

## Problem 10. Filomeno Mata Totonac (25 marks)

Ideophones are a type of word found in some languages that, as well as having a literal meaning, evoke a sensory image. They are the only major part of speech that is not found in English, although verbs like *glimmer* and *clink* are comparable.

Filomeno Mata Totonac (FMT), a variety of the Totonac language family spoken in Mexico, has ideophones, which often come in series of different intensities - compare the English verbs *clink*, *clank*, *clunk*. Below are some examples of ideophones in FMT, along with examples of how they could be used. But beware, one of the words given in the table is not a real ideophone!



Note that **š** is the *sh* in *ship*; **q** is similar to *k* in *milk* but pronounced further back in the mouth; **ʔ** is the glottal stop, the consonant in the middle of *uh-oh*; **tʃ** is the Welsh *ll* in *Llanelli*, a sound similar to **l**.

The word...	could describe things that	The word...	could describe things that...
<b>tsitseqe</b>	<i>are black</i>	f)	<i>are dark grey</i>
<b>smukuku</b>	<i>are yellow</i>	<b>tsiiki</b>	<i>smell like scented soap</i>
<b>škuuta</b>	<i>are sour or bitter</i>	<b>skunku</b>	<i>smell/taste like fish or eggs</i>
<b>tšiiki</b>	<i>smell like burnt hair or feathers</i>	<b>ɬqonqɬ</b>	<i>sound like snoring</i>
<b>peqš peqš</b>	<i>sound like shelling beans</i>	<b>squuta</b>	<i>are sour or acidic</i>
<b>spuponqo</b>	<i>are blue or purple</i>	g)	<i>are light green</i>
a)	<i>are red</i>	<b>qululu</b>	<i>are round or spherical</i>
<b>šalala</b>	<i>are full of holes</i>	<b>muks</b>	<i>smell flowery</i>
b)	<i>are hot (to the touch)</i>	<b>hakš</b>	<i>smell/taste like onion or mildew<sup>1</sup></i>
<b>muqu</b>	<i>smell like mildew or petrol</i>	<b>loqs loqs</b>	<i>sound like someone being slapped</i>
c)	<i>sound like a cow or horse walking</i>	<b>ɬmukuku</b>	<i>are pale yellow</i>
<b>škayiwɬa</b>	<i>are green</i>	h)	<i>smell like burnt beans</i>
<b>mukɬ</b>	<i>are overly flowery</i>	i)	<i>sound like someone splashing in a puddle</i>
d)	<i>smell like urine</i>	<b>ɬpuponqo</b>	<i>are violet<sup>2</sup></i>
<b>piks piks</b>	<i>sound like dripping water</i>	j)	<i>are thick</i>
<b>spupuku</b>	<i>are blue-grey</i>	k)	<i>smell/taste like egg</i>
<b>mululu</b>	<i>are indented</i>	l)	<i>sound like a deer or goat walking</i>
e)	<i>are warm</i>	m)	<i>sound like water flowing</i>
<b>ɬqonqo</b>	<i>smell/taste like beef or mutton</i>	<b>saqaqa</b>	<i>are white</i>
<b>tiɬ tiɬ</b>	<i>sound like grains being poured</i>	<b>haks</b>	<i>smell/taste like orange peel</i>
		<b>lasasa</b>	<i>are thin</i>

<sup>1</sup> Mildew is a fungus similar to mould, known for a distinctive foul smell.

<sup>2</sup> Violet is shade of purple that is typically lighter.

**Q 10.1** Complete the gaps with the following words: **haqł, kapa kapa, ḥkayiwʔa, ḥkunku, ḥtululu, qapa qapa, tiš tiš, tħitħeqe, tsiits, tsutsoqo, tħseeq, tħiitħ, tħikħ tħikħ**

**Q 10.2** Which of the words given in the table (that is, not including the words in the gaps) is not an ideophone?

**Q 10.3** Suggest English translations of: **skuuta; šquuta; tħutħoqo**

**Q 10.4** A speaker of Filomeno Mata Totonac describes a ripe banana using the ideophones **pamama, smoqoqo, and seqsi**. Which property of the banana does each word describe?

