

### Question 6: Tangkhul tangle (30 marks)

Tangkhul is a language spoken in the northernmost district of the Indian state of Manipur. Like Manipuri (or Meithei) and many other languages of Northeast India, Tangkhul is related to Tibetan and Burmese rather than to Hindi, Bengali, Marathi, Gujarati, or other major languages of India. Tangkhul words can be very long and quite complicated in their structure. Sometimes single words may have to be translated with whole sentences in English. Also, pronouns (words like *he*, *she*, *it*, and *they*) can be left out if their meanings can still be filled in from context.

Following is a list of sentences from Tangkhul and their English translations (*not* given in the same order). In the English translations, pronouns are enclosed in parenthesis when they are left out of the Tangkhul sentences. Tangkhul makes a distinction between “singular”, “dual” (indicating two) and “plural” (more than two), shown in the English translations as ‘sg’, ‘du’ or ‘pl’.

- a. masikserra
- b. āni masikngarokei
- c. āthum masikngarokngāilā
- d. ini thāingarokei
- e. nathum thāilā
- f. ithum thāingāihāirara
- g. rāserhāira
- h. āthum rāra
- i. nathum rāserhāiralā

The next list contains their English translations, but not in the same order:

1. Do they want to pinch each other?
2. Do you(sg) see (it)?
3. Have you(pl) all come?
4. (He/She) will pinch all (of them).
5. (They) all have come.
6. They(du) pinched each other.
7. They(du) will come.
8. We(pl) have seen (it).
9. We(du) saw each other.

#### 6.1 (18 marks)

Match the Tangkhul sentences with their English translations.

#### 6.2 (6 marks)

Translate the following sentences into Tangkhul:

- a. Do you(du) want to come?
- b. You(pl) have seen (it) all.
- c. We(pl) will want to see one another.

#### 6.3 (6 marks)

Translate the following sentences into English:

- a. nathum masikserngāira
- b. āthum thāiei
- c. thāiserhāiralā

6.1	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i
6.2a									
b									
c									
6.3a									
b									
c									

## Solutions

6.1	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i
	4	6	1	9	2	8	5	7	3
6.2a	<b>nāni rāngāieilā Or: nāni rāeingāilā</b>								
b	<b>nāthum thāiserhāira</b>								
c	<b>ithum thāingarokngāira</b>								
6.3a	<b>You (pl) will want to pinch (them) all. [accept without brackets]</b>								
b	<b>They saw (it/him/them). [accept without brackets, and any of it, him, etc.]</b>								
c	<b>Has (he) seen (them) all? [accept without brackets, and any of he, she, etc.]</b>								