

Your name:

The UK Linguistics Olympiad 2017



Problem 5. Basquing in the sun (15 marks)

The Basque language (whose Basque name is actually 'Euskara') is spoken by around 700,000 people in the western Pyrenees, partly in Spain and partly in France. Although this area is within Europe, Basque is not related to Spanish and French except through a number of loan words. In fact, as far as we know it is not related to any other language, anywhere.

Q.5.1 Here are some Basque sentences and their English translations. Fill the gaps 1-5.

Emakumeak gizona ikusi du.	The woman has seen the man.
Zuk umea ikusi duzu kalean.	You (singular) have seen the child in the street.
Non ikusi duzu umea?	Where have you seen the child?
Nork ikusi du umea kalean?	Who has seen the child in the street?
Umeak ez du gizona ikusi.	The child has not seen the man.
Emakumeak liburua irakurri du.	The woman has read the book.
Umea etorri da.	The child has come/arrived.
Umea kalean erori da.	The child has fallen in the street.
Igela agertu da.	The frog has appeared.
Nork ikusi du gizona?	1
Igela kalean agertu da.	2
3	The woman has come.
4	The man has seen the woman.
5	The book has not arrived.

Q.5.2. The order of words in a Basque sentence is actually very free, so the words in the translation of 'The child has fallen in the street' can be shuffled into several alternative orders, but not all orders are permitted. In the following sentences, those which are not allowed are marked with *.

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Umea erori da kolean.	*Erori umea da kolean.
Kolean erori da umea.	*Erori kolean da umea.
Erori da umea kolean.	*Erori umea kolean da.
Erori da kolean umea.	_____

Here are some more Basque sentences. Once again your task is to fill the gaps 6-7 in the table.

Gizonak umeari liburua eman dio.	The man has given the book to the child.
Irakasleak umeari liburua irakurrarazi dio.	The teacher has made the child read the book.
Emakumeak umeari etorrrarazi dio.	6
7	The child has given the frog to the woman.