



AILO

All Ireland Linguistics Olympiad
The Problem Solvers' Challenge

Round Two, Individual Paper

13th March 2018, DIT Grangegorman
5 Questions, 2 Hours

*Answer as many of the questions as you can.
Write your answers in the Answer-book provided.*

For each question some marks will be given for additional "observations" about the languages: this will be explained before you start ... we do not want to know the steps you took to solve the problem. It's what you discovered, not how, that gets extra marks.



Engaging Content
Engaging People



Question A: Easy Fiji

10 pts

Fijian is an Austronesian language, an official language of Fiji, spoken by around 400,000 speakers. There follows a list of possessive phrases in Fijian with their translations:

<i>na ulungu</i>	my head
<i>na nona wau</i>	his weapon (he owns)
<i>na memuni bia</i>	your (pl.) beer
<i>na kemudrau itukutuku</i>	your (dual) story (about you two)
<i>na nona motokaa</i>	her car
<i>na meda ti</i>	our tea
<i>na kelemu</i>	your (sing.) belly
<i>na nona dio</i>	her oyster (she'll sell)
<i>na kengu uvi</i>	my potato
<i>na nongu itukutuku</i>	my story (that I tell)
<i>na watingu</i>	my spouse
<i>na kemuni vuaka</i>	your (pl.) pig (you'll eat)
<i>na nomu kato</i>	your (sing.) basket
<i>na tamana</i>	his father
<i>na memudrau dio</i>	your (dual) oyster (you'll slurp)
<i>na nodra vuaka</i>	their pig (they raise)
<i>na keda wau</i>	our weapon (we'll be hit with)
<i>na kedra raisi</i>	their rice

Note: 'Dual' is a special type of plural referring to exactly two (like English 'both').

A1. Given the Fijian word in each case, translate the following phrases.

- | | | | |
|-----|------------------|------------|--|
| (a) | <i>uto</i> | heart | my heart |
| (b) | <i>yangona</i> | wine | her wine (she's drinking) |
| (c) | <i>draunikau</i> | witchcraft | my witchcraft (used on / against me) |
| (d) | <i>dali</i> | rope | your (sing.) rope (you own) |
| (e) | <i>ika</i> | fish | your (dual) fish (for dinner) |
| (f) | <i>wai</i> | water | your (pl.) water |
| (g) | <i>luve</i> | child | her child |
| (h) | <i>yangona</i> | wine | his wine (drunk in his honour) |
| (i) | <i>wanga</i> | canoe | our canoe |
| (j) | <i>yapolo</i> | apple | their apple (they're selling) |
| (k) | <i>draunikau</i> | witchcraft | your (dual) witchcraft (you're making) |
| (l) | <i>dali</i> | rope | your (pl.) rope (restraining you two) |
| (m) | <i>mango</i> | mango | their mango (for drinking) |

A2. The word for 'coconut' is *niu*. There are three different ways to say 'my coconut'. What are the phrases and what is the difference in meaning between them?

Question B: Do you know N’Ko?

25 pts

Babette Newsome & Harold Somers

The N’ko script was invented (or rediscovered, depending on sources) by the Guinean Soulemanyne Kanté in 1949. Today, N’ko is still used to write Maninka, as well as Djoula and Bambaré, which are all languages from the Mande language family spoken across a range of West African nations: Burkina Faso, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Ivory Coast, Liberia, Mali, Senegal, and Sierra Leone. These are all tone languages, but the tones (which are usually indicated by diacritics) have been omitted in this problem, to make it simpler. The symbol ‘ɔ’ represents a vowel pronounced like the ‘o’ in ‘hot’.

The name of the script in N’ko, which means ‘I speak’, is ɔʔɔ,

and its inventor’s surname is written ʌbɔʔ.

Below are 12 regional names given in transcription on the left, and on the right the corresponding names in N’ko. The information given under “Description” is just for your interest: it does not relate to the solution.

