

International Linguistics Challenge

Qualification Round 2025

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1 Problem A: Phonetic Transcription

1. /ʃinu/
2. /nara/
3. /blutʃon/
4. /sintʃ/
5. /tile/
6. /gelum/
7. /burak/
8. /dʒeso/
9. /ravik/
10. /lasaõ/

2 Problem B: Word Boundaries

11. sintʃ nara mika gelum tʃon blutʃon
12. mika lasaõ kosap ʃinu
13. gop nimo tile loraib ravik

3 Problem C: Word Order and Plural Morphology

- a) SOV. Comparing the sentence pair 15 and 18, the subject ‘woman’ (‘women’), *kanab* (*kanabi*), appears at the start of the sentence; a similar observation can be made with the sentence pair 16 and 20. The sentence pair 15 and 16 have the object ‘boy’, *telum*, right after the subject; see the sentence pair 20 and 21 for ‘mountain’. Lastly, the sentence pair 17 and 20 have the verb ‘see’, *feru*, after the objects.

- b) It seems to be that if the singular form ends in a consonant, its plural suffix is *-i*; if its singular form ends in a vowel, its plural suffix is *-n*. This can be supported by the examples below:

Singular (English)	Singular (X)	Plural (X)
woman	<i>kanab</i>	<i>kanabi</i>
boy	<i>telum</i>	<i>telumi</i>
dog	<i>lomu</i>	<i>lomun</i>
mountain	<i>pano</i>	<i>panon</i>

- c) *panon kanabi o lomun baraa*

4 Problem D: Verbal Agreement

- a) Language X exhibits number agreement between the object and the verb, but not between the subject and the verb. This can be seen in the sentence pair 18 and 24 between the verbs *baraa* and *bara* when their respective objects are plural and singular. There is likely little-to-no subject-verb agreement as seen in the sentence pair 14 and 22 where the same (intransitive) verb *felu* is used regardless of the number of their subject. The plural-object form of a verb takes the suffix *-a* with the exceptional *feru/furua*.

18.	<i>kanab kuran baraa</i>	The woman studies the stars
24.	<i>kanab kura bara</i>	The woman studies the star
14.	<i>kanabi felu</i>	The women dance
22.	<i>kanab felu</i>	The woman dances

- b) ‘tree’ in Language X is transcribed as *tile*, so we construct its plural as **tilen*. Below shows the words we will use:

English	Language X
bird	<i>kosap</i>
river	<i>nara</i>
trees	<i>*tilen</i>
see (pl. obj)	<i>furua</i>

We translate the sentence as *kosap nara o tilen furua*

5 Problem E: Dialectal Variation

- a) We believe that in both dialects, the transitive verbs agree in number with the objects as seen in 18 and 24 for Dialect I, and 27 and 29 for Dialect II; in both dialects, the suffix *-a* is used to mark the plural object of the transitive verb.

18.	<i>kanab kuran baraa</i>	The woman studies the stars
24.	<i>kanab kura bara</i>	The woman studies the star
27.	<i>kanabi telum feru</i>	The women see the boy
29.	<i>lomu panon ferua</i>	The dog sees the mountains

However for intransitive verbs, Dialect I marks verbs in the singular while in Dialect II, the number of the verb is taken from the subject as seen in sentences 14 and 22 for Dialect I, and sentence 26 for Dialect II (recall the *-a* plural suffix).

14.	<i>kanabi felu</i>	The women dance
22.	<i>kanab felu</i>	The woman dances
26.	<i>kanabi ferua</i>	The women see

- b) The verb *felu* is intransitive, thus its conjugation must depend on whether the pronoun is in the singular or plural. Using the 3rd person pronouns as in sentence 31, we have two equivalents in Dialect II:

<i>felu</i>	He/she dances
<i>felua</i>	They dance