



Hong Kong Linguistics Olympiad  
香港語言學奧林匹克

en

## Fifth Hong Kong Linguistics Olympiad

March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Solutions

### Problem 1.

1. General structure:

**[Owned<sub>A</sub>]**—**Art<sub>NOM</sub>** **[Owned<sub>B</sub>]** **X** **[Owner<sub>A</sub>]**—**Art<sub>GEN</sub>** **[Owner<sub>B</sub>]**

- **Owner<sub>A,B</sub>** and **Owned<sub>A,B</sub>** refer to the base form of the noun / adjective of the owner and owned, respectively. The order between noun and adjective is flexible, hence each sentence has 4 possible translations.
- **X** = possession marker: agrees in gender and number with the owned
- **Art** = definite article: agrees in gender and number with the head of the noun phrase. The owned and owner receive the NOM and GEN article, respectively. The articles are added to the form of the word already declined for number and gender.

	M.sg.	F.sg.	M.pl.	F.pl.
Basic declension	∅	-ă (for Owned) -e (for Owner)	-i	-e
<b>X</b>	<b>al</b>	<b>a</b>	<b>ai</b>	<b>ale</b>
<b>Art<sub>NOM</sub></b>	<b>-ul</b>	<b>-ă &gt; -a</b>	<b>-i</b>	<b>-le</b>
<b>Art<sub>GEN</sub></b>	<b>-ului</b>	<b>-i</b>	<b>-lor</b>	

2. Phonological changes

- Consonant palatalization: takes place in masculine plural (i.e., upon the addition of the non-syllabic **i**). The following consonant mutations occur at the end of the word:

**t > ț**      **d > z**      **s > ș**      **z > j**      **l > ∅**

- Vowel changes: apply to the last syllable of the root:

**o > oa** in feminine.

**ea > e** in plural.

(a)

1. *the hungry thief<sub>M</sub> of the brave children<sub>F</sub>*
2. *the small citizen<sub>F</sub> of the beautiful foals<sub>M</sub>*
3. *the cunning students<sub>F</sub> of the tall nephew*

(b) For 4–6 only one is needed to get full marks.

(c) For 7 all four translations are needed to get full marks.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>4. verișorii viteji ai mânjilor morți<br/>verișorii viteji ai morților mânji<br/>vitejii verișori ai mânjilor morți<br/>vitejii verișori ai morților mânji</p> <p>5. hoața sătulă a nomazilor goi<br/>hoața sătulă a goilor nomazi<br/>sătula hoață a nomazilor goi<br/>sătula hoață a goilor nomazi</p> | <p>6. verișoara curioasă a copilei apte<br/>verișoara curioasă a aptei copile<br/>curioasa verișoară a copilei apte<br/>curioasa verișoară a aptei copile</p> <p>7. cetățenii micuți ai nomadului gol<br/>cetățenii micuți ai golului nomad<br/>micuții cetățeni ai nomadului gol<br/>micuții cetățeni ai golului nomad</p> |
|---|---|

(d) It used to be a voiced alveolar affricate [dz] (as *ds* in *beds*), which in modern Romanian is pronounced [z] (and spelled *z*).

### Problem 2.

- Written from left to right;
- Vowels and non-plosive consonants behave like an alphabet, while plosives behave like a syllabary:

		<b>k</b>	<b>b</b>	<b>t</b>
<b>a</b>				
<b>e</b>				
<b>i</b>				
<b>o</b>				
<b>u</b>				

l -   
m -   
n -   
r -   
s -   
m̄ -   
r̄ -   
ś -

- Certain letters have two different (but similar) representations;
- Words are separated by  $\dot{:}$ ;
- Note that the extra lines on the top-right edge of the tablet are just scratches.

(a) aureltin

(b) 1. balaukiakiré      2. kekeerirtiban      3. tintileis      4. nbali

(c) a. 13      b. 20      c. 32

(d) neban, kunif, autiriša, abarbaštanie, talkuneu

**Problem 3.**

1. This kinship system is highly focused on the idea of cross-cousins (CC, i.e., mother's brother's child or father's sister's child).
2. **X jua Y** = Y's X
3. Base words:

<p><b>mwanache</b> = <i>child</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– <b>mwanache ŵandu</b> = <i>son</i></li> <li>– <b>mwanache ŵakongwe</b> = <i>daughter</i></li> </ul> <p><b>atati</b> = <i>father</i></p> <p><b>amao</b> = <i>mother</i></p>	<p><b>acimweni</b> = <i>brother</i></p> <p><b>cemwali</b> = <i>sister</i></p> <p><b>ambuje</b> = <i>grandparent</i></p> <p><b>yisikulu</b> = <i>grandchild</i></p>
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4. One parent's same-sex sibling is equivalent to the other parent's opposite-sex cross-cousin and vice versa.