Name in transcription	Description	Name in N’Ko
Konakiri	Conakry – capital of Guinea	ʔɔʔɔɔɔɔɔ
Kindia	town in Guinea	ɔʔɔɔɔ
N’sérégbédé	city in Guinea	ʌɔɔʔɔɔɔ
Soromaya	town in Guinea	ɔʔɔɔɔ
Faranna	city in Guinea	ɔʔɔɔɔ
Djigoué	town in Burkina Faso	ʌɔʔ ʔɔʔ
Tomboutou	Timbuktu – city in Mali	ʌbɔʔɔ
Bisawo	Bissau - as in Guinea-Bissau	ɔʔɔɔɔ
Abidjan	city in Côte d’Ivoire	ɔʔɔɔɔ
M’praeso	town in Ghana	ɔʔɔɔɔɔ
Gbésoba	town in Guinea	ɔʔɔɔɔ
Guekedou	city in Guinea	ʌɔɔɔʔ ʔ

B1. Write the following names in N’ko script. Again the information given under “Description” does not relate to the solution.

Name in transcription	Description
a. Kodo Wari	the country Côte d’Ivoire
b. Liberia	the country Liberia
c. Yamousoukoro	capital of Côte d’Ivoire
d. Mamoun	city in Guinea

- e. Baguiné village in Guinea
- f. Netaro town in Guinea
- g. M'bour city in Senegal
- h. Kankan region of Guinea
- i. N'djala town in Sierra Leone
- j. Gberia Fotombou town in Sierra Leone

B2. Write the following names in transliteration (or in their conventional English spelling)

- | | Name in N'Ko | Helpful (?) hint |
|----|---------------------|--|
| a. | Ƴuǂ | name of language |
| b. | Yŋ Δ | name of country |
| c. | Yŋ ' ǂ^ǂ ǂ | name of country |
| d. | uǂuǂ ǂ | name of town in Sierra Leone |
| e. | ŋYǂ Δ | name of language |
| f. | ǂŋ ǂ ǂ | name of country |
| g. | ^ǂ ǂ ǂ | name of language |
| h. | ŋYǂ ŋ | name of town in Sierra Leone, also river and country |
| i. | ǂ ǂ ǂ ǂYǂ uǂ | name of country |
| j. | uǂ ŋYǂ | name of country |

Question C: The truth about Chalcatongo Mixtec

Babette Newsome 20pts

Chalcatongo Mixtec is a language spoken by just under 6,000 people in Oaxaca State of South-central Mexico. It is famous among linguists for its many unusual characteristics, but it is an endangered language, at risk of extinction.

Here are some sentences in Chalcatongo Mixtec. Their English translations have been given in a random order, **except for the first example**. An underlined word indicates emphatic stress.

- | Chalcatongo | English |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 <i>Nduča kaa ñi?ní.</i> | A <u>This</u> water is hot. |
| 2 <i>Maria kúu ñ xasi?i.</i> | B Pedro is my child. |
| 3 <i>Ñi?ní nduča.</i> | C Juan is my husband. |
| 4 <i>Juan kaa lúli.</i> | D Maria is a woman. |
| 5 <i>Ndežu kaa ža?u.</i> | E The water is hot. |

- | | | | |
|---|---------------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| 6 | <i>Siʔi Maria.</i> | F | Maria is feminine. |
| 7 | <i>Juan kúu xaʒiiri.</i> | G | <u>This</u> food is expensive. |
| 8 | <i>Pedro kúu xalúlrí.</i> | H | Juan is small. |

C1. Match the Chalcatongo Mixtec sentences 2-8 to their English translations B-H.

Here are some words in Chalcatongo Mixtec together with their English translations:

<i>ndáa</i>	true	<i>kǔnú</i>	deep
<i>kwáá</i>	blind	<i>ñiʔní</i>	hot
<i>súči</i>	young	<i>kwaʔá</i>	red
<i>tûû</i>	black	<i>saʔma</i>	clothes
<i>kuʔu</i>	ill		

C2. Translate the following words or sentences into Chalcatongo Mixtec. Again, an underlined word indicates emphatic stress.

