

Homework 1

DUE ON 8 OCTOBER 2012

Esperanta tradukseksercico

The data in (1–9) give some sentences in Esperanto (a made-up language invented by L. L. Zamendorf in the late 19th century), together with rather free translations into English.

- (1) La alta knabo malsaniĝis.
“The tall boy fell ill.”
- (2) Ĉu li grandigis la grandecon de la dormejo?
“Did he increase the size of the dormitory?”
- (3) Ankaŭ malaltaj knabinoj povas esti belaj.
“Short girls, too, can be beautiful.”
- (4) Mia patro estas sana ĉar li ne trinkas vinon.
“My father is healthy because he doesn’t drink wine.”
- (5) La bonaj monaĥinoj volis preĝi en la preĝejo.
“The good nuns wanted to pray in church.”
- (6) Lerni la esperantan lingvon estas facila.
“It is easy to learn Esperanto.”
- (7) Mi vidis ŝian onklon en la trinkejo.
“I saw her uncle in the bar.”
- (8) La beleco de la lingvo estas ĝia facileco.
“The beauty of the language is its simplicity.”
- (9) Ĉu vi konas miajn onklojn.
“Do you know my uncles?”

Part I

Provide a short morphemic dictionary (a “morphicon,” if you will) of Esperanto based on the examples in (1–9). Make sure this lexicon lists all the morphemes you can find along with their grammatical function or meaning. It may help to know that there is no allomorphy.

Part II

As best you can, write a phrase structure grammar that will generate all the sentences in (1–9). This is a good place for discussion of patterns in the word order of Esperanto. If you need any transformations, say why and give them explicitly.

Part III

Extend your grammar from Part II to account for all the morphology in Esperanto.

Part IV

Translate the following five sentences into Esperanto. Provide interlinear glosses for each resulting Esperanto sentence to help us understand your thinking.

- (10)a. Did her aunt know my mother?
b. His health deteriorated.
c. The boys can also learn difficult languages at school.
d. The monks adorned the church.
e. Does your mother want to put the boys to sleep?
(*hint*: where do you sleep at school?)

Part V

Discuss anything interesting about the morphosyntax of Esperanto. Make sure your discussion answers *at least* the following questions:

- All noun roots end in a certain vowel. What is it?
- All adjective roots also end in a certain vowel. What is it?
- What about verb roots...do they have a common ending?
- What kind of language is Esperanto, according to our typology of morphologies? What evidence tells you that?

Part VI

For extra credit, I think the person who made up this problem made a mistake in the title. What do you think I think that mistake is? Why do you think I think that?