

All Ireland Linguistics Olympiad

The Problem Solvers' Challenge

ROUND ONE

January 2018
2 Hours

PROBLEM BOOK

***Answer as many of the questions as you can.
Write your answers in the answer books provided.***

Questions and credits

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------|
| A. I know what I saw | Harold Somers & Dick Hudson | 20 points |
| B. At ease in Gilbertese | Michael Salter | 20 points |
| C. Icelandic relations | Babette Verhoeven | 20 points |
| D. As easy as one, two, three | Michael Salter | 20 points |
| E. That's not aloud | Tom McCoy | 20 points |

Question A: I know what I saw 20 points

This problem considers data from Beja (Bidhaawyeet), an Afroasiatic language of the Cushitic branch spoken on the western coast of the Red Sea by the Beja people. Its speakers number around 2 million, and inhabit parts of Egypt, Sudan and Eritrea.

Study the following Beja sentences and their translations:

<i>Tak rihan</i>	I saw a man
<i>Yaas rihan</i>	I saw a dog
<i>Akra tak rihan</i>	I saw a strong man
<i>Dabalo tak rihan</i>	I saw a small man
<i>Tak akraab rihan</i>	I saw a man that is strong
<i>Tak dabaloob rihan</i>	I saw a man that is small
<i>Tak akteen</i>	I know a man
<i>Rihane tak akteen</i>	I know a man that I saw
<i>Tak rihaneeb akteen</i>	I know a man that I saw

Here are some more words from the Beja language.

<i>araw</i>	friend
<i>mek</i>	donkey
<i>kwati</i>	happy

A1. Translate the following sentences into Beja. If there are different ways to translate the sentence, show all the alternatives.

- (a) I saw a donkey
- (b) I saw a happy man
- (c) I saw a friend that is happy
- (d) I know a strong donkey
- (e) I know a dog that is small
- (f) I saw a donkey that I know

A2. Translate the following sentences into English. One of them includes a mistake. How could it be corrected?

- (a) *Kwati mek rihan*
- (b) *Akraab araw akteen*
- (c) *Akteene yaas rihan*
- (d) *Mek dabaloob akteen*

Question B: At ease in Gilbertese

20 points

Here are some sentences in the Gilbertese language, with their English translations. Gilbertese is spoken in Kiribati, a country formerly known as the Gilbert Islands, in the central Pacific Ocean.

<i>Ko nakonako ɳkoe.</i>	You are walking.
<i>E nakonako te aiine.</i>	The woman is walking.
<i>I takaakaro ɳai.</i>	I am playing.
<i>E nakonako nakon te titooa Meeri.</i>	Mary is walking to the shop.
<i>A tekateka irarikin te auti taian aiine.</i>	The women are sitting next to the house.
<i>A tebotebo taian nakekei n te bong aei.</i>	The people are bathing today.
<i>I tebotebo inanon te auti ɳai.</i>	I am bathing in the house.
<i>A takaakaro inanon te titooa taian ataei.</i>	The children are playing in the shop.
<i>Ko tekateka ɳkoe ningaabong.</i>	You will sit tomorrow.
<i>E takaakaro irarikin te kawai te ataei n te bong aei.</i>	The child is playing next to the road today.

B1. Rearrange the sentences below into the correct Gilbertese word order, and translate them into English. One of them contains an error. What is it? Give a correct version of the sentence.

- (a) *Meeri auti e nakon ningaabong te nakonako.*
- (b) *Inanon ɳai kawai i te tekateka.*
- (c) *N aiine a te nakon te bong kawai nakonako te.*

B2. Translate into Gilbertese:

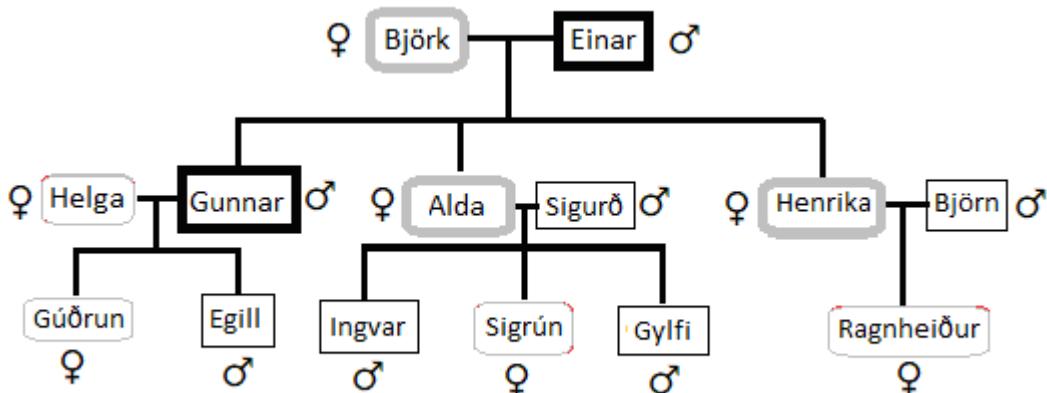
- (a) The women will play tomorrow.
- (b) You are sitting next to the shop today.

