

2. (a) big

[Type here]

- (b) having dark skin / dark-skinned
 - (c) thought(s)
 - (d) courageous / having strong thoughts
 - (e) without a beak / beakless
3. (a) napudeda
(b) wikweruda
(c) tseki
(d) ewikani
(e) bititsekeda
(f) nijuma

EXPLANATION

Derivation/Compounding (N: noun; A: adjective.) –

e-N — ‘N’

N-ki — ‘N is present’

N-ma — ‘N is absent’

A-da — ‘A’

N-A-da — ‘having A N’

Nouns: na = water, tse = teeth, nime = thoughts, niju = heart, wi = beak, biti = skin, wikani = nose

Adjectives: junu = long, kasa = strong, ja = clear, tseke = rough, pude = red, kweru = sharp, paja = white, swe = murky, ari = big

Question C. Warembori

1.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
D	I	G	L	B	J	K	A	E	H	F	C

2. Translate into Warembori.

- (a) Kuedave pa'me binkaindu.
- (b) Kevani.
- (c) Kevaro.
- (d) Atotairo tire ebutundo.

3. Why might a Warembori speaker be surprised if you said **enaikaindu**?

Accept any explanation that states that people usually only have one mother, and “enaikaindu” means “my two mothers”.

When using kinship terms such as father or mother, Warembori grammar is based on the traditional assumption that most people have only one mother and one father.

[Type here]

EXPLANATION

The word order in Warembori is the same as in English: subject – verb – object.

What is unusual about Warembori is that nouns are marked for the indicative mood when used with a verb – most languages mark the verb for the indicative (indicative mood is a grammatical form to express facts or opinions).

In Warembori, the singular subject noun tends not to be marked in a sentence, although it is acceptable to mark this. So, to keep this problem solvable, all singular subjects have been marked for the indicative. The indicative comes in the form of a suffix added to the noun and is often combined with other suffixes indicating number among other things:

- Number: singular, dual (2), or plural (more than 2);
- Deictic (pointing) function: indefinite (a, an) / definite (the) and demonstrative (this / these);
- The singular indicative suffix is -do when nouns end in a consonant and -ro when they end in a vowel.

Indicative suffixes featured in the problem:

Suffix	Meaning / function	Examples in problem
-do	when word used on its own, it translates as “It is ...”; in a sentence it functions like the indefinite article “a” or “an”	2, 3
-ro	same as -do, but the noun it is attached to ends in vowel.	5, 12
-ni	singular demonstrative = “this”	5, 11
-dave	definite singular = “the”	4, 7
-kaindu	definite dual = “the two”	7, 8
-yave	definite plural (more than 2) = “the”	6

When a noun is possessed, there is a possessive prefix:

- a- = your
- e- = my

And, finally, the word for “man” in Warembori is “man”, which is a complete coincidence. Coincidences like this occur more frequently across completely unrelated languages than you’d think. See The Big List of Linguistic Coincidences at <https://johanna-hypatia.livejournal.com/176105.html>. There is even a Facebook group on this topic, Linguistic Coincidences.

References & further reading

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Warembori Language (WSA) – L1 & L2 speakers, status, map, Endangered Level & Official Use |
Ethnologue Free. <https://www.ethnologue.com/language/wsa/>

Question D. Counting objects in Nuosu

1.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
o	e	f	b	l	g	c	k	n	d	m	i	h	j	a

2. (a) **sup vo cyp bbo**
(b) **ma cy ji**
(c) **lot nyip pot**
(d) **vi mop shyp qit**
(e) **nbo jjuo cyp ggu**
(f) **hxy cy ji or hxy cy qit**

EXPLANATION

Nuosu, like most languages in Southeast Asia, uses noun “classifiers” when counting things, that is an additional word depending on what is being counted. In English, we use classifiers in a limited way, as in *a loaf of bread* (rather than just *a bread*), *a sheet of paper* and so on. Nuosu has this, but for many, many more words, and classifies words based on whether they are people, body parts, plants, ... For example, the expression **ddoxmu nyip qit** would literally translate into English as ‘two tools of knives’.

