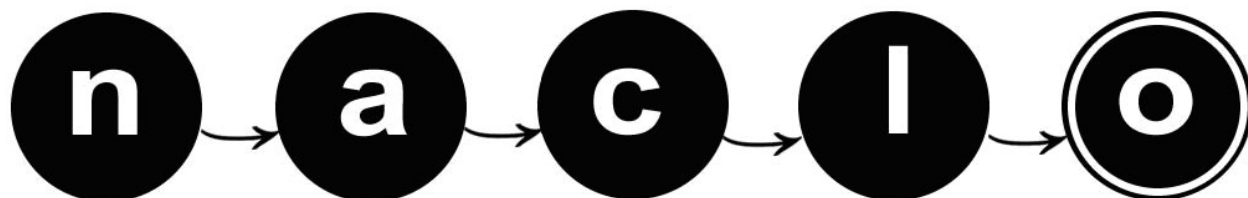


Announcing: The Second North American Computational Linguistics Olympiad, Spring 2008!



We need your help!

About NACLO

Host a contest in your city in 2008 or 2009:

We need help administering contests across the country. Get your university or institution involved!

Help us design problems for the contest:

We need challenging computational linguistic problems. Can you design interesting and challenging problems for advanced high school students? Please contact us if you have an idea for a computational linguistics problem.

Join a committee:

We need help organizing outreach, finding sponsors, administering the contest, etc. Join a committee!

Contact us:

Lori Levin (lsl@cs.cmu.edu), General Chair
Tom Payne (tpayne@uoregon.edu), General Chair
Dragomir Radev (radev@umich.edu), Program
Chair and Coach

What is NACLO?

The North American Computational Linguistics Olympiad (NACLO) is a day-long contest for high school age participants. The contest contains challenging, puzzle-like problems that focus on aptitude for linguistic analysis and logical and computational thinking. Try the sample problems at <http://www.namclo.org> or on the reverse.

Goals of NACLO:

- Increase the size and diversity of the pool of future scientists in our field.
- Identify talented high school students and help them get the background that they need for higher education in HLT and linguistic fields.
- Get the scientific study of language into high school curricula

NACLO 2007:

Nearly 200 high school aged students from 14 different states participated in the 2007 contest. Eight winners will be representing the USA at the ILO in St. Petersburg, Russia (<http://www.ilolympiad.spb.ru/>). Help us increase these numbers in 2008!

<http://www.namclo.org>

Proudly sponsored by:



Try your hand at this sample problem. More problems at www.namclo.org.

(This problem was graciously provided by Ivan Derzhanski, and first appeared at the 33rd Traditional Olympiad in Linguistics and Mathematics held in Moscow in 2002).

Hmong

Hmong Daw (which belongs to the Hmong Mien language family, along with several other Hmong languages) is spoken by approximately 165 thousand people in south-eastern China, Laos, Thailand, Vietnam, and some other countries.

In the 1960s Shong Lue Yang, a peasant from the Hmong Daw nation (also known as White Miao), invented an original writing system for his native language. This writing system is still in use alongside a Roman-based alphabet created by Christian missionaries.

Here are several words and phrases in the Hmong Daw language written in Shong Lue Yang's script and the missionaries' alphabet, as well as their English translations:

1. 𐄂 𐄂𐄂 𐄂𐄂	kev ntsuas no	degree
2. 𐄂𐄂	hauv	inside
3. 𐄂𐄂 𐄂𐄂 𐄂𐄂	raug raws cai	legal
4. 𐄂𐄂 𐄂𐄂	hloov mus	transfer
5. 𐄂𐄂	qhua	guest
6. 𐄂𐄂 𐄂𐄂 𐄂𐄂	yog los nag	it is raining
7. 𐄂 𐄂𐄂	kww yees	guess

In the missionaries' alphabet the letter **w** stands for a specific vowel. The letters **g**, **s** and **v** at the ends of the syllables aren't consonants; instead, they denote the so-called tones (specific ways of pronouncing the vowels).

1. Write in the missionaries' alphabet (and explain):

9. 𐄂𐄂 bird
10. 𐄂𐄂 lobster
11. 𐄂𐄂 𐄂𐄂 speak
12. 𐄂𐄂 𐄂𐄂 𐄂 dizzy

2. Write in Shong Lue Yang's script (and explain):

13. **hluav** ash
14. **li cas** how?
15. **neeg ntse** smart, wise
16. **yawg** grandfather