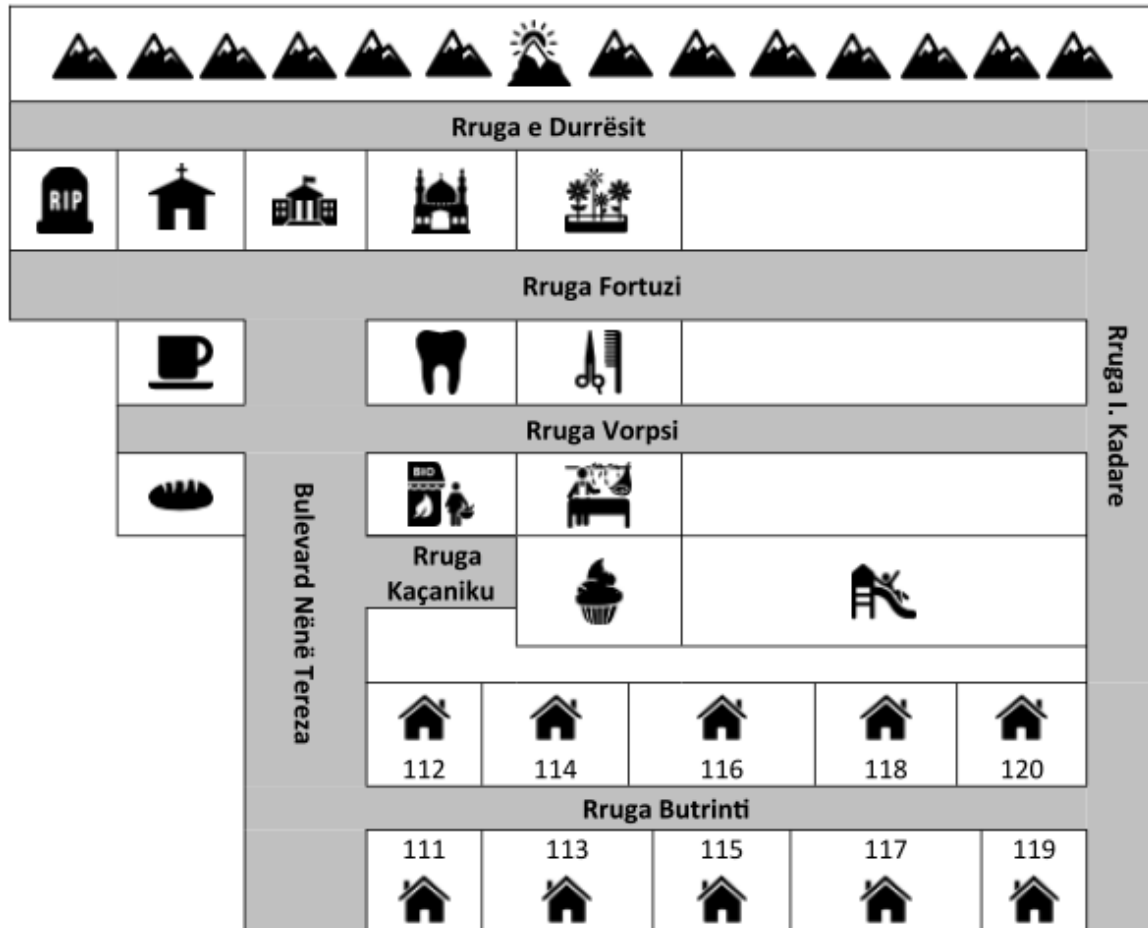
- depth
- heat
- Maria is ill.
- Pedro is blind.
- Pedro is a blind person.
- The clothes are red.
- My clothes are the black ones.
- This is true.
- (It) is true.
- (It) is the truth.

Question D: Turizmi këtu Shqipëri Ali Sharman 25 pts

You are visiting an Albanian town close to Tirana. The man at the information centre tells you the following information about what places are in the town and where they are on the map (on the next page). You are both looking at the map from the same perspective, as it is shown here, so for example the dentist is in front of the mosque, behind the market, to the left of the hairdresser's, to the right of the café. The man only comments on buildings that are immediate neighbours (including across a street); for example, he might say that the baker's is to the left of the market, but he would not say that the baker's is to the left of the butcher's even though that is technically true. Also, he does not talk about diagonal neighbours, so for example he would not say anything about the butcher's relationship to the dentist.

The only problem is that the man speaks only Albanian. Here's what he says, starting with a description of the café.