The word order is NOUN - NUMBER - CLASSIFIER. Some nouns are written as two words. The noun classes are only approximately indicated by the translation given here, and this is only a small fraction of them. Hopefully you weren’t too misled by the fact that **ma** is both a noun and a classifier (unrelated), and that **ggu** both a number and a classifier.

Words	Numbers	Classifiers
ddox mu – knife (P)	cyp - 1	qit - tool (P)
bbu shy – snake (Q)	nyip - 2	ji – long thing (Q)
ma – bamboo pole (Q)	suo - 3	bbo - fruit (R)
sup vo – peach (R)	fut - 6	ma – animal (S)
hly vo – cherry (R)	shyp – 7	pot – body part (T)
ie – duck (S)	ggu - 9	ggu – clothing (U)
ax nyie – cat (S)	cy - 10	
jy xy – foot (T)		
ddur – wing (T)		
hlat – trousers (U)		

Note: a lot of students had an alternative solution which fit the data but was marginally less plausible.

In this solution, 1 and 4 are switched round, so ...

1 **ddox mu nyi qit** = B ‘nine bamboo poles’ and

[Type here]

4 **ma ggu ji** = O ‘two knives’

The justification for this would be that (a) the numbers **nyip** and **ggu** both occur only once, as do 2 and 9; (b) **qit** as a classifier occurs only once, while **ji** applies to snakes. So if **qit** is for bamboo poles, then **ji** is for snakes and knives, ie ‘dangerous things’.

The problem with this is when you come to task B (d) ‘seven axes’. We have not seen ‘axe’ before so we have to decide which classifier to use, **qit** or **ji** (assuming no obvious fit with any of the others). In the correct solution, **qit** is for ‘(cutting) tools’, and **ji** for ‘long things’. In the parasitic solution, ‘knife’ would have the same classifier as ‘snake’ (**ji**) while ‘pole’ would be in a group of its own (**qit**). The question would then be which classifier to use for ‘axe’. Classifying it as a ‘dangerous thing’ is not completely implausible, so we allowed this solution.

For future use, the parasitic solution can be removed by adding a data point involving either “two” of something or “nine” of something: it doesn’t matter which but as it stands both “two” and “nine” occur once each and are at the heart of the ambiguity. So for example adding a 16th item such as **ko lo ggu ji** ‘nine ropes’ (with the translation added somewhere in the list now a-p) would confirm that **ggu** was ‘nine’, and make **ji** the classifier for snakes, bamboo poles, and ropes, while **qit** would be only knives.

Source 2023 Lingolympiaden (Swedish Olympiad) qualifying round

Question E. Hixkaryana

1. (a) You just saw a boy.
(b) The jaguar ate the man.
(c) You took the canoe before.
(d) The guest came before.
(e) Meat just made you happy.
2. (a) Kamara yotahaye biryekomo
(b) nomokno
(c) woto yonoye hawana
(d) oyowakryeno kanawa
(e) minikiye

3. Explain Hixkaryana grammar as illustrated by these examples.

- Sentence Structure: (Object) Verb (Subject)
- Verb Structure: Prefix—Stem—Tense

Person-marking prefix: Subject Prefix Object Prefix –

2nd Person m(i) o(y)

3rd Person n(i) y

Vowels in parentheses are omitted if they are followed by a vowel.

* Intransitive Verbs: Use Subject Prefix

* Transitive Verbs: Use Prefixes of the Higher-ranking Subject or Object

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	Subject = 2nd Person	Subject = 3rd Person
Object = 2nd Person	—	Use Object Prefix
Object = 3rd Person	Use subject prefix	Use Object Prefix

– Tense: plain Past -yako

Earlier past “before” -ye

Recent Past (“just now”) -no

Vocabulary:

Nouns: **toto** ‘man’, **kamara** ‘jaguar’, **kanawa** ‘canoe’, **hawana** ‘guest’, **woriskomo** ‘woman’, **biryekomo** ‘boy’, **woto** ‘meat’

Verb stems: **otaha** ‘hit’, **niki** ‘went to bed’, **no** ‘ate’, **omok** ‘came’, **a** ‘took’, **nye** ‘saw’, **owakrye** ‘made happy’