

Q26. LONTARA SOLUTION

B1. Indicate the correct order of segments A-J:

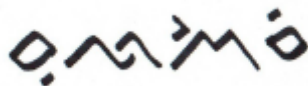
B	E	D	I	H	A	C	J	G	F
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B2. Translate into Buginese (in transliteration)

- (a) Lord *puang*.....
- (b) Underworld *pérétiwi* OR *pérétiwié*
- (c) earth *atawareng*

B3. Write these words using the *Lontara script*.

(a) *Sulawesi*



(b) *La Galigo*



(c) *tompoq tikkaq*



(d) *Amparita*



(e) *Tenriabéng*



Comment/Hints

Hint 1: The phrase *mattampa puang lé ri batara* is repeated twice in the scrambled Latin-alphabet Buginese text. Can you find a series of characters that is repeated twice in the Lontara-script Buginese text? Use this as a foothold for discovering what some symbols mean, and learning more symbols.

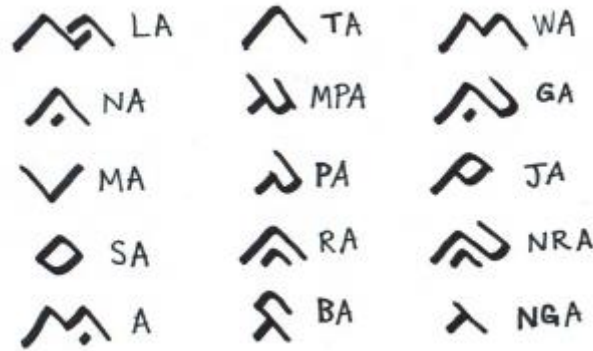
Hint 2: Try thinking of the symbols as syllables instead of letters...

Each symbol is a single syllable. Lontara is an abugida: the larger, core part of each symbol represents the initial consonant or consonants, while any smaller, accentuating mark represents the vowel.

When there is no vowel mark, the syllable defaults to the vowel *a*. When a vowel mark is present, the *a* changes to the corresponding vowel. This is similar to Devanagari, another abugida.



Here are more consonants of the Lontara script, in the order they appear in the Buginese text.



Although some of the Buginese syllables have final consonants, Lontara does not have a way to write down the final consonants. So the *-ng* and *-q* at the end of many of the Buginese words have no representation in the Lontara script: they are ignored. Doubled consonants, as in *mattampa*, are also ignored and just treated as single consonants (*matampa*). Lastly, spaces are ignored.

A single punctuation mark (at right) is used to represent both the comma and the full stop.



Reference for the Lontaran script: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lontara_alphabet

The unscrambled poem

<i>Lé namasuaq mua na sia</i>	There is no one
<i>mattampa Puang lé ri batara,</i>	to call the gods Lord,
<i>mappaleq wali ri Pérétiwi.</i>	or to offer praise to the Underworld.
<i>Tammaga Puang muloq séua rijajiammu,</i>	Why Lord don't you have one of your children descend,
<i>tabareq-bareq ri atawareng,</i>	and incarnate him on the earth,
<i>ajaq naonro lobbang linoé</i>	do not leave the world empty and
<i>makkatajangeng ri atawareng.</i>	the earth uninhabited.
<i>Teddéwata iq, Puang, rékkua masuaq tau</i>	You are not a god, Lord, if there are no humans
<i>ri awa langiq, lé ri ménéqna Pérétiwié,</i>	under the heavens, above the Underworld,
<i>mattampa Puang lé ri batara.</i>	to call the gods Lord.

The Buginese text and translation were taken from a paper by Sirtjo Koolhof about the epic poem: <http://www.sabrizain.org/malayaS/library/lagaligo.pdf>