

Problem #3

Kuria

Eimear McKnight
(they/them)

Graded by

- Boris Iomdin
- Ivan Derzhanski
- Jan Petr
- Myself

(With thanks to all those who helped translate solutions)

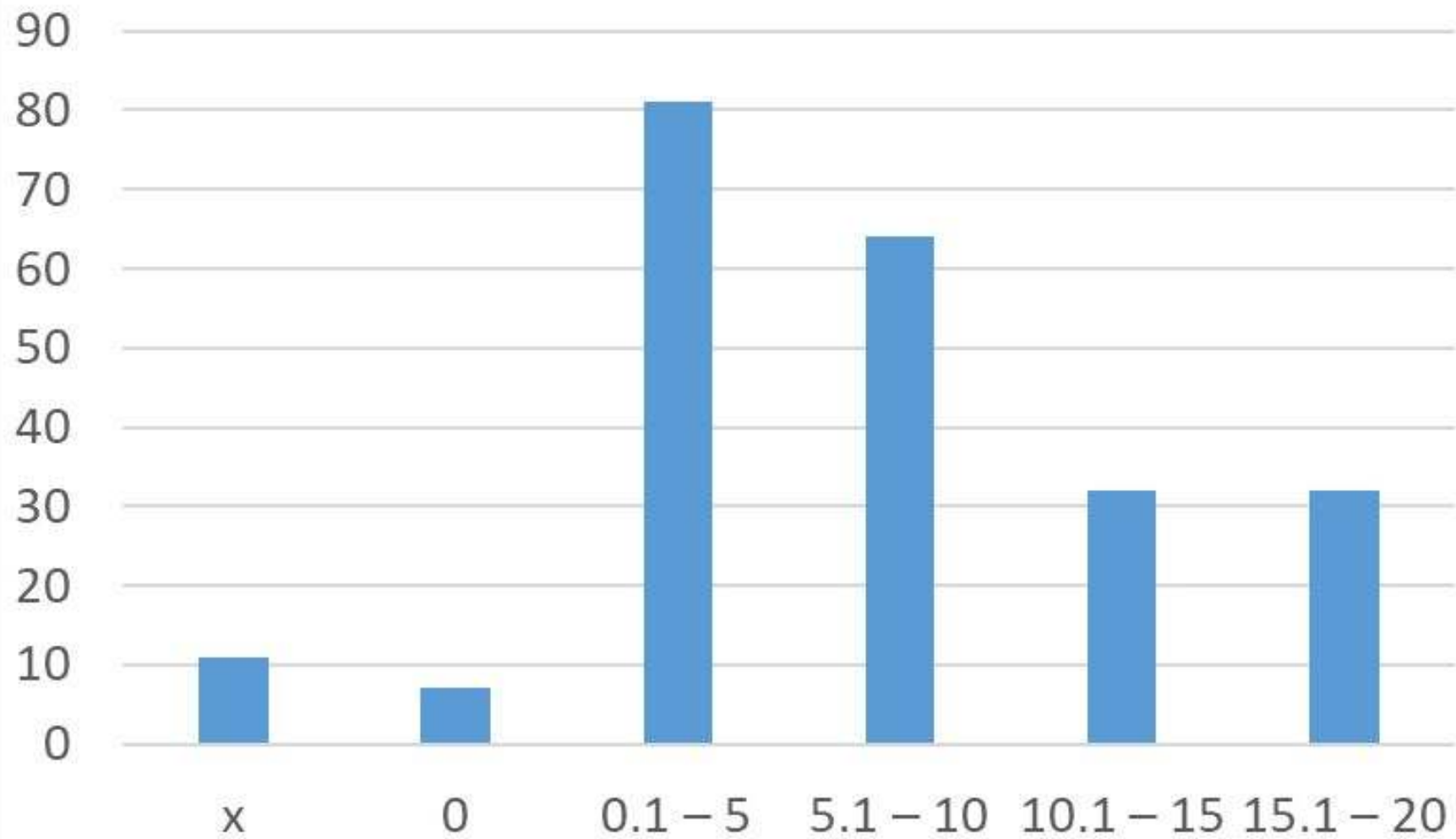


Statistics

- 216 submitted solutions