Question C: Icelandic relations

20 points

According to Icelandic writer and translator Alda Sigmundsdóttir “Icelanders tend to be fanatically precise when it comes to describing family connections”.

Grandparents Björk and Einar have three adult children, son Gunnar, and daughters Alda and Henrika, who in turn are married with children. Here is their family tree: Björk and Einar’s children are in a bold textboxes with their spouses and offspring marked with thinner boxes; males are shown in black square boxes accompanied by the ♂ symbol, while females are in grey rounded boxes accompanied by the ♀ symbol. The letter ð is pronounced like the ‘th’ in English “brother”.



Here are some statements that apply to the family shown here.

Alda er föðursystir Gúðrunur.

Gúðrun er systir Egills.

Egill er bróðir Gúðrunur.

Gunnar er faðir Gúðrunur.

Gúðrun er bróðurdóttir Aldar.

Sigurð er eiginmaður Aldar.

Egill er sonarsonur Björkur.

Egill er bróðursonur Henrikar.

Gúðrun er frænki Egills.

Einar er frændi Gúðrunur.

Egill er frændi Gúðrunur.

Gúðrun og Helga eru mæðgur.

Alda, Henrika og Björk eru mæðgur.

Egill og Gunnar eru feðgar.

Gúðrun og Gunnar eru feðgin.

Helga og Egill eru mæðgin.

Henrika er kona Björns.

Helga er móðurbróður kona Ragnheiðurs.

C1. Complete the following sentences with the appropriate Icelandic word. Other than for (b), give the most precise term.

- (a) *Ingvar er Sigrúnur.*
- (b) *Ingvar er Sigrúnur. (Give an alternative word)*
- (c) *Ingvar er Einars.*
- (d) *Egill er Aldar.*
- (e) *Sigrún er Einars.*
- (f) *Henrika er Sigrúnur.*
- (g) *Gúðrun er Björkur.*
- (h) *Sigurð er Gúðrunur.*
- (i) *Ingvar, Gylfi og Alda eru*

C2. As it happens, Helga has a sister, Jóhanna, and a brother, Magnus. Jóhanna is married to Viktor. In Icelandic, this means that:

Magnus er mágur Gunnars.

Jóhanna er mágkona Gunnars.

Viktor er svilar Gunnars.

You meet Magda and she describes herself thus: “*Ég er svilkona Gunnars.*” Explain in English what Magda’s relationship to Gunnar is.

C3. If you know that “*Björk er tengdamóðir Helgar*”, complete these statements with the most precise term possible:

- (a) *Einar er Helgar.*
- (b) *Björn er Helgar.*
- (c) *Björn er Gúðrunur.*
- (d) Give another simpler Icelandic word to describe Björk’s relationship to Helga.

C4. Gunnar’s full name is Gunnar Einarsson, but Alda’s and Henrika’s surname is Einarsdóttir. What are Gúðrun’s, Egill’s and Gylfi’s full names?

Question D: As easy as one, two, three 20 points

Palauan is an Austronesian language, one of the two official languages (the other being English) of the Republic of Palau in the western Pacific Ocean, and has about 17,000 native speakers. Here are some noun phrases from the Palauan language, with their English translations:

<i>eru el buil</i>	two months
<i>ede el sils</i>	three days
<i>tede el chad</i>	three people
<i>kloa el uel</i>	four turtles
<i>teim el sensei</i>	five teachers
<i>eim el rak</i>	five years
<i>elolém el klébëse</i>	six nights
<i>kléuid el lius</i>	seven coconuts
<i>kleai el ringo</i>	eight apples
<i>teai el ngalék</i>	eight children
<i>téruich me a tede el buik</i>	thirteen boys
<i>téruich me a eua el sikang</i>	fourteen hours
<i>ongeru el buil</i>	February
<i>ongede el ureor</i>	Wednesday

D1. Give the English for the following:

- (a) *teua el sensei*
- (b) *t̄eruich me a kllol̄em el lius*
- (c) *onget̄eruich me a ongeru el buil*
- (d) *ongeim el ureor*

D2. Give the Palauan for the following:

- (a) eight days
- (b) sixteen people
- (c) five turtles
- (d) June
- (e) Thursday

D3. Which version of the Palauan number three would you use to describe

- (a) three hours
- (b) three girls
- (c) three dolphins

Question E: That's not aloud

20 points

This problem deals with five different languages from four different continents, and in particular the sound combinations found in those languages.

