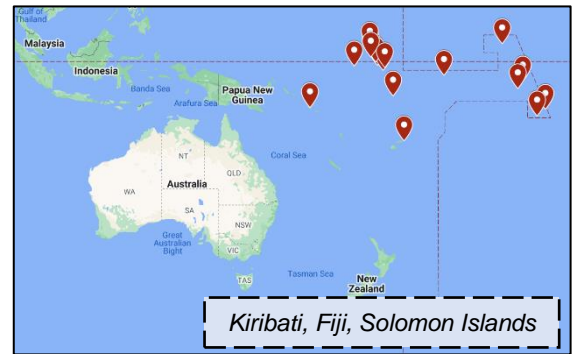


### Problem 3. Gilbertese (10 marks)

Gilbertese or *taetae ni Kiribati* is an Austronesian language spoken mainly in Kiribati, with 120,000 native speakers. Kiribati is a former British colony called the Gilbert Islands before independence, and the modern name is actually how the word 'Gilbert' is pronounced in this language.

Below are some sentences in Gilbertese with their English translations. Note that *fruit* is singular (i.e. 'piece of fruit').



**E nooria te uaa te aomata.**  
**A na kunei taian uee taian aine.**  
**A na kunea te uee taian aomata.**  
**E na noorii taian uee te aine.**  
**A noorii taian uee taian aine.**  
**E na kunei taian uee te aomata.**  
**A kunei taian uee taian aine.**  
**A na kunea te uaa taian aine.**

*The man saw the fruit.*  
*The women will find the flowers.*  
*The men will find the flower.*  
*The woman will see the flowers.*  
*The women saw the flowers.*  
*The man will find the flowers.*  
*The women found the flowers.*  
*The women will find the fruit.*

**Q 3.1** Translate the following into English:

- (a) **E noorii taian uaa te aomata.**  
 (b) **A kunea te uaa taian aomata.**  
 (c) **E na nooria te uee te aine.**  
 (d) **E kunea te uaa te aine.**


Consider the following Gilbertese words and their English translations.

**nii** *the coconut tree*   **nati** *the child*   **tara** *to look at*   **kamano** *to protect*

**Q 3.2** Translate the following into Gilbertese:

- (a) *The children looked at the fruit.*  
 (b) *The child will protect the flowers.*  
 (c) *The men will look at the coconut trees.*  
 (d) *The woman protected the coconut tree.*


## Problem 3. Gilbertese Answers and Explanation (1/1)

Total: 28 points

Q 3.1 1pt per region separated by +. Accept *a* instead of *the*. Max 12.

(a) **E noorii taian uaa te aomata.**

*The man + saw + the fruits.*

(b) **A kunea te uaa taian aomata.**

*The men + found + the fruit.*

(c) **E na nooria te uee te aine.**

*The woman + will see + the flower.*

(d) **E kunea te uaa te aine.**

*The woman + found + the fruit.*

Q 3.2 1pt for each region separated by + correct. At most once per sentence: deduct 1pt if two correct regions are incorrectly ordered. Only penalise a recurrent error once. Reject mis-spellings. Insist on articles **te/taian** and correct tense and number.

Max 16.

(a) *The children looked at the fruit.*

**A + taraa + te uaa + taian nati.**

(b) *The child will protect the flowers.*

**E na + kamanoi + taian uee + te nati.**

(c) *The men will look at the coconut trees.*

**A na + tarai + taian nii  
+ taian aomata.**

(d) *The woman protected the coconut tree.*

**E + kamanoa + te nii + te aine.**

### Explanation

Word order is the unusual VOS, specifically: Number marker + Tense marker + Verb + Object + Subject.

The number marker is **E** if the subject is singular, **A** if plural.

If it is future tense, the word **na** precedes the verb, otherwise there is no tense marker.

The verb stems are **noori-** 'see', **kune-** 'find', **tara-** 'look at', **kamano-** 'protect'. They take an ending agreeing with the number of the object: **-a** (singular), or **-i** (plural).

Both the objects **uaa** 'fruit', **uee** 'flower', **nii** 'coconut tree' and the subjects **aomata** 'man', **aine** 'woman', **nati** 'child' are preceded by an article indicating number: **te** (singular), **taian** (plural).