Statistics

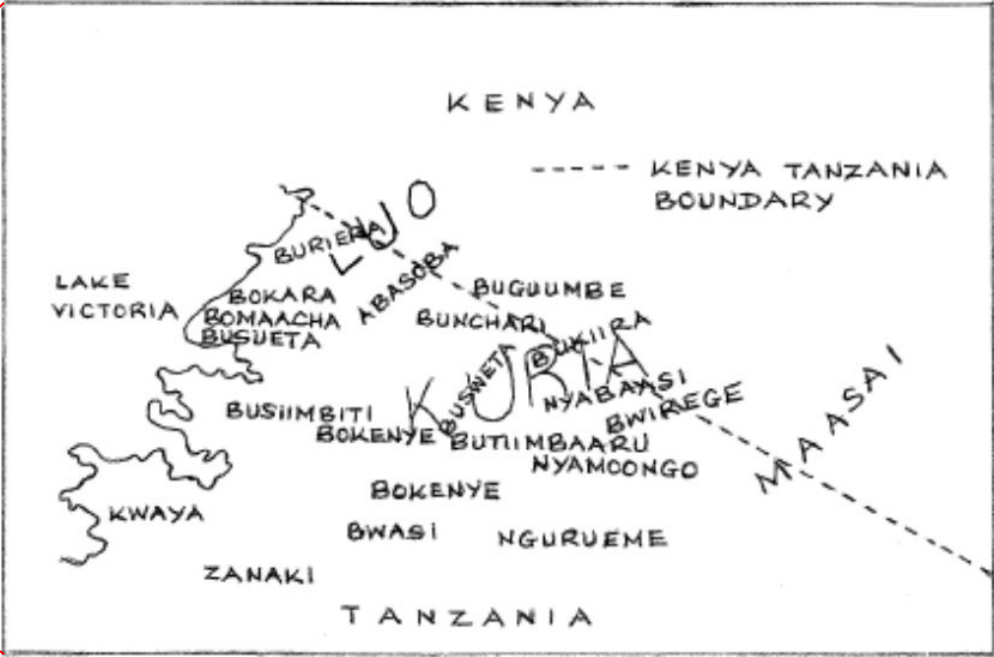
- 216 submitted solutions
- Mean score: 7.5



Statistics

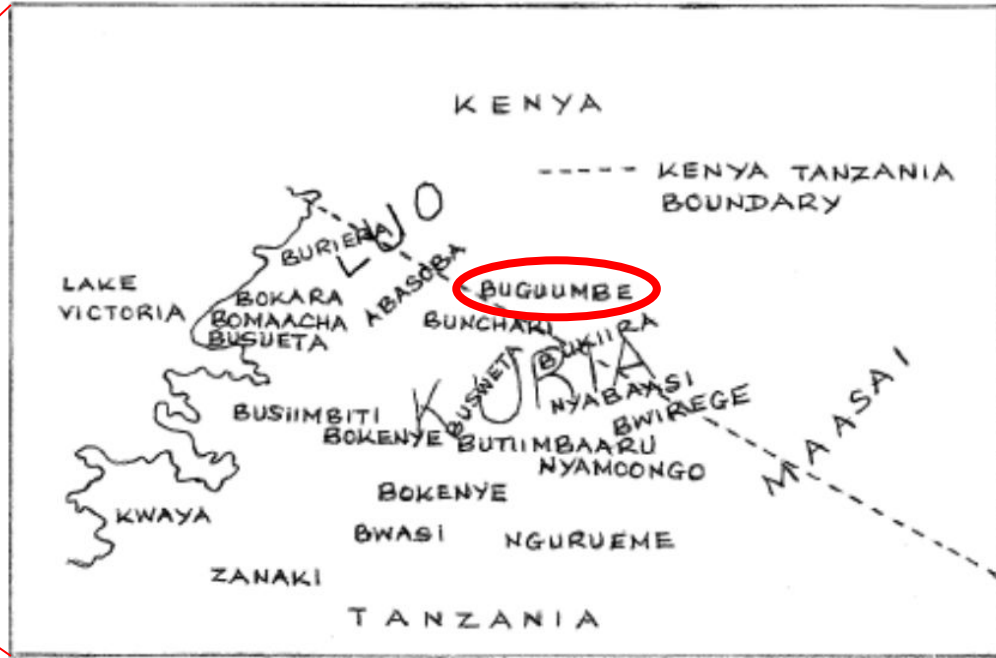
- 216 submitted solutions
- Mean score: 7.5
- Three contestants scored 20 points...

