Online Olympiad in Linguistics 2025
Solutions

1. Telugu

Structure:

- Slot 0: Root
- Slot 1: Aux:
  - Further conjugatable: **cēyu** transitive, **iccu** permissive, **kalugu** potential
  - Not further conjugatable: **valayunu** *must*, **vaccunu** *may*, **rādu** *may not*, **kūḍadu** *should not*
- Slot 2: Tense: -**cunn**- present, -**in**- past
- Slot 3: Person:
  - Indicative: -MARKER
  - Potential: **kalugu** > **kala**- + CONS + -**u**

  MARKER: **ānu** 1sg, **āvu** 2sg, **ā̃ḍu** 3sg masc, **adi** 3sg neut, **āmu** 1 pl, **āru** 2pl, **avi** 3pl
  CONS: consonant used in marker

- Slot 4: Polar Question -**ā**

Sound Changes:

1. Verbs take the infinitive before auxiliaries. It is usually formed by changing the last vowel to **ã**, but **vaccu** "to come" is irregular and has the infinitive of **rã**.
   Then õ̃ > **n** / _V and Ø / _ [+C, -plosive], while voicing the initial plosives of auxiliaries.
2. V̆1+V2=V2
3. -**yu**- + -**in**- > -**sin**-

Arasunna Rules for Roots: in the root, arasunna can only come before single plosives, but doesn't necessarily come before all of them.

(a):

15	**valasināmu**
16	**rã̃janiccinānu**
17	**vāyiñcucunnavi**
18	**rã̃galā̃ḍu**

19	**aṇã̃gavalayunā**
20	**tã̃kavaccunu**
21	**maṟalu**

(b):

22	**cã̃pinadi**	It stretched (it).
23	**iccucunnã̃ḍu**	He is giving (it).
24	**vã̃gavaccunā**	May X make a sound?
25	**cēyã̃galavu**	You(sg) can do. / They can do.

(c):

26	X should not be desired.	**valayãgūḍadu**
27	Is he letting (it) come?	**rāniccucunnã̃ḍā**
28	You(pl) are making a sound.	**vã̃gucunnāru**
29	It gave.	**iccinadi**

2. Tsat

(a):

1	**ɲa²⁴ ta²⁴**	I	soybean oil
2	**ʔia³³ ni³³**	F	honey (lit. *bee's liquid*)
3	**na:ŋ³³**	L	betel nut
4	**ʔia³³ ta²⁴**	H	soybean milk
5	**phia¹¹ ti⁵⁵**	C	white rice
6	**sa³³ phai¹¹**	E	dried yam
7	**pa:iʔ³² ti⁵⁵**	A	baijiu (lit. *white wine*)
8	**ʔia³³ phia¹¹**	K	water in which rice was cooked
9	**ʔianʔ³² ɲa²⁴**	G	rapeseed (lit. *oil vegetable*)
10	**pa:iʔ³² phai¹¹**	M	yam wine
11	**ʔianʔ³² ta²⁴**	J	soybean sprout
12	**sai³³**	D	cooked rice
13	**ɲa²⁴ mo³³**	B	butter

(b):

ta²⁴	soybean
pa:iʔ³²	wine / alcohol
tha:n¹¹ ti⁵⁵	white sugar
ɲa²⁴ ʔianʔ³²	rapseed oil

(c):

sai³³ ɲa²⁴ ʔu³³	coconut oil cooked rice

3. Ma'di

There are three grammatical differences in Ma'di between present and past:

	Present	Past
Verb-Obj order	OV	VO
3rd person marker	**ka** (separate word that comes after subject)	**O-**
"it" object	**-A**	unmarked

Word Order: S VO/OV PP FOC (FOC = **aʊ** and focuses the object)

Noun Phrase: Noun CASE

Cases: **ʔa** (possessive), **sɨ** (in), **ga** (towards), **ga sɨ** (from), **nɨ** (benefactive).

Irregular pluralization.

Verb phrase:

Slot -1	Root	Slot + 1	Slot + 2
3rd person marker for past **O-** If **ka**- comes directly before the verb, it becomes **kO-**		**-A** "it" present tense only	**kɨ** (separate word that indicates 3pl)

ATR vowel harmony:

	A	E	I	O	U
Advanced	ʌ	e	i	o	u
Retracted	a	ɛ	ɨ	ɔ	ʊ

(a):

15	**tii ɔtʃɨ kɨ ɓɔŋgʊ**	The cows bit the dress.
16	**ama ndrɛ aʊ**	We saw *it*.
17	**mva ɔɗɨ ebi ɔpi nɨ**	The child cooked the fish(sg) for the chief.
18	**agɔ ka latʊ tʊ sukuru sɨ**	The man dances in the school.

(b):

19	They saw our dance.	**ɔndrɛ kɨ ama ʔa latʊ**
20	He leaves from the house.	**kɔŋga dʒɔ ga sɨ**
21	The man builds *the school*.	**agɔ ka sukuru si aʊ**
22	I cut (past) the fish(sg).	**ma li ebi**

4. Swahili

Dictionary:

Word	Meaning
zaa	hour
dakyka	minute
modja	1
mbyly	2
tatu	3
nne	4
tano	5
zyta	6
zaba	7
nane	8
tyza	9
kumy	10
yxyryny	20
thelathini	30*
robo	quarter
nusu	half
na	and
kazoro	to / minus
uzyku	night (18:01—3:59)
alfadjyry	dawn (4:00—6:00)
azubuhy	morning (6:01—11:59)
mcana	day (12:00—15:00)
djyony	evening (15:01—18:00)

Numeral structure: tens [**na** units].

Structure of the standard time notation:

						daypart
:00	zaa	last hour	—			daypart
:01—:14 :16—:29	zaa	last hour	na	dakyka	minutes from the last hour	daypart
:15	zaa	last hour	na	robo		daypart
:30	zaa	last hour	na	nusu		daypart
:31—:44 :46—:59	zaa	next hour	kazoro	dakyka	minutes till the next hour	daypart
:45	zaa	next hour	kazoro	robo*		daypart

Hours lie between 1 and 12 inclusively; counting starts from 6:00/18:00.

* kazoro + **robo** are merged into a single word **kazorobo**, which is the answer for task (b).

The script used in the contest contained a typo and did not correctly display the answers that contained number 11. This will be taken into account during the grading.