

Below are few sentences with their english translations. Write the rules and the dictionary from these examples. There are no sentences to translate because we are practicing the "explanation". (Sidenote: english translations lack articles but i intentionally left them out everywhere because I'm not 100% where they should be and I didn't want a wrong translation to affect your solution)

Hiiri teatteressa on.

Sikri poydalta hyppaa.

Hiiri poydalla istuu.

Sikri liiterissa istuu.

Hiiri liiterilta hyppaa.

Cow is in theater.

Hen jumps off table.

Bull sits on table.

Hen sits in workshop.

Bull jumps off workshop.

Bull sits on theater. _____

Rooster jumps off theater. _____

Below are few sentences with their english translations. Write the rules and the dictionary from these examples. There are no sentences to translate because we are practicing the "explanation". (Sidenote: english translations lack articles but i intentionally left them out everywhere because I'm not 100% where they should be and I didn't want a wrong translation to affect your solution)

| | |
|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Mi leg kabeag. | This was clean dish. |
| Mir Aneešt. | This will be Anna. |
| Mi ien šhuahti. | This is green table. |
| Mi ien kabešt. | This will be clean table. |
| Mir kiel phaw. | This is strict boy. |
| Mi kel šhuahtiešt. | This will be green city. |

This is Dima. _____

This was strict Anna. _____

This was city. _____

Problem on random order of translations and meanings

Some finnish words:

jääkarhu, pesujauhe, jääkahvi, pesukarhu, jauhekahvi

English translations in random order:

ice coffee, polar bear, laundry powder, raccoon, instant coffee

Match correct translations!

Retoromanščina

Podane so besede iz dveh narečij retoromanščine in njihovi prevodi v slovenščino. Določi, kako se zapišejo besede tam kjer so črte.

| surselvanščina | engadinščina | prevod |
|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------|
| tut | tuot | vse |
| ura | ura | čas |
| dunna | duonna | ženska |
| num | nom | ime |
| nums | noms | imena |
| insumma | insomma | skratka |
| numer | nomer | število |
| buglia | buoglia | kaša |
| flur | flur | cvetlica |
| stumi | _____ | želodec |
| mund | _____ | svet |
| plumba | _____ | plomba |
| mussar | _____ | pokazati |

Zapiši pravila:

Here are few phrases with their english translations. Translate given examples and write the rules that you observed from the given phrases.

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| 1. nimi a gbomu | snake's mouse |
| 2. lende a kai | man's ship |
| 3. kafa kai | man's shoulder |
| 4. lende a nimi | mouse's ship |
| 5. ja nimi | mouse's eye |
| 6. keni gbomu | snake's tongue |

Translate into english:

1. ja kai
2. lende a gbomu

Translate from english:

1. man's snake
2. snake's eye

Problem #3 (20 points). Given are phrases in the Vai language as well as their English translations:

| | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| kàíě á lèndéě | the man's vessel |
| kòánjà-lèṅě fā | the baby-eagle's father |
| gbòmùě á nyìmìě | the fish's snake |
| kàíě kàfā | the man's shoulder |
| nyìmì jǎṅě á gbòmù-lèndèě | the long snake's boat |
| mùsú jǎṅě lòò-kài | the tall woman's brother |
| nyìmì kúndúě já | the short snake's eye |
| kòánjà lòòě kènji | the small eagle's claw |
| kándò jǎṅě | the high sky |

(a) Translate into English:

mùsúě á gbòmùě; léṅ kúndúě á nyìmìě; gbòmù-lèndè kúndúě.

(b) There is an error in the Vai phrase **kándò-lèndé lòòě**. Correct it and translate the phrase into English.

(c) Translate into Vai:

the eagle's snake; the small child's eye;
the tall man's sister; the small baby-snake.

⚠ Vai belongs to the Central group of the Mande language family. It is spoken by approx. 105 000 people in Liberia and Sierra Leone.

ny and **ṅ** are consonants; **ε** and **ɔ** are vowels. The marks “ˊ”, “ˋ” and “ˊˋ” denote tones.

—Olga Kuznetsova

Problem #4 (20 points). Given are words in Nahuatl as well as their English translations in arbitrary order:

acalhuah, achilli, atl, callah, calhuah, chilatl, chilli, colli, coltzintli, conehuah, conehuahcapil, conetl, oquichconetl, oquichhuah, oquichtotoltzintli, tehuah, tetlah, totoltetl

water, child, master of house, water pepper, revered turkey-cock, mother, village, chili water, grandfather/ancestor, stony ground, boy, possessor of stones (= person who lives in a stony place), chili, turkey egg, canoe owner, mum(my), wife, revered grandfather/ancestor

(a) Determine the correct correspondences.

(b) Translate into Nahuatl: house, stone, possessor of water, revered man/husband.

(c) Translate into English: *cacahuatl, cacahuatetl, cacahuaatl, cacahuahuah*.