Kuria



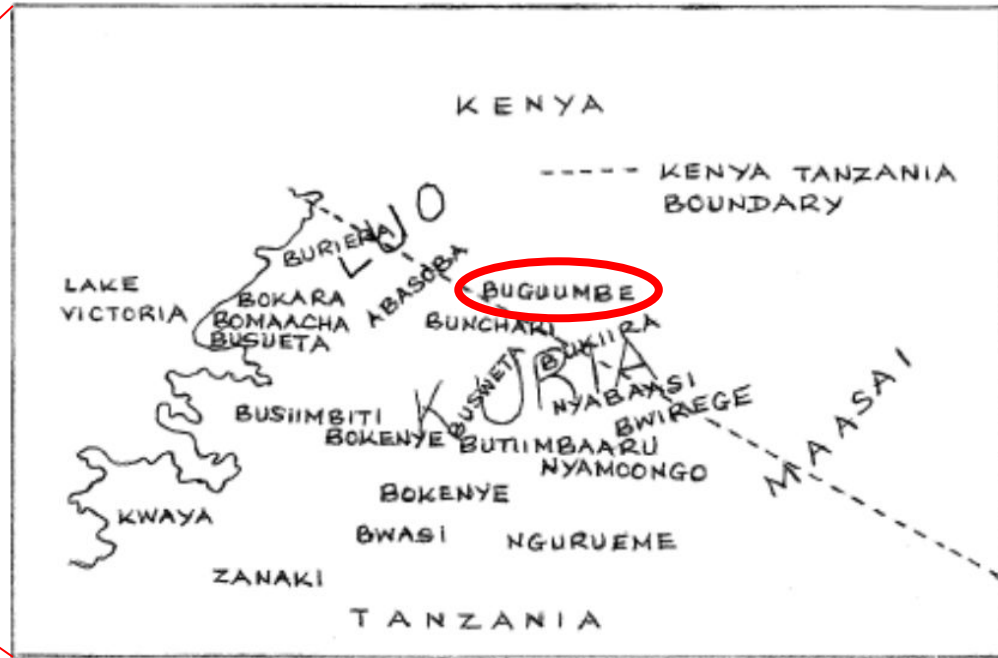
Map of the Kuria language area (Cammenga 1994)

Kuria



Map of the Kuria language area (Cammenga 1994)

Kuria



Map of the Kuria language area (Cammenga 1994)

Kuria



Endonym: iyikúryá

Kuria



Endonym: iyikúryá

Speakers: a□akúryá

Kuria



Endonym: iyikúryá

Speakers: a□akúryá

Atlantic-Congo



Bantu



“Eastern Bantu” (Zone E)



Kuria

Kuria



Endonym: iyikúryá

Speakers: a□akúryá

Atlantic-Congo



Bantu



“Eastern Bantu” (Zone E)



Kuria

← **áβáánto**

Ich bin im Begriff, den Sekretär zu essen.

Ich bin im Begriff, den Sekretär zu essen.

IOL Board

PC/Jury Chair

- Tung-Le Pan (2025)

Secretary to Problem Committee

- Eimear McKnight









Solution

Verb morphology

Verb morphology

I	he	we	they
nnaasyá ndasukură ndasiitaáka naaturuúŋána ndaroma naarya ndarya ntúruúŋána	aaha aa□ină asáámba naaryá aheetoka	toraroma toosaambá tookoondókóra tora□iima torakoondokórá	mbaa□úna □ahóótóótéra

Verb morphology

I	he	we	they
n naasyá	a aaha	to raroma	m ba a□úna
n dasukură	a a□ină	to osaambá	□ a hóótóótéra
n dasiitaáka	a sáámba	to okoondókóra	
n aaturuúŋána	naaryá	to ra□iima	
n daroma	a heetoka	to rakoondokórá	
n aarya			
n darya			
n túruúŋána			

to = we; **ba**/□**a** =

they

n = I? **a** = he?

