



## **Tenth Taiwan Olympiad in Linguistics**

### **2 March 2025**

- Listen carefully to the invigilators and follow their instructions.
- The contest lasts three hours. Please allocate your answering time.
- There are five problems in this problem set.
- You are not allowed to use any electronic devices, written or printed material or other external sources of information during the contest.
- If you have a question about any of the problems, raise your hand and ask an invigilator. The invigilator will consult with the jury before answering.
- Rules for writing out solutions:
  - Do not copy the statements of the problems. Please write your answers on the answer sheet.
  - You may solve the problems in any order.
  - Unless stated differently, you do not need to describe any patterns or rules that you identified in the data.



Here are some sentences in Hausa and their English translations in arbitrary order:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. <b>Ya dafa.</b>                     | A. <i>He touched.</i>                     |
| 2. <b>Ina dafa.</b>                    | B. <i>We did not carry chairs.</i>        |
| 3. <b>Sun dafa abinci.</b>             | C. <i>He cooked.</i>                      |
| 4. <b>Jakai suna kai ni.</b>           | D. <i>You(pl.) saw a chair.</i>           |
| 5. <b>Karnuka za su ci naman jaki.</b> | E. <i>Donkeys are carrying me.</i>        |
| 6. <b>Na taɓa motoci.</b>              | F. <i>They cooked food.</i>               |
| 7. <b>Ba zan kama jaki ba.</b>         | G. <i>I will not catch a donkey.</i>      |
| 8. <b>Kun ga kujera.</b>               | H. <i>I touched cars.</i>                 |
| 9. <b>Bamu kai kujeru ba.</b>          | I. <i>You(sg.) are touching dog food.</i> |
| 10. <b>Ya taɓa.</b>                    | J. <i>A hare went to a house.</i>         |
| 11. <b>Zomo ya tafi gida.</b>          | K. <i>I am cooking.</i>                   |
| 12. <b>Kana taɓa abincin kare.</b>     | L. <i>Dogs will eat donkey meat.</i>      |

(a) Determine the correct correspondences.

(b) Translate into English:

13. **Ka ga gidaje.**
14. **Mota bai tafi ba.**
15. **Kare yana kama ku.**
16. **Zomaye ba za su taɓa nama ba.**

(c) Translate into Hausa:

17. *You(sg.) did not see me.*
18. *You(pl.) are cooking hare meat.*
19. *We ate hares.*
20. *You(pl.) will not touch a doghouse.*

(d) There are two examples of contractions in the given corpus. Give them both and explain their meanings. It is not necessary to find out their full forms.

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Hausa belongs to the Chadic branch of the Afroasiatic family. It is spoken by approx. 88,000,000 people in the various countries located in the Sahel region of West Africa.

**c**  $\approx$  *ch* in *chair*, **j**  $\approx$  *j* in *jam*, **y**  $\approx$  *y* in *yes*, **b**  $\approx$  *b* in *abroad* but the airflow comes from the glottis pressuring the lungs (i.e. implosive).

Here are some Oromo words in Ge'ez script, Sapalo script, and Latin script, along with their English translations (for polysemes, only one meaning is given):

Ge'ez script	Sapalo script	Latin script	English Translation
አብበይዮ	፳፻ሄ	<b>Abbayya</b>	<i>the Blue Nile</i>
አዳማዓ	፳፻ላጌ	<b>Adaamaadhaa</b>	<i>from Adama</i>
አልኮሊ	፳፻፱፩	<b>alkoolii</b>	<i>alcohol</i>
ሀረር	፷፰፺	<b>Hararii</b>	<i>from Harar</i>
ኬስሳ	፪፻፳	<b>keessaa</b>	<i>from inside</i>
ኬንያነት	፪፻፷፭	<b>keenyanitti</b>	<i>in the wall</i>
ሶሮታ	፹፻፵፯	<b>sarootaa</b>	<i>of many dogs</i>
ወግጎተ	፺፻፵፯	<b>waggoota</b>	<i>many years</i>
1.	፫፻፲፭፻፶	<b>kitaabotatti</b>	<i>in many books</i>
2.	፹፻፸፯	<b>salaata</b>	<i>prayer</i>
ሶማሊያ	3.	<b>Somaaliyaa</b>	<i>of Somalia</i>
አህመዲ	፳፻ላ፭	4.	<i>of Ahmad</i>
ቢይዮታ	፪፻፵፯	5.	<i>from many countries</i>
6.	7.	<b>diina</b>	<i>enemy</i>
8.	9.	<b>obboleessa</b>	<i>brother</i>

**Adaamaa** (*Adama*), **Asallaa** (*Asella*), and **Harar** (*Harar*) are cities in Oromo speaking area. **Ahmad** (*Ahmad*), **Mahammad** (*Mahammad*) are Oromo names of Arabic origin. **Somaaliyaa** (*Somalia*) is an East Africa country name.