	same-sex S	opposite-sex CC	opposite-sex S	same-sex CC
my <sup>female</sup> ...	<b>cemwali</b>	<b>asiwani</b>	<b>acimweni</b>	<b>asiwani</b>
my mother's...	<b>amao</b>	<b>atati</b>	<b>akwelume</b>	<b>atati ŵakongwe</b>
my father's...	<b>atati</b>	<b>amao</b>	<b>atati ŵakongwe</b>	<b>akwelume</b>

5. The meaning of *brother*, *sister*, and *cross-cousin* are strictly derived from those above (i.e., *my mom's or dad's daughter* is my *sister* and *my mom's or dad's son* is my *brother*).

	<i>son</i>	<i>daughter</i>
my <i>atati's</i> my <i>amao's</i>	<b>acimweni</b>	<b>cemwali</b>
my <i>akwelume's</i> my <i>atati ŵakongwe's</i>	<b>asiwani</b>	

6. Finally, *my child* is also *my opposite-sex CC's child*.

(a)

- |                              |                       |                                    |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------------|
| (1) — <b>ambuje</b>          | (5) — <b>cemwali</b>  | (9) — <b>mwanache (ŵandu)</b>     |
| (2) — <b>amao</b>            | (6) — <b>acimweni</b> | (10) — <b>mwanache (ŵakongwe)</b> |
| (3) — <b>atati ŵakongwe</b> | (7) — <b>acimweni</b> | (11) — <b>mwanache (ŵandu)</b>    |
| (4) — <b>atati</b>           | (8) — <b>acimweni</b> |                                    |

(b)

- |                               |                        |                        |                        |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| (12) — <b>ambuje</b>          | (17) — <b>atati</b>    | (22) — <b>acimweni</b> | (27) — <b>asiwani</b>  |
| (13) — <b>ambuje</b>          | (18) — <b>akwelume</b> | (23) — <b>cemwali</b>  | (28) — <b>asiwani</b>  |
| (14) — <b>akwelume</b>        | (19) — <b>amao</b>     | (24) — <b>asiwani</b>  | (29) — <b>acimweni</b> |
| (15) — <b>amao</b>            | (20) — <b>asiwani</b>  | (25) — <b>asiwani</b>  | (30) — <b>cemwali</b>  |
| (16) — <b>atati ŵakongwe</b> | (21) — <b>asiwani</b>  | (26) — <b>acimweni</b> |                        |

**Problem 4.**

1. Word order:

- Non-interrogative:

– Affirmative: **S + V**

– Present: **O** is last

– Negative: **V + S**

– Present perfect: **O** is first

S = Subject, O = Object, V = Verb

- Interrogative: Question word + Aux + (S) + Verb root

2. Verb: [Tense]—[Root]—[X]—[Y]

Aux: [Tense]—[X]—[Y]—**pat**

- Tense:  $\emptyset$  = Present; **ha-** = Present perfect (**ha-** > **h-** / **\_V**)

- X: shows the person of the subject — 1 = **-ni-**, 3<sub>M</sub> = **-u-**, 3<sub>F</sub> = **-gu-**

- Y: shows the number of the subject — sg =  $\emptyset$ , pl = **-s**

3. Noun: [Det] [Noun]—[Case]—[Number]

- Det:

– Indefinite article:  $\emptyset$

– Definite article: **fa** = <sub>M</sub>, **afa** = <sub>F</sub>

– **gub** = *this*

- Case:

– **-in** = Subject (**-in** > **-din** / **V\_**);

– **-op** = Object (**-op** > **-p** / **V\_**);

- Number: sg =  $\emptyset$ , pl = **-iz**

- Feminine noun is formed from the masculine by removing the last consonant.

(a)

15. *What<sub>F,pl</sub> has come?*

16. *She hasn't loved us.*

17. *We have seen some cats<sub>F</sub>.*

(b)

18. **Afa vakvedin smingu nisa.**

19. **Hapanibu gub midebin.**

20. **Hielogus immidiniz kop.**

21. **Fa pelikop afa midediniz havetigus.**

(c)

22. **Tak huspat asa aveti?** (*they<sub>M</sub>*)

**Tak haguspat asa aveti?** (*they<sub>F</sub>*)

23. **Tak upat binap?** (*what<sub>(M),sg</sub>*)

**Tak gupat binap?** (*what<sub>(F),sg</sub>*)

**Tak uspat binap?** (*what<sub>(M),pl</sub>*)

**Tak guspat binap?** (*what<sub>(F),pl</sub>*)

(d) We do not know the final consonant for *teacher<sub>M</sub>*.