International Linguistics Challenge
Qualification Round

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Problem A

1. 'to sing'   IPA: /ʃinu/
2. 'river'   IPA: /naɾa/
3. 'to carry'   IPA: /blutʃon/
4. 'long'   IPA: /fintʃ/
5. 'tree'   IPA: /dile/
6. 'cold'   IPA: /gelum/
7. 'to sleep'   IPA: /buɾag/
8. 'house'   IPA: /reso/
9. 'to break'   IPA: /raɾik/
10. 'bright'   IPA: /lasao/

Problem B

11. fintʃ naɾa mika gelum tʃon blutʃon

12. mika lasao gosap ʃinu

13. gob nimu dile luɾaiɾ raɾik

Problem C

(a) Language X uses an SVO (Subject – Object – Verb) word order. This can be seen for example in sentence 15: kanabi telum feru — 'The women see the boy.' The subject, 'kanabi' (meaning 'the women', as we can conclude by looking at sentences 14 & 18, where it is also the subject) comes first, then the object, 'telum' (= 'the boy', as we see in sentences 16 & 21, where it's the object aswell, and sentence 17, where it is the subject), and lastly the verb, 'feru' (meaning 'see', as it comes up in sentences 17, 20 & 21 as the verb)

(b) If a noun ends with a consonant sound, its plural is formed by adding an /i/ sound, which can be seen on the example of the word 'kanab', meaning 'the woman' (sentence 18); its plural (so 'the women') comes up in sentences 14 & 15 and is transcribed as 'kanabi'. Another word that shows this formation of the plural is 'telum,' meaning 'the boy' (sentences 15 & 16); its plural (in senctences 17 & 21) is 'telumi'.
If the noun ends in a vowel sound, an /n/ is added to form its plural. This can be observed on the word 'lomu', 'the dog' (sentences 16 & 17). Its plural in sentences 20 & 21 is 'lomun'. Also the word 'pano' (= 'the mountain', 20 & 21) shows this way of plural formation, with its plural form being 'panon' (19). With this data we can assume that the singular form of the word 'kuran' (= 'the stars', 18) is 'kura'.

(c) panon kanabi o lomun baraa

Problem D

(a) Language X shows agreement between the object and the verb: If the object is singular, the verb is used in its singular form; if it is plural, the verb form is changed accordingly by adding an /a/ sound.

This can be seen in sentence 25: lomu *(subject, singular)* kuran *(object, plural)* hunia *(verb, plural)*

The subject is singular, the object, and therefore also the verb, is plural.

If a sentence doesn't have an object, the verb uses the singular form, which we see in sentence 22, but also 14 & 19 from Problem C. In both of the two sentences from Problem C, the subject is plural, but the verb is the singular form. Sentence 14: kanabi *(subject, plural)* ʃelu *(verb, singular)*

(b) gosap naɾa o dilen ferua

In this sentence, there is agreement between the object (naɾa o dilen) and the verb (ferua). Since the object is plural (one river + multiple trees = multiple things), there is an /a/ sound added to the verb.

Problem E

Part (a)

Similarly to Dialect I, Dialect II has an object-verb agreement; If the object is singular, the verb is singular aswell; if it is plural, the verb is made plural aswell by adding an /a/ sound. Sentence 27 shows this pattern well: kanabi *(subject, plural)* telum *(object, singular)* feru *(verb, singular)*

The object is singular, therefore the verb form is too.

A difference to Dialect I shows, when there is no object in sentence. While Dialect I would in this case use the singular form (without /a/), Dialect II uses the plural form of the verb (with /a/). This can be seen in sentence 26: kanabi ferua.

The sentence consists only of subject and verb, here the verb has a plural form (added /a/ sound in the end).

Part (b)

The equivalent of Dialect I's 'ʃelu' ('He/she/they dance(s)') in Dialect II would be 'ʃelua', since Dialect II uses the plural form of the verb whenever there is no object present, which in this case there is not.