- (a) Fill in the gaps.
- (b) Translate into English (list all the possible answer):
10. **Abbayyaa**
  11. **alkoolota**
  12. ሰላቶች
  13. ደብዳቤ
  14. የግል ጥያቄ

(c) Here are some more Oromo words in Latin script and their English translations:

**barattuu** *student*      **affan** *mouth*      **gosa** *tribe*

Translate into Oromo in the designated script:

15. (Latin script)      *in the mouth*
16. (Ge'ez script)      *many students*
17. (Ge'ez script)      *from Asella*
18. (Sapalo script)      *many enemies*
19. (Sapalo script)      *of Mahammad*
20. (Sapalo script)      *of the tribe*

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Oromo belongs to the Cushitic branch of the Afroasiatic family. It is spoken by approx. 45,500,000 people, mainly in the Oromia region of Ethiopia and northern Kenya. The writing and publishing of Oromo has been banned by the government authorities for a long time, but it has been spelled with the Ge'ez script since the end of the 19th century. In 1956, Sheikh Bakri Sapalo designed a special script for this language, now called the Sapalo or Saphaloo script. Since 1991, written in Latin script, Oromo has entered school education. Originating in Ethiopia, the Blue Nile is one of the major tributaries of the Nile.

In Latin scripts, the doubling of an alphabet denotes length. **dh** and **ny** are consonants.

Here are some sentences in Khwarshi and their English translation:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. <b>ijet'il obu usi</b>   | <i>The mother met the father.</i>  |
| 2. <b>rexnez uza tsan bats'i</b>                                  | <i>The boy ate the she-goat with a spade.</i>                                  |
| 3. <b>zik'olo kandi sojrol q'ala bēz</b>                          | <i>The man's daughter buys the child for the horse.</i>                        |
| 4. <b>bots'i sojros box lāts'</b>                                 | <i>The wolf eats the horse's grass.</i>  |
| 5. <b>obut'lo om<sup>ʃ</sup>oq<sup>ʃ</sup>el is bulhun</b>        | <i>It is said that the father's donkey understood the sibling.</i>             |
| 6. <b>obut'i bots'il uze efōt'</b>                                | <i>The father sends the boy to the wolf.</i>                                   |
| 7. <b>uzatleru zulikil vine juwōs</b>                             | <i>Because of the boy, the cheater meets the woman.</i>                        |
| 8. <b>t'ut'lo xerexoz kandi t'uq<sup>ʃ</sup> lit'xi</b>           | <i>The girl chopped the knife by the fly's saw.</i>                            |
| 9. <b>ijet'lo zihel kandi om<sup>ʃ</sup>oq<sup>ʃ</sup>e bulhi</b> | <i>The mother's cow understood the girl's donkey.</i>                          |
| 10. <b>hūhtleru vinala ijet'il kad jiq'in</b>                     | <i>It is said that because of the chick, the woman's mother knew the girl.</i> |
| 11. <b>toxturlo tsana t'ut'ul lo lezin</b>                        | <i>It is said that the doctor's she-goat bought the water for the fly.</i>     |
| 12. <b>istil hūhus ifu bulōh</b>                                  | <i>The sibling understands the chick's mother.</i>                             |

(a) One of the verbs is different from the others in the conjugation pattern. Identify this verb and explain how it differs.

(b) Complete the sentences by matching and translate into English (the underlines are the meanings of newly provided words):

- |   |                   |
|---|-------------------|
| 13. <b>zuliktleru q'alala bots'il <u>jog pan</u></b>  | A. <b>bit'xin</b> |
| 14. <b>fojgoz isti zik'os <u>zor fox</u></b>          | B. <b>ijōq'</b>   |
| 15. <b>toxturtleru zorlo t'ut'ul <u>xan khan</u></b>  | C. <b>jeft'i</b>  |
| 16. <b>lez xanla bots'i zihel <u>gartaj witch</u></b> | D. <b>lusun</b>   |



(c) Translate into Khwarshi:

17. *Because of the horse, the child knew the she-goat.*
18. *It is said that the fly sent the donkey's knife to the khan.*
19. *The cheater's mother chops the doctor's son.*
20. *The woman bought the witch for the fox by the boy's saw.*

Khwarshi belongs to the Northeast Caucasian family. It is spoken by approx. 3,300 people in Republic of Dagestan, Russian Federation.

ı ≈ Mandarin *i* in *sī* 'silk'. ʒ, ts, ɬ, tɬ, q, x, ɣ are consonants. <sup>ʃ</sup> indicates that the preceding consonant is pharyngealized. ' indicates that the preceding consonant is an ejective (the air pressure is constructed by raising the glottis toward the oral cavity). The mark ̃ indicates that the vowel is nasalized, and the mark ̄ indicates that the vowel is long. The word *she-goat* means female goat.

