

Problem 5. Maonan (25 marks)

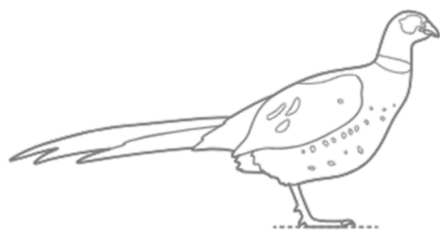
Maonan is a Kra-Dai language spoken by around 75,000 people in the border area of Guangxi and Guizhou provinces of China. They refer to themselves as **kjɔŋ⁵na:n⁶** *Maonan people*.

Below are some words and phrases in Maonan, written in a simplified phonetic transcription, with their English translations given in a random order.

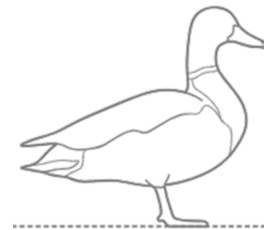
Note that *pheasants* and *mallards* are species of wild birds, pictured below. Male/female chickens, pigs, and buffalo are referred to as *roosters/hens*, *boars/sows*, and *bulls/cows* respectively. *Molars* are the largest teeth, found at the back of the mouth. *Tears* here refer to the clear liquid released when crying. *Water sprayers* are tools for spraying water, for example onto plants. **a:i**, **a:**, **i:u**, **ɛ**, and **ɔ** are vowels; **ɲ**, **ŋ** and **ʔ** are consonants. Raised numbers such as ¹ indicate the tone of the preceding syllable.



- | | |
|--|------------------------|
| 1. da:i ² na ⁴ | A. bad chicken |
| 2. dat ⁸ na ⁴ | B. big pig |
| 3. dat ⁸ tan ³ | C. buffalo bull |
| 4. dat ⁸ put ⁷ nam ³ | D. clothing |
| 5. dɔ ² gjuŋ ² | E. delicious |
| 6. dɔ ² ka:i ⁵ na:m ¹ | F. to eat resolutely |
| 7. dɔ ² mu ⁵ ni ⁴ | G. elephant |
| 8. hi:u ³ gwi ² | H. food |
| 9. kjɔŋ ⁵ hi:u ³ da:i ² | I. good teeth |
| 10. kjɔŋ ⁵ ka:i ⁵ ni ⁴ | J. grasshopper |
| 11. na ⁴ nɔk ⁸ | K. jealous person |
| 12. nam ³ nda ¹ | L. red mallard |
| 13. ni ⁴ dzja:ŋ ⁴ | M. Maonan person |
| 14. ni ⁴ gwi ² dak ⁸ | N. molar |
| 15. ni ⁴ mu ⁵ | O. pheasant |
| 16. nɔk ⁸ ka:i ⁵ | P. hens |
| 17. nɔk ⁸ ʔɛp ⁷ la:n ³ | Q. sow |
| 18. put ⁷ pɔk ⁸ | R. to spray resolutely |
| 19. ʔai ¹ na:n ⁶ | S. tear |
| 20. ʔai ¹ nda ¹ la:n ³ | T. water sprayer |



pheasant



mallard

(continued on the next page)

Q 5.1 Determine the correct correspondences.

Q 5.2 Translate into English:

21. **kjəŋ⁵mu⁵dak⁸**

22. **nda¹da:i²**

23. **tan³tək⁸**

24. **ŋa:m¹tan³**

Q 5.3 Translate into Maonan:

25. *eyes*

26. *to spray*

27. *buffalo cows*

28. *domestic/farmyard duck*

29. *wearer*

Q 5.4 The Maonan phrase **gjuŋ²na⁴nam³** means *rainbow*. What is its literal translation?

Q 5.5 In a Maonan village, you see both **də²ŋa:n⁶** and **nək⁸ŋa:n⁶**. What is the difference between them? Suggest a possible English translation for **nək⁸ŋa:n⁶**.

Q 5.6 Explain your solution.

Problem 5. Maonan Answers

For Q5.1 write the corresponding letter under each item.

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.	14.	15.	16.	17.	18.	19.	20.
E	H	D	T	J	A	N	I	P	F	S	G	C	D	B	O	L	R	M	K

5.2	21. <i>boars</i>	23. <i>wear resolutely</i>
	22. <i>good eye</i>	24. <i>bad to wear (e.g. ugly, uncomfortable)</i>

5.3	25. <i>kjəŋ⁵nda¹</i>	28. <i>də²ʔep⁷</i>
	26. <i>put⁷</i>	29. <i>ʔai¹tan³</i>
	27. <i>kjəŋ⁵gwi²ni⁴</i>	

5.4	<i>a grasshopper that drinks water</i>
-----	--

5.5	They are domesticated and wild versions of some bird. <i>nək⁸ŋa:n⁶ = wild goose</i>
-----	--

Q 5.1 Max 20. 1 pt per correct letter.

Q 5.2 Max 8. 2p per correct translation.

Q 5.3 Max 10. 2p per correct translation.

Q 5.4 Max 3. 3pt if all morphemes translated (*grasshopper-eat water*), 1pt with one missing/mistranslated. Accept any reasonable translation.

Q 5.5 Max 5. 3p for both prefixes described correctly; 1p for just one. 2p for a valid translation of *ŋa:n⁶* (any bird).

Q 5.6 Max 18. 2p for word order; 5p for verbs; 11p for prefixes.

Problem 5. Maonan Explanations

1. Order: Head – Modifier
2. Animates take one of the following prefixes:
 - **ʔai¹**- = humans
 - **ni⁴**- = large animals
 - **nək⁸**- = wild birds
 - **də²**- = else
3. The plural is marked by **kjəŋ⁵**-.
 - This replaces any other prefix.
4. The suffix meaning *resolutely* is **-Cək⁸**, with **C** copying the onset consonant of the previous syllable.
5. **dat⁸**- nominalises a verb. (This can also be treated as a classifier in a solution.)

References and further reading:

- Lu, T. Q. (2008). *A grammar of Maonan*. Universal-Publishers.