

Pembroke College, Cambridge

Classical Languages Aptitude Test for 4-year course applicants

Specimen paper

Solution

Tasks 1 and 2

The Hawaiian words would appear to mean the following: *ehiku* '7', *ekahi* '1', *aohe* 'no', *Mele* 'Mary', *Keone* 'John', *waa* 'canoe', *ona* 'he/she has', *ou* 'I have', *o* 'has', *kaikuahine* 'sister', *kaikunane* 'brother', *kaikaina* 'younger brother/sister', *kaikuaana* 'older brother/sister'.

At first, it seems that there is no difference between older (or younger) brother and sister (i.e. just like English 'sibling'; and *ona* can mean 'she has' or 'he has') – in fact, things are more complicated (see below). You can also see that there is no difference between singular and plural: *kaikaina* can mean 'younger brother' and 'younger sisters'. As far as word order is concerned, the numerals (*ehiku*, *ekahi*, *aohe*) come at the beginning of each sentence (where in English we find the subject) rather than before the word that they qualify.

Tasks 3 and 4

The third task seems to be not too difficult (we will come back to this later) but Task 4 one is more difficult. Which sentence contains the grammatical mistake? Note that sentence c) (*Ehiku ona kaikuaana* 'She has seven older brothers') already occurs in the examples given where it has another meaning ('He has seven older brothers'). So, sentence c) must be correct Hawaiian and thus the translation be wrong. Apparently, you cannot simply replace 'he' with 'she', even though '*ona*' in the examples can mean 'he/she has'. You can conclude from this that only as a man can you say to have *kaikuaana*, 'older brothers'; if a woman says it, the sentence means "She has seven older sisters." Then you see that sentence a) also occurs in Task 3 (sentence b), in other words, this sentence, too, has to be correct Hawaiian. So here, too, the mistake must lie in the translation, and once again the mistake must lie in the gender because 'I' ('lady'!) cannot say that she has no sisters (*kaikuahine*). Therefore, sentence b) must contain the grammatical mistake: a man cannot say that he has *kaikunane* 'brother(s)'.

If you look again at the task you will see that *kaikunane* 'brother' and *kaikuahine* 'sister' can only be used for siblings of the opposite gender of yourself while *kaikuaana* means 'older brother/sister of the same gender' and

kaikana ‘younger brother/sister of the same gender’. In other words, in Hawaiian when talking about brothers or sisters of the same gender you need to indicate whether they are younger or older. This is a mirror image of the situation in English: while in English we can indicate whether our sibling is male ‘brother’ or female ‘sister’, the Hawaiians indicate whether their sibling of the same gender is younger or older. The solution thus looks as follows:

Task 3

a) *Aohe ou kaikuaana.*

I have no older sister/brother.

b) *Aohe ou kaikuahine.*

I (a man) have no sister.

Task 4

a) *Aohe ou kaikuahine.*

I (a man) have no sister.

c) *Ehiku ona kaikuaana.*

She has seven older sisters **or**

He has seven older brothers.

Sentence b) (*Ekahi o Keone kaikunane*) is grammatically incorrect. You could, for example, use a female name (like *Mele*) or replace *kaikunane* with another kinship term (*kaikaina*, *kaikuaana*).