⚠ Classical Nahuatl was the language of the Aztec Empire in Mexico.

c = **qu** = **k**, **ch** = **ch** in *church*, **hu** = **w** in *win*, **tl** and **tz** are consonants.

Water pepper (*Polygonum hydropiper*) is a wild plant. Chili water is a Aztec drink containing chili pepper.

—Liudmila Fedorova

Example 6

Here are few sentences with their english translations. Translate given examples and write the rules that you observed from the given sentences. ' is a consonant.

- | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Nao ao no'i'e'ena. | I ask you(sg). |
| 2. Nao ofe ue'ena. | I call you(pl). |
| 3. Ao mono no'iamuhe. | You(sg) ask child. |
| 4. Aru ao hafu'eha. | Man meets you(sg). |
| 5. Evera mini mariamuha. | Dog chases bird. |
| 6. Ofe nao marine'ani. | You(pl) chase me. |
| 7. Nao ero hau'ani asiamura. | I don't cut potato. |
| 8. Ao ero nao unera. | You(sg) don't call me. |
| 9. Nu'u ero ofe hafuera. | We don't meet you(pl). |

Translate into english:

1. Nu'u hau'ani asiamu'enu.
2. Nu'u ofe marie'enu.
3. Ofe ero evera no'iamura.

Translate from english:

1. Child doesn't ask you(sg).
2. Man chases you(pl).

Fill in the blanks in all possible ways:

1. _____ unehe.
2. _____ ero mini mariamura.

Twelfth International Olympiad in Linguistics

Beijing (China), 21–25 July 2014

Individual Contest Problems

Do not copy the statements of the problems. Write down your solution to each problem on a separate sheet or sheets. On each sheet indicate the number of the problem, the number of your seat and your surname. Otherwise your work may be mislaid or misattributed.

Your answers must be well-supported by argument. Even a perfectly correct answer will be given a low score unless accompanied by an explanation.

Problem #1 (20 points). Here are some verb forms of Benabena and their English translations:

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| <i>nohobe</i> | I am striking him |
| <i>kahalune</i> | we will strike you _{sg} |
| <i>nokoho'ibe</i> | we both are striking you _{sg} |
| <i>nolenufu'inagihe</i> | because we both are piercing you _{pl} |
| <i>nolifi'ibe</i> | you both are piercing us |
| <i>nofunagihe</i> | because I am piercing him |
| <i>nofine</i> | you _{sg} are piercing him |
| <i>nifila'ibe</i> | you both will pierce me |
| <i>nonahatagihe</i> | because you _{sg} are striking me |
| <i>lenahalube</i> | I will strike you _{pl} |
| <i>nahalanagihe</i> | because you _{pl} will strike me |
| <i>lahala'ibe</i> | you both will strike us |
| <i>nofutagihe</i> | because we are piercing him |
| <i>lenifilu'ibe</i> | we both will pierce you _{pl} |
| <i>noho'inagihe</i> | because we both are striking him |

(a) Translate into English:

nonifibe, halu'ibe, lifilatagihe, nokufune, nolahanagihe.

(b) Translate into Benabena:

- you both are striking him;
- we will pierce you_{sg};
- because we are striking you_{pl};
- because you_{pl} will pierce him.

⚠ The Benabena language belongs to the Trans-New Guinea family. It is spoken by approx. 45,000 people in Papua New Guinea. —Ivan Derzhanski

Haiti kreol

Here are few nouns with articles and their english translations. Fill in the blanks and write the rules that you observed from the given examples.

Haiti kreol is based on french and few african languages. an, en and on represent special nasal vowels, ou is pronounced similarly as u, y is consonant, " above the vowel means wide vowel.

| | | |
|----|---------------|---------------------------|
| 1 | blond lan | blondie |
| 2 | chanbrani lan | framework |
| 3 | fanm nan | wife |
| 4 | gany lan | money |
| 5 | gwangul la | tree |
| 6 | jaden an | garden |
| 7 | koudam nan | shot |
| 8 | manman an | mother |
| 9 | mouka a | hat |
| 10 | rekölt la | grapes |
| 11 | ri a | street |
| 12 | segonn nan | second |
| 13 | tan an | time |
| 14 | tanbou a | drum |
| 15 | telefön nan | telephone |
| 16 | tokay la | person with the same name |
| 17 | zèb la | grass |
| 18 | batenm _____ | water |
| 19 | kouto _____ | knife |
| 20 | tinon _____ | nickname |
| 21 | wonf _____ | snoring |
| 22 | woz _____ | rose |

Now that you've solved the above part please look at few additional words. Modify existing rules or add new rules depending on the newly added data. Fill in few additional blanks.

| | | |
|----|---------------|---------|
| 23 | bonë a | luck |
| 24 | choumounou an | midget |
| 25 | lamama a | money |
| 26 | pitimi an | oat |
| 27 | ramo a | branch |
| 28 | vèni an | knee |
| 29 | zepina a | spinach |
| 30 | estimë ____ | ship |
| 31 | lalin ____ | moon |
| 32 | lanmou ____ | love |
| 33 | mizik ____ | music |
| 34 | releng ____ | cloth |

Write the rules!

