Q27. Learning Yidiny Solution

Circle the incorrect word in each sentence, and write the correct word in the space on the right.

(a) *Nyuniny* gabay mijil.    
Nyundu

(b) *Ngayu nyuniny jina banggaaldu gundaal.* banngaalda

(c) *Nganjiiny bama bunyaang wawaal.* bamaal

(d) *Wanjiirr ngayu minya?* nganda

(e) *Bamaal waguja gabaanja janaany.* Bama

(f) *Nganji ngungu guluguluugu bagaal.* gulugulu

(g) *Bama ngungu dugur balgaal gabaanja.* Bamaal

(h) *Nganjiiny ngungu mayi wiwin.* Nganjinda

(i) *Nyundu bama bunya mandi bagaal biwuudu.* biwuuda

(j) *Nyundu jina bagaaqinyu biwuudu.* Nyuniny

(k) *Nganji jaja dungu wawaal.* dingu

(l) *Ngayu ngungu bunyaang mandii baraal.* bunya

Comments

(a) *Nyundu* should be subject of a transitive verb (i.e. a verb with an object)  
(cf sentence 10)
(b) *Banggaalda* is seen in (8) and (9) meaning ‘with an axe’
(c) *Bamaal* is seen in (2), (12) and (16) as the subject of a transitive verb or  
part of the subject of a transitive verb in combination with *bunyaang*  
‘woman’.
(d) Following the pattern of sentence 3, when the sentence is about  
possession, the possessor is in its –nda form, meaning ‘to’ or ‘with’.  
Sentence 3 might be paraphrased as ‘How much food is with you?’ This  
way of expressing possession is found in quite a few languages.
(e) Following the pattern of sentence 17, the subject of an intransitive verb  
(i.e. a verb not taking an object) appears in its shorter form. In (17)  
‘woman’ is *bunya*, not *bunyaang*.
(f) Combining information from sentences 1, 2, 3 and (h), *mayiigu* means ‘for  
food’, *mayi* means ‘food’, *guluguluugu* means ‘for black bream’, *gulugulu*  
means ‘black bream’ when used as the object of a verb.
(g) Same as (c).
(h) Following the pattern of sentences 10 and 18, when the verb means ‘give’  
or ‘show’, the person who is receiving or being shown is in its –nda form  
(cf (d)). Sentence 18 shows *nganjinda* meaning ‘to us’.
(i) *Biwuuda* is seen in sentence 5 meaning ‘with a fishing spear’.
(j) Follow the pattern of sentence 7 where *nganyanu* is used rather than  
*ngayu* when the verb ends in –jinyu.
(k) Follow the pattern of jinaa in sentences 19 and 20 corresponding to jina in sentence 7, or mandii in sentence 21 corresponding to mandi in sentence 1.

(l) Bunya is seen in sentence 15 as the object of a verb.