

Name:

2023-Round 2



### Problem 3. Pular (20 marks)

Pular is an Atlantic-Congo language spoken by approximately 13.8 million Fula people mostly in the Fouta Djallon region of Guinea.

Below are some sentences in Pular with their English translations. Note that **ɓ**, **ɗ**, and **ɲ** are consonants.



**Wañoowo remi puteeje.**

**Ñaariiru ndun joodoo.**

**Jannoowo asii.**

**Kerooru lubi booto on.**

**Defoobe ben janna bareeji ɗin.**

**Jangoowo on defa puteere.**

**Gookiiji jannee.**

**Kobokoboore nden ñaamaa.**

**Maafeeji ɗin danndee.**

**Ñawndoobe ben udditi saaku on.**

**Bareeru asa luuro.**

**Kerooru lootoo.**

**Deemuuji ɗin looti boheeje ɗen.**

**Bootooji ɗin udditii.**

*A hunter has farmed sweet potatoes.*

*The cat sits.*

*A teacher has dug.*

*A monkey has shut the sack.*

*The chefs teach the dogs.*

*The student cooks a sweet potato.*

*Gorillas are taught.*

*The aubergine has been eaten.*

*The sauces are saved.*

*The doctors have opened the bag.*

*A dog digs a hole.*

*A monkey washes itself.*

*The chimpanzees have washed the baobab fruits.*

*The sacks were open / have opened themselves.*

**Q 3.1** Translate into English:

(a) **Jannoobe ñawndi jangoobe ben.**

(b) **Luurooji ɗin lootaa.**

(c) **Kerooji ɗin joodii.**

(d) **Defoowo on loota puteere nden.**

**Q 3.2** Translate into Pular:

(a) *The chimpanzee is hunted.*

(b) *Farmers eat the aubergines.*

(c) *Bags are shut / shut themselves.*

(d) *The gorilla has saved the baobab fruit.*

(e) *The saviour cooks the sauce.*

**Q 3.3** Explain your solution.

## Problem 3. Pular Answers and Explanation (1/2)

### Problem 3. Pular

3.1	a Teachers have healed the students.	3.2	a Deemuuru ndun wañee. [2]
	b The holes have been washed.		b Remooɓe ñaama kobokobooje den. [3]
	c The monkeys have sat.		c Saakuuji luboo. [2]
	d The chef washes the sweet potato.		d Gookiiru ndun danndi ɓoheere nden. [3]
			e Danndoowo on defa maafe on. [3]

**Q 3.1.** Max 8 points. 1pt if all NPs are correct; 1pt if VP is correct. Do not penalise past for perfect. Allow any reasonable translation of *heal*, e.g. *cure*, *look after*.

**Q 3.2.** Max 13. 1pt for each NP; 1pt for each verb. Do not penalise **b, d, n** for **ɓ, ɗ, ñ**.

**Q 3.3.** Max 17. 2pts for syntax; 6pts for verbs; 9pts for nouns.

## Problem 3. Pular Answers and Explanation (2/2)

### Explanation

- Word order is SVO, with definite articles following nouns.
- Verbs conjugate as follows, where middle = intransitive/reflexive:

	Active	Middle	Passive
Simple/imperfective	<b>-a</b>	<b>-oo</b>	<b>-ee</b>
Perfect	<b>-i</b>	<b>-ii</b>	<b>-aa</b>

- Nouns decline as follows, with the definite article (in brackets).

	Singular	Plural
Human	<b>-wo (on)</b>	<b>-be (ben)</b>
Animal	<b>-ru (ndun)</b>	<b>-ji (ɗin)</b>
Fruit/Vegetable	<b>-re (nden)</b>	<b>-je (ɗen)</b>
Other	<b>-∅ (on)</b>	<b>-ji (ɗin)</b>

- Human nouns can be derived from verbs by suffixing **-o(o)**
- Vowels are doubled before suffixes – alternatively, the Other-Plural suffix is **-Vji**.

### Commentary

Most verbs have their voice lexically determined, e.g., active verbs have no passive equivalent. Equally, many verbs conjugate according to a voice that is difficult to understand as an English speaker.

The actual noun class system of Pular is far more complex. An extract is presented below, although other classes exist.

Article	Ending	Usage
<b>on</b>	<b>o / ∅</b>	humans; borrowings
<b>ben</b>	<b>be</b>	human plurals
<b>ɗen</b>	<b>e</b>	other plurals
<b>ɗin</b>	<b>i</b>	
<b>nden</b>	<b>e</b>	fruits/vegetables; locations; abstract nouns; measures of time; etc.
<b>ndin</b>	<b>i</b>	attributes; food
<b>ndun</b>	<b>u</b>	some animals; body parts
<b>ngon</b>	<b>o</b>	body parts; circular things
<b>kin</b>	<b>i</b>	trees; medicine; sharp objects
<b>ngin</b>	<b>ii</b>	insects; pejoratives

Sources:

[Pular Resources \(ibamba.net\)](http://ibamba.net)

TEACHING GRAMMAR OF PULAR, Barrie Evans

[Dictionnaire Pular - Votre dictionnaire peul sur la Toile \(webonary.org\)](http://webonary.org)