

Announcing: The First North American Computational Linguistics Olympiad!



Attention all High School Students

The University of Pennsylvania is proud to announce the First Ever North American Computational Linguistics Olympiad! The competition will be held on Thursday, March 29th, on the U. Penn campus. Registration closes March 12th, 2007.

Like former Olympiads, NAMCLO is a Linguistics contest. It challenges you to develop your own strategies for solving problems in fascinating real languages. Do you have a knack for languages, logic and "computational thinking"? Would you like to try your hand at deciphering an ancient script or deducing the logical patterns of Swahili, Hawaiian or Finite State Transducers? Maybe the Computational Linguistics Olympiad is the right challenge for you! Try the problem on the other side of this flyer! If you like that one, try some more on the website:

<http://www.namclo.org>

ALERT! We need your help!

The United Nations Space Protection Agency needs you to decipher an alien language and save the world! Participate in the Alien Language Translation Challenge on the day of the Olympiad.

Can you be a Linguist or a Computational Linguist?

Give it a try! Ask your teacher how you can participate in NAMCLO.

Contact your local NAMCLO sponsor:

Mitch Marcus (mitch@cis.upenn.edu),

(215) 898-2538

North American Computational Olympiad Problem: Kannada

by Mirjam Fried

Kannada is one of the major languages of India, spoken by more than 25 million people primarily in the South of the country, near Bangalore. It is a very old language and it uses its own writing system. For the purpose of this puzzle, the Kannada letters are transcribed using the Roman alphabet. The letters L, D, T, and N represent a special pronunciation with the tongue curled upward. Hint: There is no translation for “the” in Kannada:

mane	'house'	manege	'to (the) house'
peeTe	'market'	peeTege	'to (the) market'
tande	'dad'	tandege	'to dad'
roTTi	'flat bread'	roTTige	'to (the) flat bread'
chaTNI	'chutney (a relish)'	chaTNige	'to (the) chutney'
hakki	'bird'	hakkige	'to (the) bird'
taayi	'mother'	taayige	'to mother'
jooLa	'corn'	jooLakke	'to (the) corn'
pustaka	'book'	pustakakke	'to (the) book'
simha	'lion'	simhakke	'to (the) lion'
kalkatta	'Calcutta'	kalkattakke	'to Calcutta'
manushya	'man'	manushyanige	'to (the) man'
amma	'mom'	ammanige	'to mom'
huDuga	'boy'	huDuganige	'to (the) boy'
sneehita	'friend'	sneehitanige	'to (the) friend'

(a) Which parts of the words in the second column correspond to the English word 'to'?

(b) Now, here are some new words in Kannada:

hamsa	'swan'
akka	'older sister'
tangi	'younger sister'

How would you say: 'to (the) swan' _____
'to (the) older sister' _____
'to (the) younger sister' _____