For this problem, there are five types of sounds that are especially relevant. These are as follows:

Vowels	a, e, i, o, u
Consonants	m, n, ɲ, b, d, g, j, r, l, ɿ, w, y, p, t, k, f, s, ʃ, h, q, č
Nasals	m, n, ɲ
Voiced Consonants	b, d, g, j, r, l, ɿ, w, y, m, n, ɲ
Voiceless Consonants	p, t, k, f, s, ʃ, h, q, č

You don't need to know *exactly* how these sounds are pronounced in order to solve this problem.

E1. Indonesian, spoken by roughly 200 million people, is the official language of Indonesia. Below are some Indonesian words with their English translations. Fill in the blanks in your answer book.

<i>menuji</i>	to test	<i>diuji</i>	to be tested
<i>menjeja</i>	to spell	<i>dieja</i>	to be spelled
<i>menjaruk</i>	to scratch	<i>digaruk</i>	to be scratched
<i>mendapat</i>	to obtain	<i>didapat</i>	to be obtained
<i>memberi</i>	to give	<i>diberi</i>	to be given
<i>menulis</i>	to write	<i>ditulis</i>	to be written
<i>memutus</i>	to cut off	<i>diputus</i>	to be cut off
(a)	to make	<i>dibuat</i>	to be made
(b)	to choose	<i>dipilih</i>	to be chosen

E2. Mandar is one of many local languages spoken in Indonesia. It has about 480,000 speakers. Below are some Mandar words with their English translations. Fill in the blanks in your answer book.

<i>mambatta</i>	to split	<i>dibatta</i>	to be split
<i>mandeŋŋeq</i>	to carry on the back	<i>dideŋŋeq</i>	to be carried on the back
<i>maŋidaŋ</i>	to crave	<i>diidaj</i>	to be craved
<i>mappasuŋ</i>	to send out	<i>dipasuŋ</i>	to be sent out
<i>mattunu</i>	to burn	<i>ditunu</i>	to be burnt
<i>massiraq</i>	to tie	<i>disiraq</i>	to be tied
(c)	to throw	<i>ditimbe</i>	to be thrown
(d)	to feed	<i>dipande</i>	to be fed

E3: The Quechua languages are a group of languages spoken in South America. Below are some words from the variety of Quechua spoken in Puyo Pungo in eastern Ecuador, along with their English translations. Fill in the blanks in your answer book.

<i>sinik</i>	porcupine	<i>sinikpa</i>	porcupine's
<i>čilis</i>	steamless region	<i>čilispa</i>	steamless region's
<i>sača</i>	jungle	<i>sačapi</i>	in the jungle
<i>punja</i>	day	<i>punjapi</i>	in the daytime
<i>kam</i>	you	<i>kamba</i>	yours
<i>atam</i>	frog	<i>atambi</i>	on the frog
<i>hatum</i>	the big one	(e)	the big one's
		(f)	in the big one

E4: The Zoque languages are spoken in southern Mexico. Below are some Zoque words with their English translations. Fill in the blanks in your answer book.

<i>burru</i>	donkey	<i>mburru</i>	my donkey
<i>pama</i>	clothing	<i>mbama</i>	my clothing
<i>tatah</i>	father	<i>ndatah</i>	my father
<i>faha</i>	belt	<i>faha</i>	my belt
<i>sis</i>	meat	<i>sis</i>	my meat
<i>flawta</i>	harmonica	(g)	my harmonica
<i>sapun</i>	soap	<i>sapun</i>	my soap
<i>disko</i>	record	(h)	my record
<i>kayu</i>	horse	<i>ŋgayu</i>	my horse
<i>kopak</i>	head	(i)	my head

E5: Below are some words from the language Lunyole, spoken in Uganda (not to be confused with another language also called Lunyole, which is spoken in Kenya), along with their English translations. Fill in the blanks in your answer book.

<i>oludaalo</i>	day	<i>endaalo</i>	days
<i>oluboyooboyo</i>	<i>hullabaloo</i>	<i>emboyooboyo</i>	<i>hullabaloos</i>
<i>olufudu</i>	rainbow	<i>efudu</i>	rainbows
<i>olukalala</i>	list	<i>ekalala</i>	lists
<i>olusosi</i>	mountain	(j)	mountains
<i>olubafu</i>	rib	(k)	ribs
<i>olupagi</i>	spoke ¹	(l)	spokes ¹
<i>olutambi</i>	candle	(m)	candles

Note: 1. that is, spoke(s) of a wheel

E6. Tying it all together

- (i) All five of the languages in this problem have a rule that avoids a specific type of sound combination, specifically a sound of type X cannot be followed by a sound of type Y. What are X and Y? Both X and Y come from the list of sound-types given at the beginning of this problem.
- (ii) English does not obey the rule from 6(i). **In fact, there is an English word in this bolded sentence that violates this rule.** Write the English word from the previous sentence that violates the rule.

END OF PAPER