

Problem 4. Bunun (20 marks)

The Bunun are one of the 16 recognised aboriginal tribes of Taiwan, and number around 60,000. This problem will focus on the dialect of their language spoken by the Takivatan clan.

Below are some sentences in Takivatan Bunun and their English translations. Note that **ḏ**, **ŋ**, and **ʔ** are consonants; in this problem, **ʔ** never appears at the end of a word. *Sambar* is a species of deer native to Taiwan, and *millet* is a type of grain.

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| 1. Punʔasaŋin vaina taintuŋu. | <i>The boar has made the guest go to the village.</i> |
| 2. Mainaʔitiʔak. | <i>I come from here.</i> |
| 3. Taunahanajaŋ haul munbaʔav. | <i>We are going across the river and going to the mountains.</i> |
| 4. Napunhan tama lumaq ʔita. | <i>Father wants to put the house there.</i> |
| 5. Muntaihuŋuʔin tina siḏa taintuŋu. | <i>Mother has gone to Taipei and taken the guest.</i> |
| 6. Napaluŋku taintuŋu tina. | <i>The guest will make mother sit down.</i> |
| 7. Mainahanajaŋ tikulas haul. | <i>The partridge is coming from the river.</i> |
| 8. Napuqanvaŋajaŋ tina ʔita. | <i>Mother wants to be hunting sambar there.</i> |
| 9. Kalumaqajaŋ ʔiti puvainaʔas. | <i>We are building a house here and you are hunting boar.</i> |
| 10. Napataḏin vaina qanvaŋ. | <i>The boar will have killed the sambar.</i> |
| 11. Punʔitaʔajaŋ taintuŋu nakadanam. | <i>I am making the guest go there and we will build a road.</i> |
| 12. Mainataihuŋuʔinas namunhan ʔasaŋ. | <i>You have come from Taipei and want to go to the village.</i> |
| 13. Nakamaduqas ʔiti minsuma haul. | <i>You want to grow millet here and return to the river.</i> |
| 14. Namunhaninam dan siḏa tina tilas. | <i>We will have gone to the road and mother will have taken the rice.</i> |
| 15. Napusbaiʔajaŋ qanvaŋ maluŋku ʔita. | <i>I will be chasing away the sambar and you will sit down there.</i> |

Q 4.1 Translate into English. If multiple translations are possible, give only one.

16. **Taunadanajaŋ ʔiti.**
17. **Mainahaulinak siḏa vaina.**
18. **Maluŋkuʔin vaina mataḏ.**
19. **Napinsumaʔajaŋ tikulas.**

Q 4.2 Translate into Takivatan Bunun. In each case, only one translation is possible.

20. *The sambar wants to run away.*
21. *Mother is hunting partridge and father is building a house.*

Q 4.3 Translate the following into Takivatan Bunun. In each case, two translations are possible; give both.

22. *We will make father come from there.*
23. *The sambar has gone across the mountains.*
24. *You will go to Taipei and I will be growing rice.*

Q 4.4 Explain your solution.

Problem 4. Bunun Answers

4.1	16. <i>We are crossing / going across the road here.</i>
	17. <i>I have come from the river and have taken the boar.</i>
	18. <i>The boar has sat down and died.</i>
	19. <i>You will / want to be making the partridge return.</i>
4.2	20. Namusbai qanvaŋ. [4]
	21. Putikulasan tina + kalumaq tama. [6]
4.3	22a. Napainaʔitaʔam tama. [4 + 2]
	22b. Napainahanam tama ʔita.
	23a. Taunabaʔavin qanvaŋ. [4 + 2]
	23b. Taunahanin qanvaŋ baʔav.
	24a. Namuntaihukuʔas + katilasajak. [6 + 2]
	24b. Namunhanas taihuku + katilasajak.

Max 46 + 30.

- Q 4.1** Max 16. Max 4 pts for each sentence: 1 pt for correct subjects; 1 pt for correct objects/locations; 1 pt for correct verbs; 1 pt for correct TAM.
- Q 4.2** Max 10. In each main clause: up to 2 pts for correct roots and syntax (including incorporation); up to 2 pts for correct TAM and subject marking. In the second clause of 21, award 2 pts if completely correct, 1 pt with one mistake,
- Q 4.3** Max 20. Award up to 4/6 marks to the “most correct” (highest scoring) sentence of the two given, ignoring any mistakes involving **-han** or incorporation. Then award up to 2 pts if the two sentences are correctly differentiated, ignoring any earlier mistakes: that is, if one sentence has the correct location incorporated, and the other has **han** and the correct location in locative position.

Q 4.4 Max 30. 6 pts for syntax; 12 pts for morphology; 12 pts for accurate description of verbalisers (typically analysed as noun incorporation).

Problem 4. Bunun Commentary

- Syntax.
 - Word order: VERB SUBJECT (OBJECT) (DEMONSTRATIVE/LOCATION)
 - Pronominal subjects get attached to the preceding verb (*I* = **-ak**, *you* = **-as**, *we* = **-am**).
 - Clauses joined by apposition.
 - If two apposed clauses have the same tense/aspect/subject, it is only marked on the first verb.
- Verbs.
 - TAM markers:

na- = irrealis (*will/want*) **-in** = perfective **-aŋ** = progressive

Sentences unspecified for tense/aspect have been translated as present/simple.
 - There are three types of verbs/verbalisers in this problem.
 - (I) **matað** = *die*, **siða** = *take*, **musbai** = *run away*, **minsuma** = *return*, and **maluŋku** = *sit down* never incorporate their object.
 - (II) **ka-** = *make, grow* and **pu-** = *hunt* always incorporate their object to form an intransitive verb. In this problem, the objects of these verbalisers are translated as indefinite.
 - (III) **mun-** = *go to*, **maina-** = *come from*, and **tauna-** = *go across* either incorporate a locative argument to form an intransitive verb, or attach to **-han** to form a transitive verb. E.g., **mun?asajak** = **munhanak ?asaj** = *I go to the village*.
 - Replacing initial **m** with **p** gives a causative meaning to any verb. [This is a fairly limited rule within the language.]
- **ʔ** is inserted at a morpheme boundary between vowels.

References and further reading:

- De Busser, R. L. (2009). Towards a grammar of Takivatan Bunun. Unpublished doctoral dissertation). La Trobe University, Bundoora, Australia.