Perea, Gatt, Moret-Tatay, and Fabri (“Are all Semitic languages immune to letter transpositions? The case of Maltese”)

List of the Maltese sentences employed in the experiment. The transposed words are in red. Each sentence is followed by its English translation.

1. Ilbieraħ Marija libset (lisbet) id-dublett l-iswed (l-iwsed)li kienet xtrat Londra.

Yesterday Maria put on the black skirt she had bought in London.

1. Il-priġunier kien marbut (mabrut) u miżmum ġo kamra fejn kien hemm biss barmil (bamril) bl-ilma.

The prisoner was tied up and held in a room where there was only a bucket of water.

3 Is-sultan (Is-sutlan) ma xtaqx li jinkixfu (jinkifxu) s-sigrieti kollha tal-istat.

The king did not wish that all the secrets of the state be revealed,

4 Dak il-miġnun (il-minġun) kien jgħix waħdu f'maqjel (f'majqel) liema bħalu.

That crazy man used to live alone in a terrible pig-sty.

5 Il-bidwi qal li l-ġidra (l-ġirda) tiegħu kienet l-akbar (l-abkar) f'Malta kollha.

The farmer said that his turnip was the biggest in all Malta.

6 Ix-xandar (Ix-xadnar) irid jaqra dak li jkollu miktub (mitkub) fil-karti quddiemu.

The broadcaster has to read whatever is written in his papers.

7 L-isqof (L-iqsof) għadda ġurnata jqarben (jqabren) lill-anzjani tar-raħal.

The bishop spent a whole day giving holy communion to the village elderly.

8 L-ilsiera (L-ilsiera) ħaffru ħofra taħt l-art u ħarbu (ħabru) miċ-ċella.

The slaves dug a hole underground and escaped from the cell.

9 It-tfal jitgħallmu l-aħjar (l-ajħar) jekk jaqraw ħafna kotba (kobta) adattati għalihom.

Children learn best if they read many books suited for their age.

10 L-għalliema ħatfet (ħaftet) lill-istudent li ħarbex (ħabrex) ismu fuq il-pitazzi kollha.

The teacher told off the pupil who smeared his name on all the copybooks.

11 Pawlu ħass tingiża (tigniża) f'siequ u kellu jbiddel iż-żarbun (iż-żabrun).

Paul felt a sting in his foot and he had to change his shoes.

12 Illejla fil-ħamsa (fil-ħasma) jkunu nħelsu (nħeslu) l-ostaġġi kollha.

Tonight at five all the hostages will have been released.

13 Qabel marret tiżfen (tifzen )għaddiet id-dublett għax kien fih ħafna tikmix (timkix).

Before she went to dance she ironed her skirt because it was very creased.

14 Tant kienu maħmuġin (mamħuġin) li kellhom jinħaslu (jinħalsu) bil-broxk.

They were so dirty that they had to get washed with a brush.

15 Ġanna fetħet (feħtet) il-bieb u daħlet naħla (nalħa) daqsiex li niggżitha fuq imneħirha.

Jane opened the door and a wasp flew in that stung her on the nose.

16 Fix-xitwa (Fix-xiwta) jkollna kullimkien magħluq u fis-sajf kollox miftuħ (mitfuħ).

In winter everywhere is closed and in summer everything is open.

17 It-tfal intilfu (intiflu) fil-foresta u waqfu jorqdu taħt siġra (sirġa) kbira.

The children got lost in the forest and stopped to sleep under a large tree.

18 Qalli biex norbot (nobrot) il-ħabel hemm fuq u ninżel (niżnel) miegħu.

He told me to tie the rope up there and climb down.

19 Riedet tagħmel il-ħasla (il-ħalsa) imma lanqas ħarġet qatra (qarta) waħda mill-vit.

She wanted to do the wash but not even a drop came out of the tap.

20 Ħareġ jittawwal fil-bitħa (fil-biħta) u ra l-kelba tiġri (tirġi) wara l-qattusa.

He went out to look into the yard and saw a dog chasing a cat.