Verb morphology

Past (“He has given” etc.)		Present (“He burns” etc.)	Future (“I am about to eat” etc.)
aaha aa□ină nnaasyá mbaa□úna toosaambá	naaturuúŋána tookoondókóra naarya naaryá	asáámba □ahóótóótéra ntúrúúŋáná aheetoka	toraroma ndasukură ndasiitaáka ndaroma tora□iima ndarya torakoondokórá

to = we; **ba/□a** =

they

n = I? **a** = he?

Verb morphology

Past (“He has given” etc.)		Present (“He burns” etc.)	Future (“I am about to eat” etc.)
aa ha aa □inǎ n aa syá m baa □úna t oo saambá	n aa turuúǵána t oo koondókóra n aa rya n aa ryá	asáámba □ahóótóótéra ntúrúúǵaná aheetoka	to ra roma n da sukurǎ n da siitaáka n da roma to ra □iima n da rya to ra koondokórá

to = we; **ba**/□**a** =
 they
n = I? **a** = he?

ra/da = future
 long vowel = past

Verb morphology

“Indeed,...”

nnaasyá

Indeed, I have ground (something).

mbaa□úna

Indeed, they have broken (something).

naaryá

Indeed, he has eaten the banana.

to = we; **ba**/□**a** =
they

n = I? **a** = he?

ra/**da** = future
long vowel = past

Verb morphology

“Indeed,...”

nnaasyá

Indeed, I have ground (something).

mbaa□úna

Indeed, they have broken (something).

naaryá

Indeed, he has eaten the banana.

to = we; **ba**/□**a** =
they

n = I? **a** = he?

ra/**da** = future
long vowel = past

n/**m** = “Indeed”
past tense only

Verb morphology

Tense\Subject	I	he	we	they
Present	n-	a-	to-	□ a-
Past	n-aa-	a-a-	to-o-	□ a-a-
Past + “Indeed”	n-n-aa-	n-a-a-	n-to-o-	m-ba-a-
Future	n-da-	(unattested)	to-ra-	(unattested)

Verb morphology

“Indeed”	Person		Tense		Stem
n	n a to □a	I he we they	ra V	future past	

where V = previous vowel, and $n-V-$ → naa

$n + \square \rightarrow mb$

$n + r \rightarrow nd$ (see also $ndóma \leftarrow n + róma$)

but what about
tones



Verb tonology

Present	Past		Future
asáámba □ ahóótóótéra ntúruúńána	aaha aa □ ină nnaasyá mbaa □ úna toosaambá	naaturuúńána tookoondókóra naarya naaryá	toraroma ndasukură ndasiitaáka ndaroma tora □ iima ndarya torakoondokórá

Verb tonology

Present	Past		Future
as á mba □ah ó t ó t é ra nt ú r ú ú ŋ á ná	aaha aa□inǎ nnaasyá mbaa□úna toosaambá	naaturuúŋána tookoondókóra naarya naaryá	toraroma ndasukurǎ ndasiitaáka ndaroma tora□iima ndarya torakoondokórá

Present = high tone from first V of stem?

Verb tonology

Present	Past		Future
a-s áá mba □a-h óó t óó t é ra n-t ú r ú ú ŋ á ná	aa-ha aa-□ină nnaa-syá mbaa-□úna too-saambá	naa-turuú ŋ ána too-koond ó k ó ra naa-rya naa-ryá	tora-roma nda-sukură nda-siitaáka nda-roma tora-□iima nda-rya tora-koondok ó r á

Present = high tone from first V of stem?

Verb tonology

Present	Past		Future
a-s á mba □a-h ó t ó t é ra n-t ú r ú ŋ á n á	aa-ha aa-□ină nnaa-sy á mbaa-□ ú na too-saambá	naa-turuúŋána too-koondókóra naa-rya naa-ry á	tora-roma nda-sukură nda-siitaáka nda-roma tora-□iima nda-rya tora-koondokórá

Present = high tone from first V of stem?

Verb tonology

Present	Past+“indeed”	Past	Future
a-sáámba □a-hóótóótéra n-túrúúṅáná	nnaa-syá mbaa-□úna naa-ryá	aa-ha aa-□ină naa-turuúṅána too-koondókóra naa-rya too-saambá	tora-roma nda-sukură nda-siitaáka nda-roma tora-□iima nda-rya tora-koondokórá

Present, past + “indeed” = high tone from first V of stem?

