

Sixth International Olympiad in Theoretical, Mathematical and Applied Linguistics

Bulgaria, Sunny Beach, 4–9 August 2008

Problems for the Individual Contest

Rules for writing out the solutions

1. Do not copy the statements of the problems. Write down your solution to each problem on a separate sheet or sheets. On each sheet indicate the number of the problem, the number of your seat and your surname. Otherwise your work may be mislaid or misattributed.
2. Your answers must be well-argumented. Even a perfectly correct answer will be given a low score unless accompanied by an explanation.

Problem #1 (20 points). The following are words of the Micmac language written in the so-called Listuguj orthography, their phonetic transcriptions and English translations:

1	<i>tmi'gn</i>	[dəmīgən]	axe
2	<i>an'stawteg</i>	[anəstawtek]	unsafe
3	<i>gjiansale'wit</i>	[əkciānsalēwɪt]	archangel
4	<i>mgumie'jo'tlatl</i>	[əmkumiejōdəladəl]	to shoe (<i>a horse</i>)
5	<i>amqwanji'j</i>	[amx ^w ancīc]	spoon
6	<i>e'jnt</i>	[ējənt]	Indian agent
7	<i>tplutagan</i>	[ətpəludayan]	law
8	<i>ge'gwising</i>	[gēg ^w isink]	to lie on the top
9	<i>lnu'sgw</i>	[lənūsk ^w]	Indian woman
10	<i>g'p'ta'q</i>	[gəbədāx]	above, overhead
11	<i>epsaqtejg</i>	[epsaxteck]	stove

(a) Transcribe the following words:

12	<i>gsnqo'qon</i>	foolishness
13	<i>tg'poq</i>	spring water
14	<i>gmu'jmin</i>	raspberry
15	<i>emtoqwatg</i>	to worship
16	<i>te'plj</i>	goat

(b) Write in the Listuguj orthography:

17	[ətpədēsən]	south
18	[əmteskəm]	snake
19	[alaptək]	to look around
20	[gəlamen]	so, therefore

NB: Micmac is an Algonquian language. It is spoken by approx. 8000 people in Canada.

In the transcription [ə] ≈ o in *abbot*, [c] = ch in *church*, [j] = j in *Judge*, [x] = ch in Scottish *loch*, [y] is the same sound but voiced; [^w] shows that the preceding consonant is pronounced with rounded lips. The mark ~ denotes vowel length.

—Bozhidar Bozhanov