## AILO 2017 Training sample set #2

# (A) Big dog, old bull, strong horse

Danish, spoken in Denmark, and Swedish, spoken in Sweden, are closely related languages. This means that they have many similarities.

Read the Danish and Swedish phrases below, and look for patterns, similarities and differences. In particular, look at how articles (the words *the* and a) are used. Then complete the exercises below.

English	Swedish	Danish
a dog	en hund	en hund
a big dog	en stor hund	en stor hund
the dog	hunden	hunden
the big dog	den store hund	den stora hunden

**A1.** Identify which of these phrases are Danish and which are Swedish.

a. en tyr	a bull
b. en gammal tjur	an old bull
c. tyren	the bull
d. en gammel tyr	an old bull
e. den gamle tyr	the old bull
f. tjuren	the bull
g. den gamla tjuren	the old bull
h. en tjur	a bull

**A2.** If the words for 'horse' are *häst* (Swedish) and *hest* (Danish), and the words for 'strong' are *stark* (Swedish) and *stærk* (Danish), complete the table below.

English	Swedish	Danish
a horse		
a strong horse		
the horse	hästen	
the strong horse		

### (B) Intuitive Inuit

The Inuit live in the Arctic regions of Canada and Greenland, and speak a language called Inuktitut. The Inuit used to be known as Eskimos, but this term is now considered insulting. The writing system used for the Inuktitut language is based on the one devised for writing Cree, a Native American language not related to Inuktitut. The writing system is highly regular and systematic, which should make your task all the easier. The area of Canada where Inuktitut is spoken is called Nunavut and its capital is Iqaluit. Here is how these two words are written:

Nunavut موم المعالمة المعالمة

English has borrowed some words from the Inuit, such as 'igloo' which in Inuktitut is written as  $\Delta_{\rightarrow}$  and is pronounced *ihlu*: the *hl* is a lateral fricative, like the LL sound in Welsh, a bit like an 's' combined with an 'l', also found in Zulu and some other languages. The *hl* sequence is treated as a single sound.

**B1**. Your first task is to look at the text below – it's the first part of the Declaration of Human Rights – and to transcribe the <u>underlined</u> words into Roman letters. The first line has been done for you.

Note that Inuktitut uses the same numerals as English, and has the same punctuation marks (only commas and fullstops in this text) as in English. There is no distinction between upper case (capitals) and lower case letters. A dot above a symbol indicates a long vowel, which can be represented in transcription by doubling the vowel letter.

The sequence rk is used for the [q] sound, a uvular plosive (like a 'k', but further back in the throat) and should be transcribed as a 'q'.

The sequence ng should be thought of as a single sound (a velar nasal, as in English). The letter j represents a 'y' sound.

 $γ_{\text{C}}^{\text{C}} + 2^{\text{C}} \text{Fe}^{\text{C}} + 2^{\text{C}} + 2^{\text{C}} \text{Fe}^{\text{C}} + 2^{\text{C}} +$ 

**B2**. How would you write the following words in the Inuktitut writing system? Let's start with two words for snow.<sup>1</sup>

a. qanniq 'snow as it is falling'

b. aput 'snow on the ground'

c. mukluk 'sealskin boot'

d. umiaq 'canoe'

**B3**. Can you identify the two English words borrowed from the Inuktitut words a-b, and identify the place names in c and d? Write your answers in the usual <u>English</u> spelling.

a. مُحْمَ (an item of clothing)

b. %৮% (a form of transport)

c. baC

d. **4**∟<sup>5</sup>b

## (C) Turkish bath time

Turkish is spoken by about 63 million native speakers located mainly in Turkey, with smaller groups in other parts of Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia. Turkish words are built up by adding one or more endings to a root word; the vowels in most word endings vary depending on the vowels in the root word ("vowel harmony"), as you will see in the following examples.

Here are some sentences in Turkish, with their English translations. Words in [square brackets] are needed in English but have no equivalent in the Turkish sentence. Note that there are two forms of the letter 'I', with and without the dot, in both lower and upper case.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> You may have heard that the Inuit (or Eskimo) have lots of different words for 'snow'. In fact this is a kind of urban legend. Inuktitut has these two main words for 'snow' although lots of shades of meaning can be expressed by adding endings – you will have noticed that Inuktitut words are very long.

Arkadaşlarım şehirde mutlu. My friends [are] happy in [the] city. Baban İstanbul'u seviyor mu? Does your father like Istanbul? Fakirler Ankara'dan İstanbul'a gelmek istiyor. Poor [people] want to

come from Ankara to Istanbul.

