



Third Hong Kong Linguistics Olympiad (2021)

Individual Contest Problems

Solutions

9 May 2021

The Hong Kong Polytechnic University

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Problem 1 (30 points). Finnish-Estonian

English	Nominative		Genitive		Illative	
	Finnish	Estonian	Finnish	Estonian	Finnish	Estonian
people	<i>rahvas</i>	<i>rahvas</i>	rahvaan	<i>rahva</i>	rahvaaseen	rahvasse
naked	paljas	paljas	<i>paljaan</i>	palja	<i>paljaaseen</i>	<i>paljasse</i>
raw	tuores	<i>toores</i>	<i>tuoreen</i>	<i>toore</i>	<i>tuoreeseen</i>	<i>tooresse</i>
ax	<i>kirves</i>	<i>kirves</i>	kirveen	kirve	<i>kirveeseen</i>	kirvesse
ready	<i>valmis</i>	valmis	<i>valmiin</i>	<i>valmi</i>	valmiiseen	<i>valmisse</i>
part	<i>osa</i>	osa	<i>osan</i>	<i>osa</i>	<i>osaan</i>	<i>ossa</i>
city	<i>linna</i>	linn	<i>linnan</i>	<i>linna</i>	linnaan	<i>linna</i>
village	<i>küla</i>	<i>küla</i>	<i>külän</i>	<i>küla</i>	<i>külään</i>	külla
shelter	<i>maja</i>	<i>maja</i>	<i>majan</i>	<i>maja</i>	<i>majaan</i>	<i>majja</i>
ace	ässä	<i>äss</i>	ässän	ässa	<i>ässään</i>	<i>ässa</i>
turn	<i>püörä</i>	pöör	püörän	pööra	püörään	pööra
snow	<i>lumi</i>	<i>lumi</i>	<i>lumen</i>	lume	<i>lumeen</i>	<i>lumme</i>
horn	<i>sarvi</i>	<i>sarv</i>	sarven	<i>sarve</i>	<i>sarveen</i>	<i>sarve</i>
cape	<i>niemi</i>	<i>neem</i>	<i>niemen</i>	<i>neeme</i>	niemeen	<i>neeme</i>
hackberry	tuomi	<i>toom</i>	tuomen	<i>toome</i>	tuomeen	toome
sea	meri	meri	meren	mere	mereen	<i>merre</i>

	Nominative		Genitive		Illative	
	Finnish	Estonian	Finnish	Estonian	Finnish	Estonian
Class I	-Vs	-Vs	-VVn	-V	-VVseen	-Vsse
Class IIA	-V	*	-Vn	-V	-VVn	-V
Class IIB	-i		-en	-e	-een	-e

* if the Finnish root contains a diphthong or a consonant cluster, the vowel suffix gets dropped in Estonian (-V → 0). Else, it remains the same (exception: -ä > -a / _#).

Diphthongs in Finnish become long vowels in Estonian ($V_1V_2 \rightarrow V_2V_2$)

For Estonian Illative, if the Nominative root ends in a vowel, the previous consonant doubles.

Problem 2 (30 points). Hungarian

(a) The difference is the mood of the second verb. In the first case, the verb is in indicative mood (it is only a related fact – *he* related to someone, perhaps even to the gnome himself, that the gnome stole the potato), while in the second the verb is in the hortative-imperative mood (it is implied that *he* expressed the desire to the gnome to steal the potato – by instructing / ordering / requesting him). An approximate English translation of the two would be:

13. *He told the gnome that he stole the potato.*

14. *He told the gnome to steal the potato. (He told the gnome that he steal the potato.)*

(b)

15. *The boys brought the jug from the house.*

16. *He put the potato into the carriage.*

17. *The boy wrote to the gnomes to wash the pig. OR The boy wrote to the gnomes that they must wash the pig.*

18. *The pig didn't say that you wrote to the boy not to steal the potato from the ash. OR ...that he mustn't steal...*

(c)

19. *A fiúk nem akarták, hogy a manók hozzák a kocsit.*

20. *Halászsza* ki a hamut a korsókból!*

21. *Ne ássátok be a disznót a hamuba.*

22. *Mondtátok, hogy kihozták a krumplit a folyóból.*

23. *Nem írtad, hogy a fiúk a disznónak mondták, hogy a manó ne hozza a hamut.*

*While *szsz* is the form that should be inferred from the problem, in the actual Hungarian orthography, for simplicity, the cluster *szsz* is reduced and spelled as *ssz*.

I. Word order.

S V O C_{Loc} (simple sentences) **OR** [S O C_{Loc} V] [*hogy* S V O C_{Loc}] (phrases)

II. Noun phrase.

a = the	Root	-k- = plural	\emptyset = subject -t = direct object -nak = indirect object -ba = into -ból = from
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III. Verb phrase.

Indicative	Affirmative	/	be- = into ki- = from	Root	-t-	-a = 3sg -ák = 3pl	/
	Negative	nem	/		-j-	-ad = 2sg	be = into ki = from
Hortative-Imperative	Affirmative	/	/	j → X / X ₋ X = sibilant	-átok = 2pl		
	Negative	ne	/				

→ Sibilants refer to the coronal fricatives (/s/, /z/, /ʃ/, /ʒ/)

Problem 3 (30 points). Tundra Nenets

(a)
yal'a = day
xayer = sun
xə' = thunder
ty' = fire

xa'masi = to fall (falling-Verb)
tarpa'si = to appear (appearance-Verb)
sar'omsi = to rain (rain-Verb)

yal'a tarp = dawn (day appearance)
sar'o səwkocya = raindrop (rain + drop)
wəba' xa'm = autumn (leaf + falling)
xəxə' sar'o = storm (thunder + rain)
xəxə' ty' = lightning (thunder + fire)
sar'olank yal'a = rainy day (rain-Adj + day)

(b)
səwkocya = drop

sar'o = rain

(c)
dusk = night + appearance = **pii' tarp**
stormy night = storm-Adj + night = **xəxə' sar'olank pii'**

leaf = **wəba'**
sunny day = sun-Adj + day = **xayerlank yal'a**