

Latvian Olympiad in Linguistics 2017, first round,  
December 17, 2016

**Remember!**

Do not copy the statements of the problems! In order to save your time, do not describe the step-by-step solution process in assignments where it is required to write your observations.

Worse: 'Having studied sentences 17 and 23 I noticed that in both of them the prefix X- is used...'

Better: 'In language N the prefix X- marks the plural number.'

Pay attention to details! Sometimes they matter a lot. Good luck!

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**Problem #1 (10 points).** Here are some words in the Kazakh<sup>1</sup> language and their English translations in random order.

- |                   |                             |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Aq tüyirşik    | A. Rudd <sup>2</sup>        |
| 2. Aqwız          | B. Erythrocyte <sup>3</sup> |
| 3. Bağdarsız      | C. Star                     |
| 4. Bağdarşam      | D. Wingless                 |
| 5. Juldız         | E. Astronomer               |
| 6. Juldızşı       | F. Without guidance         |
| 7. Jumıssı        | G. Beetroot                 |
| 8. Qanatsız       | H. Mars                     |
| 9. Qızıl tüyirşik | I. Worker                   |
| 10. Qızıljuldız   | J. Lamp                     |
| 11. Qızılqanat    | K. Protein (蛋白)             |
| 12. Qızılşa       | L. Leukocyte <sup>4</sup>   |
| 13. Şam           | M. Traffic light            |

**Assignment 1.** Determine the correct translation of each Kazakh word (8 points).

**Assignment 2.** Translate the following words into Kazakh (2 points).

14. Beet grower
15. Work

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<sup>1</sup>Kazakh (*qazaq tili* in Kazakh) belongs to the Kipchak branch of the Turkic language family. It is spoken by 11 million people in Kazakhstan and neighbouring countries.

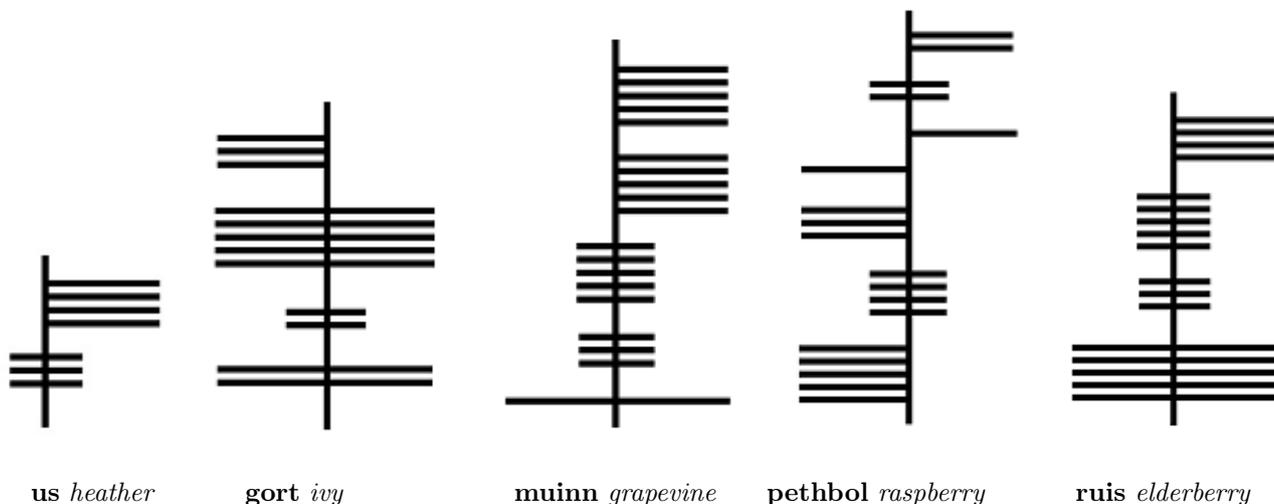
<sup>2</sup>A rudd is a freshwater fish that belongs to the family Cyprinidae, native to Europe and Central Asia; it is known for its bright red fins.

<sup>3</sup>Erythrocytes are red blood cells, which play an important role in delivering oxygen from the lungs to body tissues.