*Kafeneja është ndërmjet kishës dhe furrës dhe majtas nga dhëmbëtarit.
 Bashkia e qytetit është ndërmjet kishës dhe xhamisë.
 Dhëmbëtarit është majtas nga floktorit dhe para xhamisë.
 Dyqani është para dhëmbëtarit dhe majtas nga mishtorja.
 Mishtorja është pas ëmbëlsirës.
 Kopsht është djathtas nga xhamia dhe para maleve.
 Sheshi lojërash është djathtas nga ëmbëlsira.*



A		Baker's	H		Garden
B		Butcher's	I		Hairdresser
C		Café	J		Market
D		Cakeshop	K		Mosque
E		Cemetery	L		Mountains
F		Church	M		Playground
G		Dentist	N		Town Hall

Icons made by Scott de Jonge, Pixel perfect, and Freepik from www.flaticon.com.

D1. Here are the 14 places named in Albanian. On your answer sheet, match their numbers (1-14) with the letters (A-N) for their English equivalents in the key.

1	Bashkia e qytetit	8	Kopsht
2	Dhëmbëtar	9	Male
3	Ëmbëlsirë	10	Floktor
4	Furrë	11	Shesh lojërash
5	Kafene	12	Dyqan
6	Mishtore	13	Varrezë
7	Kishë	14	Xhami

You receive the following directions for a tour. The tour goes along roads and through locations:

- A. *Filloni në cep të rrugëve rruga e Durrësit dhe rruga I. Kadare.*
- B. *Shkoni drejt në rrugën e Durrësit në vendin e pestë në të majtë (në fund të rrugës).*
- C. *Shkoni nëpër varrezën.*
- D. *Kthehuni majtas në rrugën Fortuzi. Kafeneja është vendi i parë në të djathtë.*
- E. *Shkoni në vendin e tretë në të djathtë.*
- F. *Shkoni nëpër floktorin dhe kthehuni djathtas.*
- G. *Shkoni në vendin e dytë në të djathtë. Mos shkoni nëpër kafenen.*
- H. *Kthehuni prapa dhe kaloni bulevardin Nënë Tereza. Dyqani është vendi i parë në të djathtë. Floktori është vendi i dytë në të majtë.*
- I. *Shkoni deri në fund të rrugës.*
- J. *Kthehuni djathtas.*

D2. Trace the path of the tour on the map in your answerbook, marking each stage of the tour A-J.

D3. How would you describe in Albanian where the cakeshop is? There are three (or four) possibilities: just give one. Don't worry too much about word endings – do your best, as long as you get the words right, you will be understood.

You want to invite all of the new people you have met to go to the café. You know that they all live on Rruga Butrinti but you aren't sure who lives in which house. You go to the corner of Bulevard Nënë Tereza and Rruga Butrinti to ask for directions. A lady there tells you the following while pointing up the road:

- Drita jeton në shtëpinë e dytë në të majtë.
Kustrimi jeton në shtëpinë e pestë në të majtë.
Lindita jeton në shtëpinë e katërt në të djathtë.*

*Sokoli jeton në shtëpinë e parë në të djathtë.
Valoni jeton në shtëpinë e tretë në të majtë.*

D4. Write in the correct house number beside each of the five names listed in your answerbook.

Question E: Vietnamese matching

Tom McCoy, Pat Littell & Lori Levin **20 pts**

Here is a list of 24 words and phrases in Vietnamese, followed by their English translations, though not in the same order.

1. băng	9. đường vòng	17. núi lửa
2. bó	10. hoa	18. nước
3. bó hoa	11. lửa	19. nước đá
4. cánh hoa	12. mở	20. nước mắt
5. đá	13. mở đường	21. phấn
6. đá lửa	14. mở mắt	22. phấn hoa
7. đá phấn	15. núi	23. vòng
8. đường	16. núi băng	24. vòng hoa
A. bouquet (a bunch of flowers)	H. flower	Q. tear (as in teardrop)
B. chalk	I. ice	R. to make aware
C. circle	J. iceberg	S. to open
D. cluster	K. mountain	T. to pave the way
E. ringroad	L. petal	U. volcano
F. fire	M. powder	V. water
G. flint (a stone used to make sparks)	N. pollen	W. wreath
	O. rock	
	P. road	

E1. In your answerbook, match the Vietnamese entries to their English translations.

Warning: One of the English translations is used twice.

Hint: The Vietnamese word for “wing” is “cánh.”

Show your working: some credit will be given for any relevant analysis of the English.

E2. What is the English translation of “mắt”? (*Hint:* it is not in list A-W)