Here are some words in Alabama and their English translations in arbitrary order:

- |                                      |  |  |
|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| 1. <b>aatiłáło</b>                   | A. <i>green peas</i>                                     |  |
| 2. <b>abàalokchakkoyáhchi</b>        | B. <i>little finger</i>                                  |  |
| 3. <b>biłika</b>                     | C. <i>green, not ripe (as tender vegetable or fruit)</i> |  |
| 4. <b>chastokokcháako</b>            | D. <i>mermaid, merman</i>                                |  |
| 5. <b>chinto</b>                     | E. <i>eel</i>  |  |
| 6. <b>chinto isbakpàtha</b>          | F. <i>palm (of the hand)</i>                             |  |
| 7. <b>chintooláło</b>                | G. <i>cobra</i>  |   |
| 8. <b>chooskani ichiksa okchakko</b> | H. <i>nephew</i>   |  |
| 9. <b>ilbipatha</b>                  | I. <i>vice president</i>                                 |  |
| 10. <b>ilbistimbiłika</b>            | J. <i>snake</i>  |  |
| 11. <b>ilbistimbiłika istatòkla</b>  | K. <i>sky-blue</i>                                       |  |
| 12. <b>ilbochòosi</b>                | L. <i>middle finger</i>                                  |  |
| 13. <b>mikko istatòkla</b>           | M. <i>index finger</i>                                   |  |
| 14. <b>ochòostoba</b>                | N. <i>mallard</i>  |  |
| 15. <b>okcháako</b>                  | O. <i>be pointed at</i>                                  |  |

(a) Determine the correct correspondences.

(b) Translate into English:

16. **chastoki**

17. **Abàalimikko**

(c) Translate into Alabama:

18. *duck*    19. *president, chief*    20. *ring finger*    21. *human, Native American*

Cobra will flatten and widen its neck while threatened. Drake mallard stands out with its glossy green head and upper neck, which are brilliantly separated from the rich chestnut of its breast by a striking white collar. The mermaid/merman is a legendary creature with a human head and a fish body.

Alabama belongs to the Muskogean family. It is spoken by approx. 360 people on the Alabama-Coushatta Reservation, Texas, USA.

**ch** = *ch* in *church*. **ł** is an unvoiced *l*, as *hl* in the Lha'alua language. A doubled letter denotes length. The mark ´ indicates high tone. The mark ` indicates falling tone.

Here are some words in Central Bikol and their English translations in arbitrary order:

- |                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| 1. <b>maapód</b>         | A. <i>gave</i>                         |
| 2. <b>magdayán-dáyan</b> | B. <i>will eat</i>                     |
| 3. <b>magkakán</b>       | C. <i>be giving</i>                    |
| 4. <b>makakán</b>        | D. <i>will call</i>                    |
| 5. <b>nagbaláw-bagáw</b> | E. <i>roamed around</i>                |
| 6. <b>nagaapód</b>       | F. <i>be eating (said in anger)</i>    |
| 7. <b>naghahabló</b>     | G. <i>Roam around! (said in anger)</i> |
| 8. <b>nagkakán</b>       | H. <i>Eat!</i>                         |
| 9. <b>nagtataʔó</b>      | I. <i>be calling</i>                   |
| 10. <b>nagtaʔó</b>       | J. <i>ate</i>                          |

(a) Determine the correct correspondences.

Here are some more words in Central Bikol and their English translations in arbitrary order:

- |                        |                                       |
|------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 11. <b>magbakál</b>    | K. <i>be going shopping</i>           |
| 12. <b>magseráʔ</b>    | L. <i>blushed</i>                     |
| 13. <b>mamatós</b>     | M. <i>Buy!</i>                        |
| 14. <b>mananaʔó</b>    | N. <i>be wrapping</i>                 |
| 15. <b>mapulá</b>      | O. <i>Pack! (as for a trip)</i>       |
| 16. <b>nagpapatós</b>  | P. <i>will color something red</i>    |
| 17. <b>nagtutusmág</b> | Q. <i>Lock!</i>                       |
| 18. <b>namamakál</b>   | R. <i>will give away</i>              |
| 19. <b>namulá</b>      | S. <i>be sleeping (said in anger)</i> |
| 20. <b>naneráʔ</b>     | T. <i>closed up (as a store)</i>      |

(b) Determine the correct correspondences.

(c) Translate into English:

21. **mamamakál**

(d) Translate into Central Bikol:

22. *be closing up (as a store)*

Central Bikol belongs to the Austronesian family. It is spoken by approx. 4,873,000 people in the southeast Philippine.

ʔ = the unwritten consonant between *ee* of *seediq* in the Seediq language, or the unwritten consonant between the two syllables of *uh-oh* in English. The mark ' indicates stress.

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**Good luck!**