

Problem 2. Fur (5 marks)

Fur is the language of the Fur people of Darfur, in western Sudan, and has nearly 800,000 native speakers.

Below are some sentences in Fur, along with their English translations. Note that the diacritics ´ and ` mark high and low tone respectively; ñ marks the same sound as in Spanish, similar to the *n* in *onion*. You always indicates the singular pronoun.

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|-------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. Kòrò jabèl. | <i>You drink the water.</i> |
| 2. Yáà tòn tuumèl. | <i>The woman builds the house.</i> |
| 3. Bàin kòrò lemèl. | <i>The elder licks the water.</i> |
| 4. Tònà jutumèl. | <i>You build the houses.</i> |
| 5. Kàrabà kòrò kelmèlà. | <i>The animals lick the water.</i> |
| 6. Tòn yáà bauèl. | <i>The house holds the woman.</i> |
| 7. Bàinà tòn kutumèlà. | <i>The elders build the house.</i> |
| 8. Yáà dèl baèl. | <i>The woman drinks the oil.</i> |
| 9. Jirgèl. | <i>You tie.</i> |

You are also told that the verb **ruñèl** means *to lift*.



Q 2.1 Translate into English:

10. Yáà bàin ruñèl.
11. Kòrò jelmèl.
12. Yáà rigèl.

Q 2.2 Translate into Fur:

13. *The animal ties.*
14. *The elders lift the house.*
15. *You hold the woman.*
16. *The animal licks the oil.*

Problem 2. Fur Answers

2.2	10. <i>The woman lifts the elder.</i>
	11. <i>You lick the water.</i>
	12. <i>The woman ties.</i>
2.2	13. Kàrab + rigèl.
	14. Bàinà tòn + kurñèlà.
	15. Yáà + jabuèl.
	16. Kàrab dèl + lemèl.

Maximum 11 pts.

Q 2.1 Max 3. 1 pt for a correct translation. Allow English misspellings, as long as it is clear what is intended.

Q 2.2 Max 8. 1 pt per correct component separated by +, in the correct order. If at least part is correct but not in the correct order, award 1 pt. E.g. both **Jabuèl yáà** and **Yáà kab** score 1 pt for 15. Allow up to one extra/missing diacritic per sentence, but penalise a second. Ignore punctuation and capital letters.

Problem 2. Fur Commentary

- Word order is Subject – Object – Verb.
- Plural is marked with **-à**, both on nouns and verbs with plural subjects. (Students could believe that the suffix is **-a**, and that the final tone of any noun is low, hence the leniency in marking diacritics.)
- Verbs with 2sg or 3pl subjects receive the prefixes **j-** and **k-** respectively, and the first two sounds of the root swap places (metathesise).

References

- Jakobi, A. (1990). *A Fur grammar: phonology, morphophonology and morphology* (N.A.). Hamburg: Buske.