

Problem #5 (20 points). Here are some words and word combinations in Rotuman as well as their English translations:

‘el‘ele	shallow	mamasa	solid
‘ele	to be near	matiti	coldness
‘olo	to cut	matit mamasa	ice
a‘öf fau	year’s end	moafmofa	littered with rubbish
fäeag ‘u‘u	to use sign language	niu	copra
fau	year	nu‘suar tiro	window
hafhafu	rocky	nu‘sura	door
huag ‘el‘ele	impatient	pala	pierce
huag to‘a	courageous	piri	to curl
hül hafu	to blow (of a hurricane)	poagpoga = palpala	covered with holes
hün kia	base of the neck	pogi	night
huli	to turn over	puhraki	to boil, to bubble up
huni	lower end	pulu	glue
is ‘ā	sharp-pointed	kalu	bracelet; to encircle
is susu	nipple	riamrima	shiny
lala	deep	rū huga	stomach-ache
maf tiro	spectacles	to‘a	hero

- (a) Here are the Rotuman names of seven body parts as well as their English translations in arbitrary order. Determine the correct correspondences:

‘u‘u, isu, kia, leva, mafa, susu, huga
 breast, eye, arm/hand, hair, heart, neck, nose

- (b) Translate into English:

tiro, poga (noun), *huag lala, haf puhraki, maf pogī = maf pala.*

- (c) Translate into Rotuman:

round; to cut copra; curly hair; sticky; to flash; rubbish.

- (d) Using the material given above you cannot translate ‘word’ and ‘to exhaust’ into Rotuman with certainty. What would the theoretically possible translations of these words into Rotuman be?

⚠ Rotuman belongs to the Austronesian family. It is spoken by approx. 9000 people in Fiji.
 ‘ is a consonant (the so-called glottal stop); a is an open o; ä ≈ a in crack; ö = French eu or German ö; ü = French u or German ü. The mark “–” denotes vowel length.

Copra is the dried kernel of a coconut.

—Boris Iomdin, Alexander Piperski

Editors: Aleksandrs Berdičevskis, Svetlana Burlak, Ivan Derzhanski (editor-in-chief), Hugh Dobbs, Liudmila Fedorova, Dmitry Gerasimov, Ksenia Gilyarova, Gabrijela Hladnik, Boris Iomdin, Bruno L’Astorina, Jae Kyu Lee, Aleksejs Peguševs, Alexander Piperski, Maria Rubinstein, Rosina Savisaar, Artūrs Semeņuks, Pavel Sofroniev.

English text: Boris Iomdin, Maria Konoshenko, Alexander Piperski, Artūrs Semeņuks.

Good luck!