

**Problem 1 (20 points).** Below is given an inscribed lead tablet discovered in 1994 in Alicante, Spain. It shows a text in the Iberian language, written in the Levantine system:



You already know that the first word on the tablet is **šebirín**.

Below are given, in random order, the Latin transcriptions of 12 of the other words that appear on the tablet. One of the words contains a mistake!

**arbais, aurelen, bantaškalir, bantubailkunmí, belštaukui, beřenultiteś, iumabeleś, kitei, kuteńnaníśil, sonai, taubaštetaś, toroś**

(a) Write the correct transcription of the word containing the mistake in Latin script.

(continued on next page)

(b) Here are 4 more words which appear on the tablet. The transcription is incomplete. The gaps are marked by ..., which may mark one or more letters.

- d. ...uki...ré      e. keke...r...ban      f. ...n...le...s      g. n...i

Write the full transcription of these words.

(c) The number 31 appears somewhere on the tablet. Below are given some more numerals in the same notation system:

- a.  $\diagup$  |||      b.  $\diagup$   $\diagup$       c.  $\diagup$   $\diagup$  ||

Write them using Arabic numerals.

(d) Write the Latin transcription of the remaining words, in the order in which they appear on the tablet.

△ Iberian is an extinct unclassified language which used to be spoken in the regions of present-day Spain and France around the 1st c. AD.

ř, ś, and ř are consonants similar to r, s, and m, respectively.

—Vlad A. Neacșu

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**Problem 2 (20 points).** Here are some sentences in Hausa and their English translations:

1. **saabuwa'y 'yaa tanàa tàmbyàn bàabansù**  
*The young daughter is asking their uncle.*
2. **saabon bàabaa yanàa dàakatàb baabà**  
*The young uncle is waiting for the aunt.*
3. **Kandè tanàa hàràarà'y 'yassù**  
*Kande is gazing at their daughter.*
4. **'yakkù taa hàràari doogon ɗaa**  
*Your<sub>pl</sub> daughter gazed at the tall son.*
5. **tsoofuwab baabà taa dàakàti 'yaa**  
*The old aunt waited for the daughter.*

(a) Translate into English:

6. **Kandè tanàa tàmbyàb baabàssù**
7. **tsoofon Musa yaa hàràari ɗaa**

(b) Translate into Hausa:

8. *The tall daughter asked the aunt.*
9. *Your<sub>pl</sub> son is gazing at Musa.*
10. *The aunt is waiting for Kande.*

△ Hausa belongs to the Chadic branch of the Afro-Asiatic language family. It is spoken by approx. 51 million people natively in West Africa.

Kande and Musa are persons names. The mark ◻ indicates low level tone, while its absence indicates high level tone. 'y and ɗ are consonants.

—Tsuyoshi Kobayashi

**Problem 3 (20 points).** Here are some phrases in Romanian and their English translations:

|                                                      |                                                                              |
|------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>copilul micuț al cetățeanului viteaz</b>          | <i>the small child<sub>M</sub> of the brave citizen<sub>M</sub></i>          |
| <b>aptul cetățean al nepoatei moarte</b>             | <i>the skilled citizen<sub>M</sub> of the dead niece</i>                     |
| <b>camarazii curioși ai sătulelor cetățene</b>       | <i>the curious comrades<sub>M</sub> of the satiated citizens<sub>F</sub></i> |
| <b>viclenii nepoți ai înalților copii</b>            | <i>the cunning nephews of the tall children<sub>M</sub></i>                  |
| <b>camarada smeadă a mireselelor flămânde</b>        | <i>the pale comrade<sub>F</sub> of the hungry brides</i>                     |
| <b>nepoata vicleană a curiosului urs</b>             | <i>the cunning niece of the curious bear<sub>M</sub></i>                     |
| <b>frumosul mânz al urșilor apți</b>                 | <i>the beautiful foal<sub>M</sub> of the skilled bears<sub>M</sub></i>       |
| <b>goalele nomade ale micuței camarade</b>           | <i>the underdressed nomads<sub>F</sub> of the small comrade<sub>F</sub></i>  |
| <b>profesorul viteaz al hoților smezi</b>            | <i>the brave teacher<sub>M</sub> of the pale thieves<sub>M</sub></i>         |
| <b>sătuii studenți ai hoaței înalte</b>              | <i>the satiated students<sub>M</sub> of the tall thief<sub>F</sub></i>       |
| <b>mireasa înaltă a flămânzilor profesori</b>        | <i>the tall bride of the hungry teachers<sub>M</sub></i>                     |
| <b>moartele verișoare ale frumoaselor profesoare</b> | <i>the dead cousins<sub>F</sub> of the beautiful teachers<sub>F</sub></i>    |

(a) Translate into English:

1. **hoțul flămând al copilelor viteze**
2. **micuța cetățeană a mânjilor frumoși**
3. **studentele viclene ale înaltului nepot**

(b) Translate into Romanian:

4. *the brave cousins<sub>M</sub> of the dead foals<sub>M</sub>*
5. *the satiated thief<sub>F</sub> of the underdressed nomads<sub>M</sub>*
6. *the curious cousin<sub>F</sub> of the skilled child<sub>F</sub>*

If more translations are possible, write only one.

(c) Translate into Romanian in all possible ways:

7. *the small citizens<sub>M</sub> of the underdressed nomad<sub>M</sub>*

(d) In the last centuries, one consonant (that used to exist in Romanian) disappeared by merging with another consonant. Which sound was that and how is it pronounced nowadays?

△ Romanian belongs to the Romance branch of the Indo-European family. It is spoken by approx. 24 million people primarily in Romania and the Republic of Moldova.

A *foal* is a baby horse.

**j** = *s* in *vision*; **ș** = *sh* in *shop*; **ț** = *ts* in *cats*; **z** = *z* in *zap*; **ă** = *a* in *about*; **â** and **î** are vowels.

Two consecutive vowels form a diphthong. A single **i** at the end of the word is called a "non-syllabic **i**" and it does not behave like a vowel. In order to become a vowel, it needs to be doubled (compare **buni** – one syllable – and **copii** – two syllables).

The subscripts <sub>M</sub> and <sub>F</sub> refer to masculine and feminine, respectively.

— Vlad A. Neacșu

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Good luck!