

Problem 4. Nganasan (20 marks)

Nganasan is a Uralic language spoken by the Nganasan people. Traditionally they have been the northernmost people in Eurasia, living in the Taimyr Peninsula, although today only around 470 Nganasan remain there, and fewer still speak the language.

Below are some Nganasan words written in a phonetic transcription, with their English translations given in alphabetical order. Note that **ð** = *th* in *this*, **d'** ≈ *j* in *judge*, **j** = *y* in *yes*; **č**, **ń**, **ŋ**, and **ʔ** are consonants; **ə**, **ü**, and **i** are vowels. Traditional Nganasan mythology includes several **ŋuəʔ** or gods, such as **bəndubtuə ŋuə** and **ńilitiə ŋuə**. The Nganasan people made small wooden idols, some of which would be kept in family homes, and offered them gifts to help please the gods.

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|------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. bad'ačimi | a. <i>aeroplane</i> |
| 2. bad'aʔbəbə | b. <i>boat</i> |
| 3. čimiʔ | c. <i>branches</i> |
| 4. d'üðübad'aʔ | d. <i>churches</i> |
| 5. d'üəbəbə | e. <i>earring</i> |
| 6. d'ütü | f. <i>gunpowder sack</i> |
| 7. huaad'ütüʔ | g. <i>hand</i> |
| 8. kojkəʔ | h. <i>hook</i> |
| 9. kojküʔmaðəʔ | i. <i>idols</i> |
| 10. koubasa | j. <i>purse</i> |
| 11. maðəʔ | k. <i>rings (for your fingers)</i> |
| 12. ŋənduj | l. <i>steamboats</i> |
| 13. təiriŋənduj | m. <i>stove</i> |
| 14. tuuŋəntuʔ | n. <i>teeth</i> |
| 15. tuusan | o. <i>tents</i> |

Q 4.1 Determine the correct correspondences between the words 1–15 and the words/phrases a–o.

Q 4.2 What is the literal translation of the Nganasan word **kojküʔmaðəʔ**?

Q 4.3 Translate into English:

16. **bəbəʔ**

17. **kojkə**

18. **kouʔ**

Q 4.4 Translate into Nganasan:

19. *boats*

20. *fires*

21. *(piece of) metal*

Q 4.5 Suggest a Nganasan translation of the phrase *forest fire*.

Problem 4. Nganasan AnswersFor **Q4.1** write the corresponding letter under each item.

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.	14.	15.
h	j	n	k	f	g	c	i	d	e	o	b	a	l	m

4.2	tents of/for idols		
4.3	16. bags	17. idol	18. ears
4.4	19. ɲəntuʔ	20. tuuʔ	21. basa
4.5	huaaʔtuj. [See below]		

Q 4.1 Max 15. 1 pt for each correct correspondence.**Q 4.2** Max 2. 2 pts for a correct answer. Insist on correct pluralisation, but otherwise allow any reasonable answer.**Q 4.3** Max 6. 2 pts for each correct answer. For 16, accept *cases, places*, etc.**Q 4.4** Max 6. 2 pts for each correct answer.**Q 4.5** Max 3. 3 pts for any answer that begins **huaaʔt-**. Ignore the end of the word.

Problem 4. Nganasan Commentary

Compound order is MODIFIER – HEAD.

Each noun has three possible root forms (S_1 , S_2 , S_3) which often coincide, or may differ by consonant gradation (here, only between $s > d'$, $t > \delta$, $nd > nt$, and $j > \emptyset$) or vowel mutation/lengthening. Note that it is not really possible from the data given to conclude that the MODIFIER-PLURAL form is also S_3 , but it is also not required for the tasks.

	SG	PL
HEAD	S_1	S_2 –?
MODIFIER	S_3	S_3 –?

The following words appear in multiple forms.

	S_1	S_2	S_3
<i>ear</i>	kou		
<i>idol</i>	kojkə		kojkü
<i>metal</i>	basa	bad'a	
<i>hand</i>	d'ütü	d'üðü	
<i>tooth</i>	čimi		
<i>boat</i>	ḡənduj	ḡəntu	
<i>fire</i>	tuj	tuu	

References and further reading:

- Wagner-Nagy, B. (2018). *A grammar of Nganasan (Vol. 6)*. Brill.
- Vaysman, O. (2002, August). *Against richness of the base: evidence from Nganasan*. In Annual Meeting of the Berkeley Linguistics Society (pp. 327-338).
- Brykina, M., Gusev, V., Szeverényi, S., Wagner-Nagy, B. (2018). *Nganasan Spoken Language Corpus (NSLC)*. Archived in Hamburger Zentrum für Sprachkorpora. Version 0.2. Publication date 2018-06-12. <http://hdl.handle.net/11022/0000-0007-C6F2-8>