Tenth International Olympiad in Linguistics

Ljubljana (Slovenia), 30 July – 3 August 2012

Individual Contest Problems

Do not copy the statements of the problems. Write down your solution to each problem on a separate sheet or sheets. On each sheet indicate the number of the problem, the number of your seat and your surname. Otherwise your work may be mislaid or misattributed.

Your answers must be well-argued. Even a perfectly correct answer will be given a low score unless accompanied by an explanation.

Problem #1 (20 points). Here are some sentences in the central dialect of Dyirbal as well as their English translations:

1. **bayi yaɾa ŋunʒaymuɾa baŋgu gurugugu biŋgunman.**
Booze is making the man that is always being blamed tired.
2. **balan yabu bimabanʒalŋaymuɾa baŋgul yaɾaŋgu guliŋgu ŋunʒaŋu.**
The strong man is blaming the mother that is always following death adders.
3. **balan waymin bambun baŋgu ʒugaŋgu ʒamiman.**
Sugar is making the healthy mother-in-law fat.
4. **bala yila wura baŋgul bargandu biŋgundu guniŋu.**
The tired wallaby is searching for the little feather.
5. **balan malayigara baŋgu garandu biŋgunman.**
The smoke is making the scorpion tired.
6. **bala gurugu baŋgul ŋumaŋgu munduŋgu dimbaŋu.**
The offended father is carrying the booze.
7. **bayi midin baŋgun bimauŋgu malayigaraguninaymuɾagu banʒan.**
The death adder that is always searching for scorpions is following the possum.
8. **bayi gubimbulu biŋgun baŋgu gurugugu ʒagunman.**
Booze is making the tired doctor fall asleep.
9. **bala garan baŋgul biŋʒiriŋʒu banʒan.**
The lizard is following the smoke.
10. **balan duŋan baŋgul yiriŋʒilagu guniŋu.**
The dragonfly is searching for the stinging tree.
11. **bala ʒuga baŋgun yabuŋgu ŋaʒilmuɾagu dimbaŋu.**
The mother that is always being ignored is carrying the sugar.
12. **bala diban ʒagiŋ baŋgul gubimbulugu ʒamiŋgu bilmban.**
The fat doctor is pushing the big stone.
13. **bala garan baŋgun waymindu dibanbilmbalŋaymuɾagu buɾan.**
The mother-in-law that is always pushing stones is looking at the smoke.
14. **balan baŋgay waɾu baŋgun bundiŋʒu ʒagiŋʒu guniŋu.**
The big grasshopper is searching for the bent spear.
15. **bayi biŋʒiriŋ biŋgun baŋgul ʒalŋaŋgu mugurugu buɾan.**
The quiet boy is looking at the tired lizard.
16. **bayi ŋuma guli baŋgul yaɾaŋgu banʒalmuɾagu munduman.**
The man that is always being followed is offending the strong father.

(a) A linguist thought there was an error in one of the Dyirbal sentences above. In fact there is no error. The explanation for what seemed strange to him is that one of the animal species is regarded as “old women” in one of the myths of the Dyirbal people. Which animal is it? What did the linguist consider to be an error?

(b) Translate into English:

17. **balan ɲalɲga baŋgul ɲumaŋgu guniymuŋagu bambunman.**

18. **bala diban bilbalmuŋa baŋgun biɲɟiriɲɟu guniɲu.**

19. **bayi bargan baŋgul yaɲaŋgu gubimbuluŋuŋanaymuŋagu banɟan.**

(c) Here are three more Dyirbal words:

bayimbam — grub, caterpillar;

mugunanɟa — aunt (mother’s elder sister);

muŋga — loud noise.

Translate into Dyirbal:

20. The little wallaby is looking at the dragonfly.

21. The aunt that is always being followed is bending the feather.

22. The sleeping possum is ignoring the loud noise.

23. The caterpillar is searching for the man that is always carrying stones.

⚠ The Dyirbal language belongs to the Pama–Nyungan family; it is a dying Australian Aboriginal language spoken in northeast Queensland.

ɲ = *ng* in *hang*.

ɲ ≈ *ni* in *onion*; **ɟ** is a stop (as **d**) articulated in the same place in the mouth as **ɲ**.

A death adder is an Australian venomous snake. A wallaby is a small animal, related to kangaroo. A possum is an Australian arboreal marsupial. Stinging trees are a genus of shrubs and trees with stinging hairs, some of which are dangerous to humans. —*Artūrs Semeņuks*