

## 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 **?** are consonants; **ɛ** and **ɔ** are vowels. The symbol **ĩ** 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.

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|---|--|
| 1. <b>Pia gbo de na ɛrɛta apɛɛ zĩã.</b>     | <i>The dogs eat my eight slices of yam.</i>            |
| 2. <b>Baɛ ka wa yaɛ nia akpo zĩãāde.</b>    | <i>Two wives buy four yams to eat.</i>                 |
| 3. <b>Pia dẽɛ wa muɛ zĩĩ bee mũnũ.</b>      | <i>Their eyes see one fist.</i>                        |
| 4. <b>Wa o?oo apɛɛ mãã fe zĩĩ ākpo mĩã.</b> | <i>Their five splashes of water kill one flame.</i>    |
| 5. <b>Ka gbĩ ɛrɛba bee būūāyaɛ.</b>         | <i>The mother wants seven kola nuts to buy.</i>        |
| 6. <b>Baɛ bee dẽɛ me muɛ aba kɛ̄.</b>       | <i>My two eyes see just the egg.</i>                   |
| 7. <b>Ye wa ɛrɛ aba lob akpo kaaniaob.</b>  | <i>His wife has just ten logs to burn.</i>             |
| 8. <b>Na ka yib na ini?ĩ ākpo asã.</b>      | <i>My mother steals my six broom handles.</i>          |
| 9. <b>Ka oo aba ye zĩĩ āpɛɛ zoo.</b>        | <i>The mother sells just his one piece of coconut.</i> |
| 10. <b>Tõ ye tere taa apɛɛ mĩĩ.</b>         | <i>His leg drops three splashes of blood.</i>          |
| 11. <b>Pia yɔɔ muɛ baɛ akpo mɛɛba mɛ.</b>   | <i>The snakes see my two arms.</i>                     |
| 12. <b>Aninia ka tɛ de ɛrɛta bee asuu.</b>  | <i>Nine fathers eat eight seeds.</i>                   |

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

**Q 4.2** Translate into English:

13. **Pia wa wa tere aba pia na būū.**
14. **Lob ka tɛ gbĩ o?oo akpo kaaniaoo.**
15. **Pia mɛɛba ye ɛrɛ nia apɛɛ mãã.**
16. **ɛrɛba ka ka fɛ aba na zĩĩ ka yɔɔ.**

**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

4.1	The heart is a body part.
4.2	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>
4.3	17. <i>Aninia apeε + mĩā + ɔb + [na]baε akpo + tə me.</i>
	18. <i>Pia + mūnū wa + εre + ini?i ãpeε + būūayib.</i>
	19. <i>Ye taa + ka gbo [ye] + gbī + na εreta bee + zooade [me].</i>
	20. <i>Pia + dēē ye + muε aba + zīī bee + kē.</i>

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 me** rather than **na X**. E.g. “A heart is a part of you”; “**me** 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. “**nie** 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 εreta 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 = **zīñ**, 2 = **baε**, 3 = **taa**, 4 = **nia**, 5 = **oʔoo**, 6 = **iniʔī**, 7 = **ɛreba**, 8 = **ɛreta**, 9 = **aninia**, 10 = **lob**.
- Classifiers:
  - **apɛɛ** = 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* = **me** (for body parts) or **na** (otherwise).
- Nasalisation: **a** > **ã** following a nasal vowel, even across word boundaries.

### References and further reading:

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

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