İstanbul en büyük şehir. Istanbul [is the] biggest city.

Eve geliyorlar. They come home.

Babam "Merhaba! Gel, arkadaşımız ol", diyor. My father says "Hello!

Come [and] be our friend".

Evimizde büyük pencereler var. There are big windows in our house.

Pencereden atliyoruz. We jump from [the] window. Bir ev almak mi istiyorsun? Do you want to buy a house?

#### **C1**. How would you translate the following into English?

- (a) Baban mutlu mu?
- (b) "Şehirimize gel" diyoruz.
- (c) Arkadaşım doktor olmak istiyor.
- (d) Fakir evimi seviyorlar mı?
- (e) İstanbul'dan mı geliyorsun?
- **C2**. The following examples are a bit different. What do you think they mean?
  - (a) Geldiğimde "merhaba" diyorlar.
  - (b) Baban geldiğimizden mutlu mu?
  - (c) Fakir olduğunu diyorlar.
  - (d) Geldiğin şehir büyük mü?
  - (e) En mutlu olduğum şehir, Ankara.
  - (f) Fakir olduğumuz halde mutluyuz.

# (D) Navajo's great chain of being

Navajo (sometimes written "Navaho") is a Native American language from the Southwest United States. Navajo has more speakers than any other Native American language in the US and Canada, with the number of speakers estimated at between 120,000 and 170,700.

Here are some Navajo sentences with their English translations, and alternative ways of saying the same thing in Navajo. The Navajo alphabet includes some unfamiliar letters, but how they are pronounced is not relevant to the problem.

The asterisk \* before a sentence indicates that it is ungrammatical, that is, not allowed in Navajo.

Navajo sentence	English translation	Alternative Navajo sentence
Diné ashkii yiztał.	The man kicked the boy.	Ashkii diné biztał.
Ashkii diné yiztał.	The boy kicked the man.	Dine ashkii biztał.
Ashkii łééchąą?í yiztał.	The boy kicked the dog.	* Łééchąą?í ashkii biztał.
* Dóola diné yizgoh.	The bull gored the man.	Diné dóola bizgoh.
Dóola shash yizgoh.	The bull gored the bear.	Shash doola bizgoh.
Shash mósí yishxash.	The bear bit the cat.	*Mósí shash bishxash.
*Mósí shash yishxash.	The cat bit the bear.	Shash mósí bishxash.
Mósí tązhii yinoołchééł.	The cat is chasing the turkey.	Tązhii mósí binoołchééł.
Mósí na?azízí yinoołchééł.	The cat is chasing the gopher. <sup>2</sup>	*Na?azízí mósí binoołchééł.
Na?azízí wóláchíí yinoołchéét.	The gopher is chasing the ant.	*Wóláchíí na?azízí binoołchééł.
*Dibé awééchí?í yiztał.	The sheep kicked the baby.	Awééchí?í dibé biztał.
Dibé tązhii yiztał.	The sheep kicked the turkey.	Tązhii dibé biztał.
*Awééchí?í diné yiztał.	The baby kicked the man.	Diné awééchí?í biztał.
Shash awééchí?í	The bear is chasing the	Awééchí?í shash
yinoołchééł.	baby.	binoołchééł.
Tsís?ná na?ashjé?ii yishish.	The bee stung the spider.	Na?ashjé?ii tsís?ná bishish.
Na?ashjé?ii wóláchíí yiisxí.	The spider killed the ant.	Wóláchíí na?ashjé?ii biisxí.
*Tsís?ná na?asts?qosí yishish.	The bee stung the mouse.	Na?asts?qosí tsís?ná bishish.

**D1.** Indicate which of the following Navajo sentences is grammatical, translate them into English, and if ungrammatical, suggest the simplest correction(s).

- (a) Łééchąą?i awééchi?i yinoołchééł.
- (b) Tsís?ná ashkii bishish.
- (c) Mósí dibé yinoolchéél.
- (d) Na?asts?oosí na?ashjé?ii bishxash.
- (e) Wóláchíi diné yiisxí.

<sup>2</sup> A gopher is an American rodent, a bit like a large hamster.

**D2.** The following two sentences, which include a previously unseen word, are both grammatical and mean the same thing. Give an English translation including a suggestion for a possible meaning for the new word.

Gah mósí biisxí. Mósí gah yiisxí.

**D3.** Explain as concisely as you can the rules of Navajo grammar that emerge from these sentences, concentrating particularly on the rules relevant to the ungrammatical sentences. Your explanation should cover word order, and the reason behind alternate forms of the 'same' word.