**Q 10.5** Another speaker describes popcorn using the ideophones **saqaqa, squuq and tsatata**. Which property of the popcorn does each word describe?

## Problem 10. Filomeno Answers and Explanation (1/2)

Total: 33 points

### Problem 10. Filomeno Mata Totonac

**10.1** 1pt per correct match. Max 13.

haqt <b>D</b>	kapa kapa <b>L</b>	t̄kayiw̄a <b>G</b>	t̄kunku <b>K</b>	t̄tululu <b>J</b>	qapa qapa <b>C</b>	tiš tiš <b>M</b>
t̄tit̄leqe <b>F</b>	tsiits <b>E</b>	tsutsoqo <b>A</b>	t̄sheeq <b>H</b>	t̄siit̄š <b>B</b>	t̄sik̄ t̄sik̄ <b>I</b>	X

### 10.2 škayiw̄a

Please write in your answer next to its corresponding word

<b>10.3</b>	skuuta <i>slightly sour</i>	<b>10.5</b>	saqaqa <i>colour/white/...</i>	
	šquuta <i>very sour</i>		squuq <i>taste/smell/flavour/...</i>	
	t̄sut̄soqo <i>reddish / pink/...</i>		tsatata <i>shape/texture</i>	
<b>10.4</b>	pamama <i>shape/texture/...</i>			
	šmoqoqo <i>colour/yellow/...</i>			
	seqsi <i>taste/smell/flavour/...</i>			

**Q 10.2** 2pt if correct; 1 if one letter is wrong. Max 2.

**Q 10.3** 2pt for each correct; 1 if one word is wrong. Allow similar. Max 6.

**Q 10.4** Allow similar, so long as the student correctly identifies the sense each word refers to. For example, allow long, curved or cylindrical as approximate banana shapes. Do not allow e.g., pretty. Ignore surplus verbs such as *are yellow*. 2 marks if correct. Max 6.

Note that **pamama** = soft, yielding; **šmoqoqo** = deep yellow like ripe fruit; **seqsi** = sweet

**Q 10.5** Allow similar, so long as the student correctly identifies the sense each word refers to.

For example, allow standard popcorn flavours like *salty* or *sweet* instead of *taste*, but do not allow *dry*, which refers to a texture.

2 marks if correct. Max 6.

Note that **saqaqa** = white; **squuq** = salty; **tsatata** = soft.

## Problem 10. Filomeno Explanation (2/2)

### Explanation

There are three consonant series: S = {s, š, tʃ}, T = {ts, tš, tʃ}, K = {k, q}.

There are also three vowel set: A = {a}, I = {i, e}, U = {u,o}.

Ideophones fall into four categories:

- “Colours” have the form **C<sub>1</sub> (C) V<sub>1</sub> C<sub>1/2</sub> V<sub>2</sub> C<sub>2</sub> V<sub>2</sub>**.
  - Note C<sub>1</sub> must be in S or T, while C<sub>2</sub> must be in K.
  - V<sub>1</sub> and V<sub>2</sub> must be from the same vowel set.
  - Moving C<sub>1</sub> up the series makes the colour paler.
- “Shapes” have the form **C<sub>1</sub> (C) V<sub>1</sub> C<sub>2</sub> V<sub>1</sub> C<sub>2</sub> V<sub>1</sub>**.
- “Sounds/motions” are one word repeated, which must contain at least one consonant from S, T or K.  
“Odours/flavours” can have any form, but must contain at least one consonant from S, T or K, usually two.
  - Words that differ only by consonants in the same series, and vowels in the same set have related meanings.
  - Typically, moving up the consonant series creates a “heavier” or “stronger” sensation.

Note that you do not need to figure out *all* of this explanation to completely solve the problem.