



AILO

All Ireland Linguistics Olympiad
The Problem Solvers' Challenge

National Final 2020, Individual Paper

11th March 2020, DCU
5 Questions, 2½ hours

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



Engaging Content
Engaging People



Question A: Kãa, Kai, and Khai

Ethan Chi

Below are some phrases in Thai, with their English translations in a different order. Usually, Thai is written in the Thai script, for example, the word *ngãam*, which means ‘beautiful’, is written **งาม**. But here all of the words have been transliterated. Note that diacritic marks (˜, ` , ´, ^) represent tones. Also, two of the Thai words have the same English translation. Hint: the Thai word for “chicken” is *kai*.

1	<i>at</i>	A	carbonated drink
2	<i>chiãng mai</i>	B	Chiang Mai ¹
3	<i>dòm</i>	C	chicken egg
4	<i>kãa dòm</i>	D	coffee pot
5	<i>kãa kãafãae</i>	E	egg
6	<i>kãã nãm</i>	F	Hainan chicken rice ²
7	<i>khàao mãn kai</i>	G	hard-boiled egg
8	<i>khai</i>	H	ice
9	<i>khai dòm kháeng</i>	I	kettle (for boiling water)
10	<i>khai kai</i>	J	line
11	<i>mãai at</i>	K	line of trees
12	<i>mai</i>	L	new
13	<i>mãn</i>	M	new price
14	<i>nãeo</i>	N	fat, grease
15	<i>nãeo mãai</i>	O	plywood ³
16	<i>nãm</i>	P	the price of gasoline
17	<i>nãm at lôm</i>	Q	to boil
18	<i>nãm kháeng</i>	R	to compress
19	<i>rãakhãa mai</i>	S	water
20	<i>rãakhãa nãm mãn</i>		

A1. Match up the words 1-20 with their translations A-S, remembering that one of A-S will appear twice.

A2. Translate the following into English: (a) *khàao*, (b) *kãã* (c) *chiãng*.

A3. How would you say ‘beautiful line’ in Thai?

¹ Chiang Mai, whose name literally means “New City”, is a large city in Northern Thailand known for its beautiful scenery and wildlife, including elephants.

² Hainan chicken rice is a popular Southeast Asian dish, made of rice with chicken fat.

³ Plywood is a composite material made by sticking together thin slices of wood.

Question B: Focus on Paiwan

Samuel Ahmed

Paiwan is a minority language in Taiwan/Republic of China, spoken by around 66,000 native speakers in the southern region of the island. One of the major components of Paiwan syntax is “focus”, which applies to the new piece of information that the sentence is conveying. In English, this can be represented by sentences like “It is the dog which the man likes”: in this example, the dog is focused.

Below are some sentences in Paiwan with their English translations. Sentence elements in double underlined italics are focused. The data have been adapted slightly for the sake of consistency.

Paiwan

kanan nua uqalay tua kuka a quma
nua tsakaw

tjmalaw tua vavuy a kuvatu

djavisen nua tsemas a kukama

sitarang nua uqalay a vuluq

tjalawen nua suvavuy i tua umaq a
alak nua vavaian

kman tua kuka a tsemas

djavisan nua pulingaw tua vuluq a
gadu

langedaen nua sivitay a qaya-qayam

English

The man eats the chicken in the thief's field.

My dog angers the pig.

The spirit snatches my father.

The man protects (it) with the spear.

Your pig angers the woman's child in the house.

The spirit eats the chicken.

The shaman snatches the spear in the mountain.

The soldier hears the bird.

B1. Translate these sentences into Paiwan.

(a) The man protects the field with the dog.

(b) Your shaman angers my bird in the spirit's mountain.

(c) The woman snatches the pig.

Now look at the following question-answer dialogues. The first answer has been translated for you.

Question

inu a tmarang a tsakaw?

anema a sitjalaw nua sukama tua vatu?

anema a sudjavisen?

inu a kanan nua uqalay?

Answer

tmarang a tsakaw a quma

The thief who protects (it) is in the field.

sitjalaw nua kukama tua vatu a kuvuluq

kudjavisen a qaya-qayam nua vavaian

kanan nua uqalay a gadu

B2. Based on these examples, translate the following responses into English, underlining focused elements, and saying what questions (in Paiwan) could have prompted them.

