

Олимпиада НИУ ВШЭ для студентов и выпускников – 2018 г.

Направление: «Фундаментальная и прикладная лингвистика»

Профиль: «Лингвистическая теория и описание языка/
Linguistic Theory and Language Description»

КОД – 311

Время выполнения задания – 180 мин., язык - английский.

Linguistic Theory and Language Description
Three hours, solutions in English

Task 1. Ladies first

John and Mary are playing a game of sticks. In front of them on the desk, they have six sticks and two coins. One coin has (1) on one side and (2) on the other side. The other has (2) on one side and (3) on the other side. In each turn, the player chooses a coin, throws it and collects as many sticks as shown on the coin. The person who collects the last stick wins. If the number on the coin is higher than the number of the sticks remaining on the desk, (s)he wins, too.

Mary plays first.

Question 1: under the assumption that each player chooses his best strategy, who has more chances to win?

Question 2: under the same assumption, what is the probability that this person wins?

Task 2. A perfect alibi

Imagine the following situation. A woman has two daughters, Bulbul and Zumzum. The daughter B talked to their mother when the daughter Z was away. B then comes to Z and reports what their mother told her (i.e. told B): their mother wants to see Z. B could do speech reporting in the following way:

| | | | | |
|----------|----------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| Z., | <i>buwa-mu</i> | <i>bo :</i> | <i>un</i> | <i>zaba.</i> |
| Z.(Nom), | mom-Erg | say.Pfv | you.sg(Nom) | come.Imp |

‘Z, mom told that you should come’. (rough translation)

Question 1. Assuming this is a speech reporting construction, state what is controversial about the linguistic forms used in the quote.

Question 2. Try to explain the use of these forms by suggesting a model of speech reporting in this language.

Notes and glosses. Ergative - ergative case marker (here encodes someone who speaks), Imperative - second person command, Nominative - nominative case marker (also used in address), Pfv - perfective stem (here means simple perfective past). Try not to postulate additional functions of the categories. Otherwise, these glosses are of no direct relevance to the problem of reporting and are given for the sake of completeness.