The UK Linguistics Olympiad 2018

Round 2 Problem 3

Menya is a Papuan language spoken in the Morobe Province of Papua New Guinea. It is the second most populous of at least twelve languages that constitute the Angan language family. The data in this problem are presented in the orthography of the language.

Here are some Menya sentences and phrases together with their English translations in a different order.

	Menya		**English**
1.	ɑi	a.	a very large tree
2.	täŋgɑ	b.	an important person
3.	yä naqänäŋä	c.	The äkewä is not a large bird.
4.	ymeqä wäŋqä	d.	Cassava plant
5.	moni nɑqäŋgɑnji	e.	long ago
6.	ämaqä naqä	f.	I wonder if this is a ship or a boat.
7.	yämbuayä	g.	man
8.	ymeqä qokä	h.	that
9.	äkewi yŋŋä naqä hmanji	i.	sweet potato, yam
10.	ɑiŋgɑ	j.	That is whose house?
11.	yä aŋä	k.	now
12.	buayä	l.	a small child
13.	ämaqä qokä	m.	a house made of wood
14.	tä	n.	son
15.	i	o.	Fines are big these days.
16.	tä sipqäti botqä äwitäti	p.	done
17.	i täqueqä äŋi?	q.	this

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Q.3.1. Match up the Menya words and phrases to their well-formed English translations.

Q.3.2. Translate into Menya.

a. 'large'
b. 'small stick' or 'small piece of wood'
c. 'the boat'
d. 'a very small bird'

Q.3.3. Translate into English.

e. aŋä naqänäŋä
f. iŋgɑ
g. hikŋäŋgɑ (note: *hikŋä* means 'lad' or 'young man')

Q.3.4. Within one of the multiword Menya phrases in the data is a single word typically used by Menya speakers to mean 'husband'. Which word is it?

Problem 2.3 Menya

3.1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
3.2	a.								b.								
	c.								d.								
3.3	e.								f.								
	g.																
3.4																	

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Solution and marking.

Scoring (max 32)

- 3.1. 1 point for each correct cell. (max 17)
- 3.2. 2 points for each correct Menya answer. (max 8)
  - 1 point with one error
- 3.3. 2 points for each correct answer. (max 6)
  - 1 point for one error
- 3.4. 1 point for the correct word. (max 1)

3.1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	p	k	a	l	o	b	d	n	c	e	m	i	g	q	h	f	j
3.2	a. naqä								b. yä wäŋqä (tree/wood small)								
	c. botqi (botqä+i)								d. yŋŋä wäŋqänäŋä								
3.3	e. a very large house								f. then (that + TIME)								
	g. as a youth (while a young man)																
3.4	*qokä*																

Commentary

Problem Author: Aleka Akoyunoglou (Blackwell). Reference: Whitehead, Carl (2004). *A Reference Grammar of Menya, an Angan language of Papua New Guinea*, Ph.D. Dissertation, U of Manitoba.