

Your name:

# The UK Linguistics Olympiad 2020

## Round 1



### Problem 9. Can Yukaghir? (25 marks)

Kolyma Yukaghir is a language once spoken in the Kolyma region in the far east of Russia, whose origin and relation to other languages is unknown. It is a dying language with only 5 fluent speakers in 2009. The language can be written in either the Cyrillic or Roman alphabets. Here are some Yukaghir sentences with their English translations.



1. met tudele inabulagī	I hated him.
2. adil numeget towkele ket'īm	The boy came with a dog from home.
3. tet metul juōmek	You (sg) saw me.
4. tit abut ket'itemet	You (pl) will bring a bag.
5. terike t'olhoroģele miem	The old lady waited for the rabbit.
6. tut numeģe mitkele mietem	He will wait for us at home.
7. tut t'olhoro juōtem	He will see the rabbit.
8. mit gōrakte tetul juōteģ	We will see you (sg) in town.
9. tet ahidūteģek	You (sg) will hide.
10. met t'obulģe jaraje	I swam in the sea.
11. adil jarateģ	The boy will swim.
12. met titul el miele	I didn't wait for you (pl)

**Q9.1.** On your answer sheet, translate the following into English.

- a. t'olhoro adilģet el ahidūģ
- b. tet gōrakte t'obul juōtemek
- c. terike numele inabulagīm
- d. tut abutkele el ket'iteģ

**Q9.2.** On your answer sheet, translate the following into Kolyma Yukaghir.

- a. You (sg) swam in the sea.
- b. We will wait for the rabbit.
- c. The dog came with you (sg) from town.
- d. He will wait for the dog.
- e. You (sg) did not see us.
- f. You (pl) will hate the house.

Your name:

# The UK Linguistics Olympiad 2020

## Round 1



### Solution and marking.

Scoring: (max 33)

- 9.1: 1 point for each correct sentence element (marked by | ... |). (max 13)
  - Insist on words having correct grammatical function (subject, object etc).
  - Insist on correct number for *you* (e.g. "you (sg)").
  - Accept synonyms (e.g. *home* for *house*, *bring a bag with him* for *come with a bag*)
  - Unfortunately, sentence 1d is incorrect: it combines pronoun 'he' with the verb form for 'we'.
- 9.2: 1 point for each completely correct word. (max 20)
  - Deduct 1 for wrong word order, but accept all correct words.

9.1a.	The rabbit   did not hide   from the boy
b.	You (sg)   will see   the sea   in town
c.	The old lady   hated   the house
d.	We/He   will not come   with a bag. Or: We/He   2 will not bring   a bag.
9.2a.	tet t'obulge jarajek
b.	mit t'olhorogele mietej
c.	tow tetkele gōraktet ket'im
d.	tut towkele mietem
e.	tet mitul el juōmek
f.	tit nume inabulagitemet

### Commentary

- Word order is SOV
- Pronoun system is as follows:

	Sg	pl
1	met	mit
2	tet	tit
3	tut	n/a

Your name:

# The UK Linguistics Olympiad 2020

## Round 1



- Verbs are as follows (italicised are seen in Task 1)

verb	I -ed	You sg -ed	S/He -ed	You sg will	He will	We will	You pl will
hate	inabulagī		<i>inabulagīm</i>				2f
bring			ket'im		<i>ket'itej</i>		ket'itemet
see		juōmek		<i>juōtemek</i>	juōtem	juōtej	
wait	miele		miem		mietem	2b	
Hide			<i>ahidūj</i>	ahidūtejek			
Swim	jaraje	2a			jaratej		

'not' = *el* just before the verb.

Nouns and pronouns occur in five cases:

	subj	obj	With/for*	from	In/at
boy	adil			adilget	
home		2f	<i>numele</i>	numeget	numege
dog	2c		towkele		
bag		abut	<i>abutkele</i>		
old lady	terike				
rabbit	t'olhorō	t'olhorō	t'olhoroge		
town				2c	gōrakte
sea		t'obul			t'obulge
me	met	metul			
you (sg)	tet	tetul			
him	tut		tudele		
us	mit		mitkele		
you (pl)	tit	titul			

\* Also object of 'hate'

For 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> person, for object add -ul, for with/for add -kele; for 3<sup>rd</sup> person with/for tut>tudele, other forms not shown.