Problem 1. Nancowry (15 marks)

Nancowry (also known as Mūöt) is an Austronesian language spoken by around 950 people in the Nicobar Islands, India, specifically on the islands of Nancowry, Katchal and Kamorta.

Below are some words in Nancowry with possible English translations, given in a phonetic transcription. Note that ɯ, ə, ɛ, ia, ua, ɯa, uã, ã, and ɛ̃ are vowels; ŋ, y, and ʔ are consonants.

caluak	to swallow	**teh**	to float
fanue	string	**tikoʔa**	something that is prodded
hakuãt	to hang (something) up	**tinkoʔ**	a prodding stick
haneh	an aeroplane	**tiyəh**	new
harac	to heat (something)	**top**	to drink (something)
hata	to level (something) out	**tumyəh**	to renew (something)
hateha	something that is floated	**ʔãŋ**	to cook (specifically, meat)
haʔɛ̃h	to approach (something)	**ʔãŋa**	(some) cooked meat
hinkuãt	a hook (e.g. on a wall)	**ʔinttət**	a wipe
humʔɛ̃h	to cause (something) to approach	**ʔittət**	to wipe (something)
kanap	a tooth	**fue**	__(a)__
kapa	something that is bitten	**fuea**	__(b)__
kasu	to trap (something)	**hapin**	__(c)__
kintal	a saw	**kuãt**	__(d)__
pahuaʔ	to fear, be scared	**haruk**	__(e)__
paloʔ	loose	__(f)__	a beverage
pin	thick	__(g)__	a cauldron
pumhuaʔa	a scared person	__(h)__	a cup
pumloʔ	to loosen (something)	__(i)__	to float (something)
rac	hot	__(j)__	to fly
ranuk	a vehicle	__(k)__	to make (something) prod
ruk	to arrive	__(l)__	near
sahuaŋ	cool	__(m)__	to saw (e.g. wood)
saput	to turn (oneself) over	__(n)__	something loose
sinhuaŋ	(some) ice	__(o)__	a throat
sumhuaŋ	to cool (something) down	__(p)__	a trap
ta	level, flat	__(q)__	to turn (something) over

Q 1.1 Fill in the gaps (a) – (q). In exactly one answer, you should be unable to deduce a particular letter. In this case, replace it with an **X**, e.g. "**anXwer**".

Q 1.2 Below are four Nancowry words and their English translations in a random order:

1.	**kahay**	q.	to feel empty (in the heart)
2.	**kumfec**	r.	a file (tool)
3.	**mahelepa**	s.	to make something tiny
4.	**tanian**	t.	a thing that is made to fit

Determine the correct correspondences.

Problem 1. Nancowry Answers

1.1	a. *to tie*	j. **heh**
	b. *something that is tied*	k. **tumkoʔ**
	c. *to thicken (something)*	l. **ʔɛ̃h**
	d. *to hang, (be) hanging*	m. **kXtal**
	e. *to cause (something) to arrive*	n. **pumloʔa**
	f. **topa**	o. **cinlɯak**
	g. **ʔanã̃ŋ**	p. **kinsɯ**
	h. **tanop**	q. **sumput**
	i. **hateh**	

For **Q1.2** write the corresponding <u>letter</u> under each item.

1.	2.	3.	4.
q	s	t	r

Q 1.1 Max 17. 1 pt for correct translation. For a – e, allow any reasonable English translation.

Q 1.2 Max 4. 4 pts if all correct, 2 pts if three correct, 1 pt if two correct.

Problem 1. Nancowry Commentary

There are three derivations: the causative (`CAUS`), which turns an adjective or verb into a verb meaning *to make / cause X*; the instrumental nominaliser (`INSTR`), which turns a verb into a noun meaning *a thing used to X*; and the object nominaliser (`OBJ`), which turns a transitive verb into a noun meaning *a thing that is Xed*.

The marking chosen depends on the number of syllables in the base.

	1 syllable	>1 syllable
`CAUS`	**ha-**	**\<um\>**
`INSTR`	**\<an\>**	**\<in\>**
`OBJ`	**-a**	**-a**

All infixes appear after the initial consonant. For **\<um\>** and **\<in\>**, the infix replaces the following vowel.

References and further reading:

- Rajasingh, V.R. (2016). *Mūöt (Nicobarese)*. Mon-Khmer Studies, 45, 14-52.

- Kalin, L. (2023). *When size matters in infix allomorphy: A unique window into the morphology-phonology interface*. The size of things II, 269.