**(20 points)**

# (K) A Script for the Ndyuka (1/4)

The *Afaka* script, named after its inventor Afáka Atumisi, was invented around 1910 to write the Ndyuka language of Suriname.  The Ndyuka people trace their ancestry to communities of escaped South American slaves, and their language is a *creole*[1] language with roots in both West African languages and in English.

Although the grammatical structure of the language is more similar to other creole languages and to West African languages, you will find that many of the individual words are derived from English words.

The following letter, probably written by Afáka himself in 1917, is one of the earliest surviving documents in this writing system.



*Oh my God, my Lord, I start with the words on the paper that you've given Afaka. But I'm deathly ill. How can I say it? I went to Paramaribo, Lands Hospital, two times. Because I have no money, they chased me away. They say I must first earn money before I go to the Hospital. Therefore I pray the Lord God that he will give me a hand with the medicine for my illness. But I will talk to Abena. He will bring this to the Priest of the Ndyuka. So as the Father says it is good for us. But I have pain in my head. All my nose is rotting from the inside. So I have no rest, I tell you.*

On the next page, Afáka's letter is presented in a Roman alphabet transcription.  It has, however, been broken into 23 phrases and then scrambled.  (The phrases are split according to Afaka's punctuation; they won't necessarily line up with the phrases or sentences of the English translation.)  Furthermore, we have left blanks in many of these phrases.  Your task is to fill in these blanks, and then determine what the missing pieces mean.  Each blank may correspond to one word or a series of words.

_____

1. A creole arises from the mixture of two languages.  Typically, most of the vocabulary comes from one source language, while the underlying grammatical structure comes from the other (although changes to both pronunciation and grammar occur in the formation of the creole).
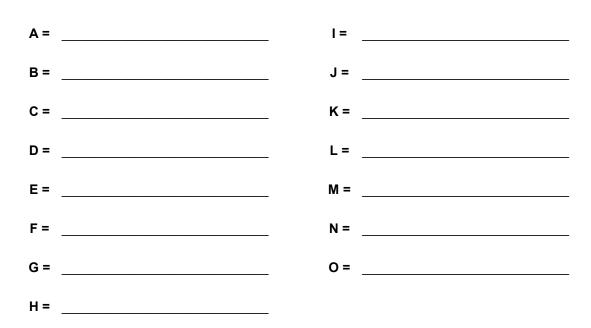
n a c l o

# (K) A Script for the Ndyuka (2/4)

**K1.** **Fill in the blanks.** Write the missing Ndyuka words in the blanks below. Each line is a separate phrase.

*a _____ kon tyali patili go na ndyuka*
    A

*_____ mi mu oloko moni fosi*
      B

*a _____*
     C

*_____ na ati osu*
    D

*fu a papila di yu be gi _____*
       E

*_____ bolo*
   F

*fa mi sa du*

*masa gadu fu _____ ana*
      G

*de yaki mi*

*mi go na _____ na lati ati oso*
    H

*da mi ná abi losutu ye*

*fu mi deesi*

*ma mi de aga pe na _____*
      I

*ke mi _____*
    J

*eke fa patili taki a bun gi wi*

*mi _____ na ini a ulotu*
   K

*oli ulotu*

*ma mi de aga _____*
      L

*mi masa*

*di mi ná _____*
     M

*da na dati mi e begi*

*_____ mi noso poli na ini*
  N

*_____*
     O

n a c l o

# (K) A Script for the Ndyuka (3/4)

**K2:**      **Translate.** What does each missing word or phrase mean in English?

A = _____          I = _____

B = _____          J = _____

C = _____          K = _____

D = _____          L = _____

E = _____          M = _____

F = _____          N = _____

G = _____          O = _____

H = _____

**K3.**      Explain your answers to K1 and K2. (You may continue your explanation on the following page.)

# (K) A Script for the Ndyuka (4/4)