** and **ü** are both vowels.

1.	**Banka balülü bamwi bebil benini.**	*The good women saw the big fields.*
2.	**Banjir babibə badzo ibat lelülü.**	*The bad men killed the good duck.*
3.	**Keto ketita kejo ntaw ne banjir.**	*The long snake heard the men's goat.*
4.	**Mabat masinxunə ola mokan mo munjir.**	*The ducks wanted to eat the man's book.*
5.	**Mva nekikə ne banka nejao otang.**	*The women's little dog learnt to read.*
6.	**Nə ala ipe le ibat lenini?**	*Who ate the big duck's wing?*
7.	**Munkar nejo nko ne bang.**	*The woman heard the children's chicken.*
8.	**Nko ibibə ila ncher i bang.**	*The bad chickens ate the children's peanuts.*
9.	**Bande bachunga ntaw ilülü.**	*The white men bought the good goats.*
10.	**Ntaw i banka ikwi o kebil ke munde.**	*The women's goats went to the white man's field.*
11.	**Nə amwi bena be bande?**	*Who saw the white men's things?*
12.	**Ngombe nekikə nemwi lecher lenini.**	*The little cow saw the big peanut.*

Q 2.1 Translate into English:

13. **Mva imwi ntaw nebibə.**
14. **Bang basinxunə ochunga ngombe nenini.**
15. **Munjir nekikə netang mekan melülü.**
16. **Nə adzo beto be munkar?**

Q 2.2 Translate into Sakata:

17. *The cows heard the big dogs.*
18. *The white man learnt to eat wings.*
19. *Who bought the children's little thing?*
20. *The snakes of the field read the big books.*

Q 2.3 Explain your solution.

Problem 2. Sakata Answers

2.1	
	13. *The dogs saw the bad goat.*
	14. *The children wanted to buy a big cow.*
	15. *The little man read the good books.*
	16. *Who killed the woman's snakes?*

2.2	
	17. **Ngombe ijo mva inini.** [3]
	18. **Munde nejao ola mape.** [3]
	19. **Nə achunga kena kekikə ke bang?** [4]
	20. **Beto be kebil betang mekan menini.** [4]

Q 2.1 Max 8. For each sentence, award 2 pts if correct; 1 pt with one mistake (e.g., wrong word, wrong singular/plural, missing question, ...)

Q 2.2 Max 14. In each sentence: 3 or 4 pts if correct (see above). Deduct 1 pt per mistake, to a minimum of 0.

Q 2.3 Max 33. 6 pts for describing the syntax; 14 pts for describing the agreement system; 11 pts for listing noun class prefixes; 2 pts for describing any irregularities.

Problem 2. Sakata Commentary

1. Syntax:

   - Subject – Verb – [Infinitive] – Object
     - Verbs take **o-** in the infinitive, or an agreement prefix for their subject (see below).
   - [**o** = *to*] – Noun – Adjective – [LNK – Possessor]
     - Adjectives take an agreement prefix.
     - In possessive constructions, LNK = agreement prefix for the possessed noun, as a free-standing linking word.

2. Noun class: all nouns begin with a noun class prefix.

	Singular		Plural	
	Noun prefix	Agreement prefix	Noun prefix	Agreement prefix
woman, *man*, *child*, *white man* …	**mu-**	**ne-**	**ba-**	**ba-**
book, …	**mo-**	**mo-**	**me-**	**me-**
duck, *wing*, …	**i-**	**le-**	**ma-**	**ma-**
field, *thing*, *snake*, …	**ke-**	**ke-**	**be-**	**be-**
goat, *dog*, *chicken*, *cow*, …	**n-**	**ne-**	**n-**	**i-**
peanut, …	**le-**	**le-**	**n-**	**i-**
nə = *who*		**a-**		

Note that here, all noun classes are either singular classes or plural classes. This is not true in general, although these represent the most common singular–plural pairs.

n-va > mva and **ba-nkar > banka**.

All data in this problem comes from the author's own fieldwork in Bosobe.