



Second Singapore Linguistics Olympiad

April 15, 2023

Solutions

Problem 1.

1. General structure:

$$[\text{Owned}_A] - \text{Art}_{\text{NOM}} \quad [\text{Owned}_B] \quad X \quad [\text{Owner}_A] - \text{Art}_{\text{GEN}} \quad [\text{Owner}_B]$$

- **Owner_{A,B}** and **Owned_{A,B}** 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
X	al	a	ai	ale
Art_{NOM}	-ul	-ă > -a	-i	-le
Art_{GEN}	-ului	-i	-lor	

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:

$$t > \text{ț} \quad d > z \quad s > \text{ș} \quad z > j \quad l > \emptyset$$

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

$$o > oa \text{ in feminine.} \quad ea > e \text{ in plural.}$$

(a)

1. *the hungry thief_M of the brave children_F*
2. *the small citizen_F of the beautiful foals_M*
3. *the cunning students_F 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
verișorii viteji ai morților mânji
vitejii verișori ai mânjilor morți
vitejii verișori ai morților mânji</p> <p>5. hoața sătulă a nomazilor goi
hoața sătulă a goilor nomazi
sătula hoăță a nomazilor goi
sătula hoăță a goilor nomazi</p> | <p>6. verișoara curioasă a copilei apte
verișoara curioasă a aptei copile
curioasa verișoară a copilei apte
curioasa verișoară a aptei copile</p> <p>7. cetățenii micuți ai nomadului gol
cetățenii micuți ai golului nomad
micuții cetățeni ai nomadului gol
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:

		k	b	t
a				
e				
i				
o				
u				

l -
 m -
 n -
 r -
 s -
 l' -
 m' -
 n' -
 r' -
 s' -

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

(a) aureltin

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

(c) a. 13 b. 20 c. 32

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

Problem 3.

1. General structure:

- S PV V O
- Adjective Noun

2. Adjective: M: **-on**, F: **-uwa**C

3. Possession: Noun—Q—X

- X: 2pl = **-kù**, 3pl = **-sù**

4. PV: S_{gender}—Tense

- S_{gender}: M = **t-**, F = **y-**
- Tense: Present = **-anàa**, Past = **-aa**

5. V:

- Present:

- Root—**à**Q
- Q agrees with the O

Legend	
S	Subject
O	Object
PV	Pre-verb
V	Verb
M	masculine
F	feminine
C	first consonant of the following noun
<u>Q</u>	n if M, C if F

- Past

- Root—**i**
- previous vowel gets low level tone

(a)

6. *Kande is asking their aunt.*
7. *(The) Old Musa gazed at the son.*

(b)

8. **dooguwa'y 'yaa taa tàmbàyi baabà**
9. **dánkù yanàa hàraaràn Muusa**
10. **baabà tanàa dàakatàk Kande**