Verb tonology

Past

too-koondókóra

naa-turuúnána

→ H from 3rd vowel of stem

Future

tora-koondokórá

nda-siitaáka

→ H from 4th vowel of stem

Verb tonology

Past

too-koondókór**a**

naa-turuúnán**a**

→ H from 3rd vowel of stem

Future

tora-koondokór**á**

nda-siitaák**a**

→ H from 4th vowel of stem

Verb tonology

Future

tora-roma
nda-sukur ǎ
nda-siitaáka

We are about to bite (something).
I am about to rub (something).
I am about to accuse (someone).

nda-roma iŋíímbéyo
tora-□iima á□áánto
nda-rya iritáárákímúra
tora-koondokórá
áyáŋú□a

I am about to bite the seeds.
We are about to measure the people.
I am about to eat the secretary bird.
We are about to uncover the bottle.

Verb tonology

Future

tora-roma

nda-sukur ǎ

nda-siitaáka

12 34

1 2 3 4

nda-roma iŋíimbéyo

tora-□iima á□áánto

nda-rya iritáárákímúra

tora-koondokórá

áyáŋú□a

We are about to bite (something).

I am about to rub (something).

I am about to accuse (someone).

I am about to bite the seeds.

We are about to measure the people.

I am about to eat the secretary bird.

We are about to uncover the bottle.

Verb tonology

H from *n*th vowel of verb phrase (including object if it exists)

LL LH H...
|| || |
nda-siitaáká

L L L HH H H H H
| | | || | | | |
nda-rya iritáárákímúra

Tense category	n
Present, past+“indeed”	1
Past	3
Future	4

Verb tonology

Future

tora-roma

nda-sukur

nda-siitaáka

12 34

1 2 3 4

nda-roma iŋíímbéyo

tora- iima áááánto

nda-rya iritáárákímúra

tora-koondokórá

áyáŋú a

We are about to bite (something).

I am about to rub (something).

I am about to accuse (someone).

I am about to bite the seeds.

We are about to measure the people.

I am about to eat the secretary bird.

We are about to uncover the bottle.

Verb tonology

Future

tora-roma

nda-sukur

nda-siitaák

12 34

1 2 3 4

nda-roma iŋíímbéyo

tora-iima ááánto

nda-rya iritáárákímúra

tora-koondokórá

áyáŋú

We are about to bite (something).

I am about to rub (something).

I am about to accuse (someone).

I am about to bite the seeds.

We are about to measure the people.

I am about to eat the secretary bird.

We are about to uncover the bottle.

Verb tonology

H from nth vowel of verb phrase (including object if it exists)

LL LH H...
| | |
nda-siitaáká

L L L HH H H H H
| | | | | | | |
nda-rya iritáárákímúrá

If you run out of vowels:

L L L H ...
| | X X
tora-roma

L L L H
| | |/
nda-sukurǎ

Verb tonology

Finally: phrase-final ...HH → LH

(N.B. final HH changes, not just final H, as naaryá keeps its final H)

ndasiitaáká

↓

ndasiitaáka

ndarya iritáárákímúrá

↓

ndarya iritáárákímúra

Assignments

(a) aheetoka *He remembers (something).*

Present tense, so H from first vowel of stem. Final HH → LH

→ **ahéétóka**

Assignments

(b)

21. □ aasukurá
 □ a-a-sukurá (n=3)

They have rubbed (something).

22. toosya iŋíímbéyo
 to-o-sya iŋíímbéyo (n=3)

We have ground the seeds.

23. ndóma
 n-róma (n=1)

I bite (something).

24. naa □ ína
 n-a-a- □ ína (n=1)

Indeed, he has sung (something).

Assignments

(c)

25. We are about to eat the seeds.

torarya itʃiimbéyo
to-ra-rya itʃiimbéyo (n=4)

26. I sing (something).

mbína
n-ína (n=1)

27. Indeed, we have measured the secretary bird.

ntoo íimá íritáárákímúra
n-to-o- íimá íritáárákímúra (n=1)

28. We are about to burn (something).

torasaambă
to-ra-saambă (n=4)

29. He has remembered (something).

aaheetóka
a-a-heetóka (n=3)

Sources

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Best solution



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Best Solution

Problem #3

Kuria