- (a) susitarang tua qaya-qayam nua pulingaw a tsemas
- (b) kanen nua uqalay i tua gadu a vavuy
- (c) kutjalawan tua suvatu a kuquma

Question C: Iñapari

Samuel Ahmed

Iñapari is a critically endangered language spoken by four individuals in the town of the same name which straddles the three-state border of Peru, Bolivia and Brazil. Below are some verbs in Iñapari with their translations into English.

Iñapari	English
awunahamanahari	We saw him again.
ihunuamarona isa	You (pl) loved them (fem).
nynohapirâi isa	I want to kill you (pl).
aarunahapiramanahanona	They (f) do not want to see me again.
ijamapirarona	He wants to hear them (f).
aanyjyehamaro	I did not hit her.
ajamachajimanahai	We made you (sg) hear again.
ryjyehamâi isa	He hit you (pl).
rynohamanaharina	They (m) killed him again.
ruhunuachajimanahâi	She made us love again.
unahachajimano isa	You (pl) made me see.
punahamanaharo	You (sg) want to see her again.
aanohunuapirai	I do not want to love you (sg).
ruhunuamanahanana	They (f) loved them (m) again.

C1. Translate the following Iñapari verbs into English:

- (a) pijamamâi
- (b) aaiunuapiramanahanana
- (c) aaawynohachajimâi isa

C2. Translate the following English phrases into Iñapari:

- (a) She wants to kill you (pl) again.
- (b) I made him hear.
- (c) You (sg) did not love them (fem).

C3. Explain the grammar of the Iñapari verb.

Question D: Arapaho word forms

Daniel Lovsted

Here are some nouns in Arapaho, an Algonquian language spoken by about 1,000 people in Wyoming and Oklahoma in the United States. The nouns are shown in several forms, with the English meaning of the singular form. It is not relevant to the solution to understand the exact purpose of the other forms. The greyed-out cells indicate that the form does not exist.

singular	plural	obv. singular	locative singular	meaning
hisei	hiseino?	hisein	hiseinewe?	woman
hotii	hotiiwo?	hotiiw	hotiiwowe?	car
nebi	nebiho?	hibio	nebihewe?	one's sister
neicet	neicetino		neicetine?	one's hand
nooku	nookuho?	nookuo	nookuhowe?	beaver
hisee3	hiseeto?	hiseet	(a)	pine tree
(b)	ooto		oote?	leg
beici3	beicito		beicite?	tooth
coox	(c)	(d)	(e)	enemy
ceʔeinox	ceʔeino3o		ceʔeino3e?	bag
hinen	hinenino?	(f)	(g)	man
wotoo	(h)	(i)	wotoohe?	pair of pants
(j)	wo3onohoeno	(k)	wo3onohoene?	book
(l)	(m)	niiʔeihio	(n)	eagle
siisiic	siisiiko?	(o)	(p)	duck
wokec	(q)	(r)	(s)	cow
(t)	nesiho?	(u)	(v)	one's uncle

D1. Fill in the missing cells (a)-(v). If you think the form does not exist, write N/A.

D2. Explain your solution.

Question E: Mo le ka

Harold Somers

Here are some numbers in Yoruba, a language spoken by almost 30 million people in West Africa:

èji	2	ẹẹrìndilogóji	36
ẹrin	4	ẹrìndogóji	44
àrun	5	àádorin	70
ẹrinlá	14	ẹẹtádilogórin	77
eéjìdilogun	18	ètàdogórin	83

The accents above the vowels represent tones: `=fall, ´=rise, no accent=level; e and ẹ represent different vowel sounds.

E1. Write the following Yoruba numbers in figures

- (a) àádota
- (b) àrúndogórin
- (c) aárùndilogórin
- (d) ètàdogórun
- (e) òkándilogóji

E2. Write out the following in Yoruba

- (a) 12
- (b) 53
- (c) 57
- (d) 64
- (e) 99

E3. Explain how the Yoruba counting system works.