

Problem 4: No Zeroes in Xerénte

(14 marks)

Given below are some number phrases in Xerénte¹ and their equivalents in Hindu-Arabic numerals, in random order. All the numbers in this problem are greater than zero and less than a hundred.

sahure-pra'ně, smĩ'si, mrěprăně, sikwa're, srure-'sru, sahure-si'ptō,
siptō're, praně're, sikwaĩ'pse, sipta'tō, sahure-si'kwa, ponkwa'ně

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 13, 14, 15, 30, 40, 50, 77

Here are some hints:

- The difference between sru'ru and ponkwa'ně lies between sikwaĩ'pse and sipra'ně.
- sikuiwa'mě + sikwaĩ'pse = ĩssui'bka + mrěprăně

Assignment 1: (4 marks)

Match the Xerénte number phrases to their equivalent numbers.

Assignment 2: (2 marks)

Write these numbers in Xerénte:

- | | |
|--------|--------|
| (a) 11 | (d) 89 |
| (b) 32 | (e) 98 |
| (c) 66 | |

Assignment 3: (2 marks)

Write these numbers in Hindu-Arabic numerals:

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| (a) kuburere-'bka | (d) kuburere-kwa'ně |
| (b) sikware-kui'wa | (e) praně're-mĩ'si |
| (c) praně're-si'ně | |

Assignment 4: (6 marks)

How are words or parts of words put together to form numbers in Xerénte? What are the functions of these words or parts?

– Mukund Choudhary

¹The Xerénte language (also known as Sherenté) is spoken by the Xerénte people of Brazil.