Third Hong Kong Linguistics Olympiad (2021)

Individual Contest Problems

This year's problem set is dedicated to the Uralic languages. The Uralic branch is composed of 7 families: Finnic, Permic, Sami, Ugric, Samoyedic, Mordvinic, and Mari. The three most spoken languages, which account for more than 80% of the speakers of Uralic languages, are Hungarian (Ugric family), Finnish (Finnic), and Estonian (Finnic). Each of this year's problems will feature a different family of the Uralic branch, mainly the Finnic family (Finnish and Estonian), the Ugric family (Hungarian), and the Samoyedic family (Tundra Nenets).

9 May 2021

The Hong Kong Polytechnic University

Third Hong Kong Linguistics Olympiad
9 May 2021
Individual Contest Problems

Rules for writing out the solutions
Do not copy the statements of the problems. Write down your solution to each problem on the answer booklet. Unless stated differently, you should describe any patterns or rules that you identified in the data, otherwise your solution will not be awarded full marks.

Problem 1 (30 points). Finnish-Estonian

Given below are some words in Finnish and Estonian declined for the Nominative, Genitive, and Illative.

English	Nominative		Genitive		Illative	
	Finnish	Estonian	Finnish	Estonian	Finnish	Estonian
people	*rahvas*	*rahvas*	**(1)**	*rahva*	**(2)**	**(3)**
naked	**(4)**	**(5)**	*paljaan*	**(6)**	*paljaaseen*	*paljasse*
raw	**(7)**	*toores*	*tuoreen*	*toore*	*tuoreeseen*	*tooresse*
ax	*kirves*	*kirves*	**(8)**	**(9)**	*kirveeseen*	**(10)**
ready	*valmis*	**(11)**	*valmiin*	*valmi*	**(12)**	*valmisse*
part	*osa*	**(13)**	*osan*	*osa*	*osaan*	*ossa*
city	*linna*	**(14)**	*linnan*	*linna*	**(15)**	*linna*
village	*külä*	*küla*	*külän*	*küla*	*külään*	**(16)**
shelter	*maja*	*maja*	*majan*	*maja*	*majaan*	*majja*
ace	**(17)**	*äss*	**(18)**	**(19)**	*ässään*	*ässa*
turn	*püörä*	**(20)**	**(21)**	**(22)**	**(23)**	**(24)**
snow	*lumi*	*lumi*	*lumen*	**(25)**	*lumeen*	*lumme*
horn	*sarvi*	*sarv*	**(26)**	*sarve*	*sarveen*	*sarve*
cape	*niemi*	*neem*	*niemen*	*neeme*	**(27)**	*neeme*
hackberry	**(28)**	*toom*	**(29)**	*toome*	**(30)**	**(31)**
sea	**(32)**	**(33)**	**(34)**	**(35)**	**(36)**	*merre*

Fill in the blanks (1) – (36).

(!) No additional explanation besides the answer is required, nor will be marked

—Vlad A. Neacșu, adapted *after Romanian Linguistics Olympiad 2014*

Problem 2 (30 points). Hungarian

Given below are some sentences in Hungarian, together with their translations into English.

1. A manó behozta a korsót a kocsiba.

The gnome brought the jug into the carriage.

2. Ne dobjad be a manót a korsóba!

Don't throw (you sg.) the gnome into the jug!

3. Hozzátok be a krumplit a házba!

Bring (you pl.) the potato into the house!

4. Nem halásztátok ki a korsót a folyóból.

You (pl.) didn't fish the jug from the river.

5. Írjad, hogy nem dobta a korsót!

Write (you sg.) that he didn't throw the jug!

6. Tudtátok, hogy kilopták a krumplit a házból.

You (pl.) knew that they stole the potato from the house.

7. A manó a fiúnak mondta, hogy ne rakja be a krumplit a kocsikba.

The gnome told the boy not to put the potato into the carriages.

8. Tudták, hogy a disznók nem ásták be a korsót a hamuba.

They knew that the pigs didn't bury the jug into the ash.

9. Mondta, hogy ne hozzad ki a fiút a házból.

He said that you (sg.) mustn't bring the boy from the house.

10. A fiú a disznónak mondta, hogy a manó mosta a korsót.

The boy told the pig that the gnome washed the jug.

11. Akarta, hogy lopjátok ki a korsót a kocsiból.

He wanted you (pl.) to steal the jug from the carriage.

12. A manók nem akarták, hogy a fiú mossa a krumplit.

The gnomes didn't want the boy to wash the potato.

(a) You are given the following two extra sentences in Hungarian. Explain the difference in meaning between the two sentences (no translation is needed).

13. A manónak mondta, hogy lopta a krumplit.

14. A manónak mondta, hogy lopja a krumplit.

(b) Translate into English:

15. A fiúk kihozták a korsót a házból.

16. Berakta a krumplit a kocsiba.

17. A fiú a manóknak írta, hogy mossák a disznót.

18. A disznó nem mondta, hogy a fiúnak írtad, hogy ne lopja ki a krumplit a hamuból.

(c) Translate into Hungarian:

19. *The boys didn't want the gnomes to bring the carriage.*

20. *Let him fish the ash from the jugs!*

21. *Don't bury (you pl.) the pig into the ash!*

22. *You (pl.) said that they brought the potato from the river.*

23. *You (sg.) didn't write that the boys told the pig that the gnome mustn't bring the ash.*

⚠   cs = *ch* (*church*), sz = *s* (*sit*), s = *sh* (*shop*), ly = *y* (*yesterday*), gy ≈ *g* (*guest*). á, í, ó, ú are specific vowels.

—Gábor Parti, adapted after *Russian Linguistics Olympiad 1997*

Problem 3 (30 points). Tundra Nenets

Given below are some structures in Tundra Nenets together with their translations in English **in random order.**

1.	yal'a	A)	*autumn*
2.	xayer	B)	*dawn*
3.	xa'masi	C)	*day*
4.	yal'a tarp	D)	*fire*
5.	xə'	E)	*lightning*
6.	sar'olank yal'a	F)	*raindrop*
7.	sar'o səwkocya	G)	*rainy day*
8.	wəba' xa'm	H)	*storm*
9.	xəxə' sar'o	I)	*sun*
10.	xəxə' ty'	J)	*thunder*
11.	tarpa'si	K)	*to appear*
12.	ty'	L)	*to fall*
13.	sar'omsi	M)	*to rain*

(a) Make the correct correspondences.

(b) Translate into English: səwkocya, sar'o.

(c) Knowing that pii' means *night*, translate into Tundra Nenets: *dusk, leaf, stormy night, sunny day.*

(!) No additional explanation besides the answer is required, nor will be marked

—Vlad A. Neacşu, adapted from *Romanian Linguistics Olympiad 2016*

Editors: Vlad A. Neacşu (editor-in-chief), Chu-Ren Huang, Tracy Xin Luo, Gábor Parti, Tung-Le Pan

Good luck!