ILC Qualification Paper

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1 Problem A: Phonetic Transcription

1. Audio 001: [ʃinu]

2. Audio 002: [naɾa]

3. Audio 003: [blut͡ʃon]

4. Audio 004: [fint͡ʃ]

5. Audio 005: [tile]

6. Audio 006: [gelum]

7. Audio 007: [bulak]

8. Audio 008: [deso]

9. Audio 009: [ralik]

10. Audio 010: [lasao]

2 Problem B: Word Boundaries

2.1 Audio 011

fint͡ʃ naɾa mika gelum t͡ʃon   blut͡ʃon
long river small cold   stone carry
"The long river carries the small cold stone."

2.2 Audio 012

mika lasao   kosab ʃinu
small bright bird   sings
"The small bright bird sings."

2.3 Audio 013

gop nimu tile loraib ralik
tall child tree easily breaks
"The tall child breaks the tree easily."

3 Problem C: Word Order and Plural Morphology

3.1 Question a)

From the sentences given in the dataset, a Subject-Object-Verb (SOV) word order appears to be a strong hypothesis for Language X. Using some sentences from the dataset, we can make the following arguments.

Sentence 14 and sentence 19 both end in "ʃelu," and at their beginnings, there are two different words. When we view the English translations, we see that both sentences end in the same verb. However, their subjects are different. Because there are only two words in each of the sentences and their translations, we can reasonably hypothesize that subjects precede verbs in Language X.

Sentences 14 and 15 can provide insight into the location of objects in sentences of this language. Given

- our previous hypothesis that it follows an SOV word order,

- the English translations,

- and the meaning of "kanabi" from sentence 14,

we can see that "kanabi" is most likely sentence 15's subject, and guess that "telum" is the object. (Note: We are assuming that Language X does not possess an alternate word order.) Furthermore, we can use other sentences, like sentence 18 and 16/20, to support the conclusion that the object precedes the verb.

3.2 Question b)

1. The letter "n" is suffixed to a word that ends in a vowel to pluralize it.
Evidence: Sentences 19 and 21, which contain "mountains" and "mountain" in their translations respectively, show how "pano" is made plural by adding "n." The pair "lomu"/"lomun" supports this idea as well.

2. The letter "i" is added to words that end in consonants to form their plural forms.
Evidence: The pair "kanab"/"kanabi," found in sentences with "woman" and "women" in the translation respectively.

3.3 Question c)

"The mountains study the women and the dogs." translates into:
  panon kanabi o lomun baraa

4 Problem D: Verbal Agreement

4.1 Question a)

An "a" is suffixed to a verb if its object is plural. While all the sentences in the group 22 - 25 follow this rule, the most compelling example is sentence 23 and its counterpart, sentence 17. In sentence 23, the *only* things separating it from sentence 17 are the pluralization of the object ("lomun" in 23 versus "lomu" in 17) and the addition of "a" to the verb. Since these two environments keep everything fixed besides the object's number, they can support our idea.

An intransitive verb does not change based on the number of its subject. Sentence 22 and sentence 14 work together to show us that pluralization—or the lack thereof—doesn't affect the agreement of intransitive verbs like "dance." Sentence 19 supports this idea as well.

4.2 Question b)

"The bird sees the river and the trees." translates into:
  kosab nara o tilen ferua

The word "tile" gains the suffix "n" because we want to pluralize it and because it ends with a vowel. Furthermore, we hypothesize that the verb "feru" is suffixed with an "a" because verbs tend to agree with the item of a compound entity that is closest to them in various languages. <u>However,</u> we do not have enough data to make this hypothesis using "closest agreement" as strong as our previous ones. This is because Language X might follow general agreement—which is when the total set of entities is considered, individual properties are evaluated, and an appropriate morphological change that fits all the factors is made. Usually, arbitrary and fixed choices are made to resolve clashing properties, such as the recognition of compound subjects whose components have mixed genders as grammatically male.

5 Problem E: Dialectal Variation

5.1 Part (a)

Dialect II follows a similar, but slightly different system of agreement with respect to Dialect I. One similarity between the two dialects is the fact that both leave out or add the suffix "-a" when the object of the verb is singular or plural respectively. This similarity can be

seen in sentences 27 and 29. In sentence 27, the verb is not suffixed with an "a" because the object is singular, and in sentence 29, the opposite is true. That is identical to how Dialect I manages verb agreement.

On the other hand, one difference between them is that Dialect II appends the suffix "-a" when the subject is plural and the verb is intransitive or being used intransitively. In other words, the verb will end in that suffix if the subject of an intransitive verb construction is plural. Sentences 26 and 28 demonstrate this through their contrast with sentences 14 and 19, which do not append the suffix "-a" to the verb.

5.2   Part (b)

The equivalent of sentence 31 would primarily depend on which subject pronoun the speaker omitted. We can predict two possible scenarios using the agreement system that we just investigated. The first one is the situation in which the speaker is omitting a singular subject pronoun (he/she). In that scenario, the equivalent of sentence 31 would be **ʃelu** itself (assuming this dialect doesn't also add "a" to the verb in *singular subject + intransitive verb* constructions.) The second one is the situation in which the speaker is omitting "they." When that happens, we predict that the suffix will be added to form **ʃelua**.