

Twelfth Latvian Olympiad in Linguistics, first round, 11 January 2014.

Remember!

Give arguments for your answers to obtain the maximum score for each problem.

Problem 1 (10 points). Here are some phrases that have a common characteristic:

silent film
acoustic guitar
visible light
British English

Task 1. Identify this characteristic.

Task 2. Identify which of the words and phrases below also share this characteristic:

Second World War, natural language, live music, videogame, non-carbonated water, organic farming, teddy bear, sunglasses, e-mail

Problem 2 (15 points). Given are some equalities spelt out in the Wiru language¹:

$t^huyano * t^huyano = lu-u t^huyano$
 $lu ke t^hagura + t^hagura = lu-u t^hagura$
 $lu-u t^hagura ke t^hagura + lu ke ondene = lu-u t^hambolo ke t^hambolo$
 $t^huyano * t^hambolo = lu-u t^hambolo$
 $lu-u t^hagura - lu ke t^hambolo = ?$
 $lu-u t^huyano ke t^hagura : t^hambolo = ?$

Task 1. Fill in the gaps in Wiru.

Task 2. Write out all the equalities above in numerals.

Task 3. Describe the basics of the Wiru numeral system.

¹The Wiru language is the language of the Wiru people (population 15000, all living in Papua-New-Guinea). It belongs to the Trans-New Guinea language family.

Problem 3 (15 points). Here are some words in the Perak dialect of the Malay language¹ and their translations:

bajɒʔ	many
baxaŋ	thing
bəʔbudɒʔ	all kinds of children
budɒʔ	child
čəčəʔite	all kinds of stories
daon	leaf
dulu	long ago
gəlap	dark
gəʔgəlap	very dark
jaman	time
jaxaŋ	seldom
jəŋjaman	for a long time
kaji	study
kəčeʔ	small
kəkaji	to study repeatedly
kəŋkəʔen	very dry
kəʔen	dry
mudε	young
pəmpətaŋ	every evening
səʔsiket	very little
tətue	very old
tue	old
bəʔbajɒʔ	
jəŋjaxaŋ	
pətaŋ	
	all kinds of things
	story
	very long ago
	very small
	very young
	a little

Task 1. Fill in the gaps.

Task 2. How would you translate "all kinds of leaves" into Malay? Explain your answer.

¹The Malay Language (Malay *Bahasa Melayu*) is the national language of Indonesia, Malaysia, and Brunei and one of the official languages of Singapore. It belongs to the Austronesian language family and has around 77 mil. native speakers.

ŋ - the *ng* in "king"; ʔ - barely audible sound between *uh* and *oh* in "uh-oh" (the so-called glottal stop); ʁ - "guttural" r (as in French); č ≈ *ch* in "check", ɲ ≈ Latvian *ņ*, j ≈ *j* in "Johnson".

ə, ε, ɒ - special vowels of the Malay language.

Problem 4 (15 points). Given are some Tuvan² sentences and their English translations. Emphasised words and phrases are underlined.

1. **Balaktъ dalajнъ dagga ɕurubadъ.** The fisherman did not draw the sea on the mountain.
2. **Hovuda aнъ aнъ azъrabajн tur.** The hunter does not feed the animal in the steppe.
3. **Aнъ aнъ dalajga harabas.** The hunter will not see the animal in the sea.
4. **Bodalъ dagda ɕurtabajн tur.** The philosopher does not live on the mountain.
5. **Nomga bodalъ aldag kълbadъ.** The philosopher did not make a mistake in the book.
6. **Balakнъ aнъ aldъ.** The animal took the fish.
7. **Aragatъ aldagnъ bodalga kълдъ.** The drunkard made a mistake in the thought.
8. **Tajgada ool haja ɕurubajн tur.** The boy does not draw the cliff in the taiga.

Task 1. Translate the following sentences into English and underline the emphasised words.

9. **Nom bodalъ azъrabas.**
10. **Dalajga balak ɕurtadъ.**
11. **Dыъ bodal haradъ.**
12. **Ool bodalнъ nomda harabajн tur.**

Task 2. Translate the following sentences into Tuvan:

13. The thought does not live in the philosopher.
14. The fisherman does not make a mistake at sea (lit. *in the sea*).
15. The boy will not take the booze.
16. The hunter did not see the mountain in the steppe.
17. The philosopher will not draw the boy on the cliff.

²The Tuvan language (Tuvan *тыва дыл*) belongs to the Turkic language family and counts approximately 250,000 speakers in the Republic of Tyva, which is a part of the Russian Federation.

A steppe is a large area with a lot of grassland and few or no trees, a landscape common to Central Asia. Taiga is a type of coniferous forest.

ɕ \approx *ch* in "check", Ъ is similar to the Russian *ы* (resembling the English *i*)

н is similar to the Latvian *ņ* (resembling the English *ny*).

Problem 5 (15 points). Here are some Mandarin Chinese³ words written in pinyin⁴ and their English translations in random order:

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. <i>xìngmíng</i> | a. <i>celebrity</i> |
| 2. <i>nǚwáng</i> | b. <i>new symbol</i> |
| 3. <i>rénmíng</i> | c. <i>stranger</i> |
| 4. <i>míngrén</i> | d. <i>English language</i> |
| 5. <i>shēngzì</i> | e. <i>England</i> |
| 6. <i>wángguó</i> | f. <i>king</i> |
| 7. <i>yīngguó</i> | g. <i>daughter</i> |
| 8. <i>guówáng</i> | h. <i>queen</i> |
| 9. <i>shēngrén</i> | i. <i>full name</i> |
| 10. <i>nǚér</i> | j. <i>kingdom</i> |
| 11. <i>yīngwén</i> | k. <i>person's name</i> |

Task. Determine which Mandarin word corresponds to each English word. If you think that there is more than one possible way to do this, indicate which one is, in your opinion, the most likely one and why.

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³Mandarin Chinese is the largest of the Chinese languages, having approximately 850 mil. speakers. It belongs to the Sino-Tibetan language family.

⁴Pinyin is the conventional system for the Mandarin Chinese romanisation. Diacritics are used to denote tones.