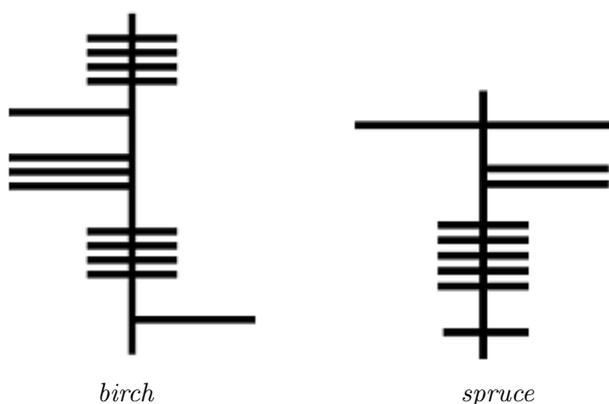
<sup>4</sup>Leukocytes are white blood cells, which are important for protecting the body against infection.

ğ, q, ş are special consonants; ü, ı — special vowels of the Kazakh language.

**Problem #2 (8 points).** Here are some names of plants in Old Irish<sup>5</sup>, written both in the Latin alphabet and in Ogham<sup>6</sup>.



**Assignment 1.** Write in the Latin alphabet (3 points):



**Assignment 2.** Write in Ogham (2 points):

**nim** *ash*  
**luis** *elm*

**Assignment 3.** Write down your observations about Ogham. (3 points).

<sup>5</sup>Old Irish belongs to the Celtic group of the Indo-European language family and was the ancestor of Modern Irish (*gaeilge*). Irish is currently spoken by over 1 million people in Ireland, 140 thousand of whom consider it their mother tongue.

<sup>6</sup>Ogham is a writing system used alongside the Latin alphabet for writing Old Irish in 6<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> centuries AD.

**Problem #3 (10 points).** Here are some numerals of a sheep counting system traditionally used by shepherds in Northern England<sup>7</sup> along with their values.

<b>tyaan</b>	2
<b>tead'ere</b>	3
<b>haites</b>	6
<b>daoves</b>	9
<b>yaan'edik</b>	11
<b>mead'ereboon</b>	19

**Assignment 1.** Which numbers do the following words stand for: **dik, saites, tyaan'eboon?** (4 points)

**Assignment 2.** Write out the following numbers in this sheep counting system: 1, 13, 15 (4 points).

**Assignment 3.** Which number does the word **mimp** stand for, given that  $0 < \mathbf{mimp} < 20$ ? (1 point)  
Explain why you think **mimp** stands for this particular number (1 point).

**Problem #4 (15 points).**

*This problem is not available online.*

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<sup>7</sup>The system has numerous regional variations. In this problem the Kirkby Lonsdale variation was used. Kirkby Lonsdale is a small town in the county of Cumbria.

**Problem #5 (20 points).** Here are some sentences in the Iatmul<sup>10</sup> language and their translations:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. ak ta'kwa okwi makkasi'ki'k wa'la da'li'kali'    | That woman is sitting with a quiet dog.                      |
| 2. du ak ki'ki'n maali vatnyakadi'                  | The man is killing that dirty little rat.                    |
| 3. gwaama avukdu si'kbi'k                           | Two crazy old men were laughing.                             |
| 4. kak ta'kwa glali'                                | This woman was crying.                                       |
| 5. kalala pi'li'kali'                               | The small cockroach is running.                              |
| 6. kan avukdu okwi kak ta'kwa pi'li'kabi'k          | This old man and this woman are running.                     |
| 7. kan maali okwi ak bolu pi'li'di'                 | This large rat was running with that little lizard.          |
| 8. wa'la kan du kwaakdi'                            | The big dog was searching for this man.                      |
| 9. yasi' glakabi'k                                  | Two widows are crying.                                       |
| 10. yasi' okwi wa'la kan makkasi'ki'k bolu savabi'k | The widow and the dog were looking at this big quiet lizard. |

**Assignment 1.** Translate into English (4 points):

11. avukdu okwi ta'kwa pi'li'kadi'
12. ki'ki'n bolu kak wa'la kwaakdi'
13. ta'kwa pi'li'bi'k

**Assignment 2.** Translate the following sentences into Iatmul. If you think that one or some of them are untranslatable, indicate which one(s) and explain why. (8 points)

14. That old man is looking at this crazy widow.
15. The small rat was killing the cockroach.
16. The dirty dog was looking at this small cockroach.
17. The man with that big dog was killing the dirty lizard.
18. The quiet man is searching for the large woman.

**Assignment 3.** Write down your observations about the Iatmul language (8 points).

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<sup>10</sup>Iatmul (*gepmakudi* in Iatmul) belongs to the Sepik language family. It is spoken by approximately 46000 people in Papua New Guinea.

' is a special consonant of Iatmul, the so-called glottal stop.