

# PROBLEM #5

A story of one Akan family...

*By Ksenia Gilyarova*



**Language: Akan**

**Family: Atlantic-Congo**

(Kwa group)

**Where spoken: Ghana**

**Number of speakers: 8,000,000**



Akan metalwork from the Brooklyn Museum, New York City, United States,  
<https://www.brooklynmuseum.org/>



# Sentence structure

Yεfrε me X = I am X

Yεfrε me Y X = My Y is X

where X is a name, Y is a kinship term

ne = and

*Yεfrε me Enu*

*Yεfrε me yere Kunto*

*Yεfrε me nuanom Awotwi ne Nsia*



1. Yɛfrɛ me Enu. Yɛfrɛ me banom Thema ne Yaw ne Ama. Yɛfrɛ me yere Kunto. Yɛfrɛ me nuanom Awotwi ne Nsia. Yɛfrɛ me wɔfaase Berko.
2. Yɛfrɛ me Kofi. Yɛfrɛ me nua Esi. Yɛfrɛ me agya Ofori. Yɛfrɛ me sewaanom Dubaku ne Kunto. Yɛfrɛ me sewaabanom Yaw ne Ama ne Kobina.
3. Yɛfrɛ me Kobina. Yɛfrɛ me enanom Dubaku ne Kunto. Yɛfrɛ me nuanom Yaw ne Ama. Yɛfrɛ me wɔfa Ofori. Yɛfrɛ me yere Efua.

**nom** – plural marker



# Iroquois kinship system

Two siblings of the same gender are considered to be identical: the same word is used for mother and mother's sister,  
for father and father's brother,  
for siblings and parallel cousins (children of mother's sister and father's brother).

The iroquois system occurs in Most of the Bantu-speaking cultures of Eastern and Southern sub-Saharan Africa, in North America (Iroquois and their neighbors), in Melanesia.



# Kinship terms in Akan

ɛna = mother or mother's sister

agya = father or father's brother

nua = sibling or parallel cousin (child of mother's sister or father's brother)

ba = child or same-gender sibling's child

sewaa = father's sister)

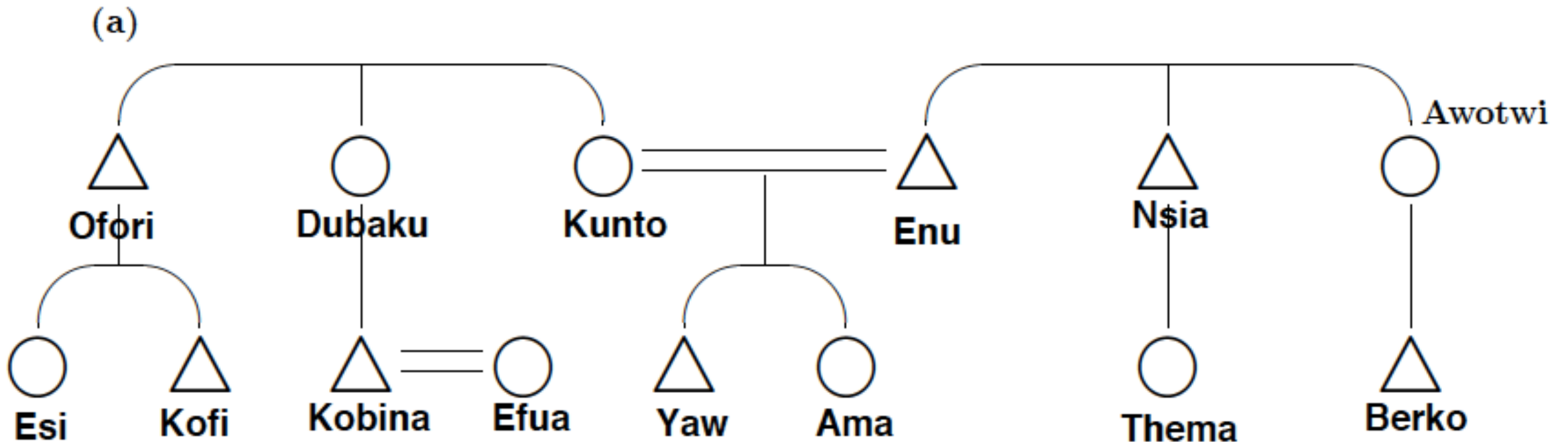
sewaaba = child of father's sister

wɔfa = mother's brother

wɔfaase = sister's son or daughter

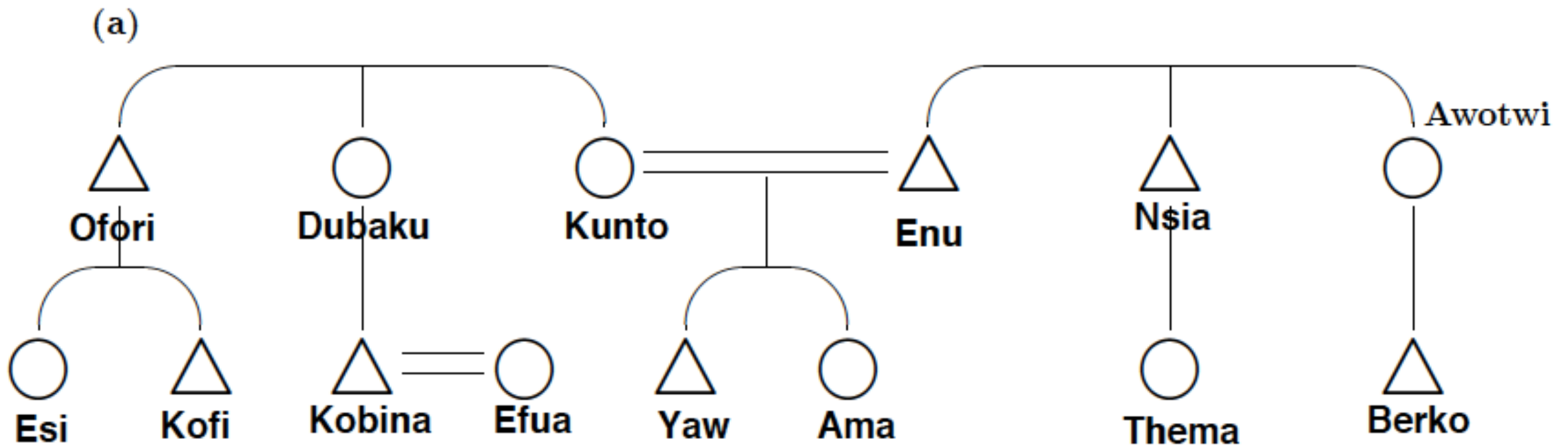
yere = wife





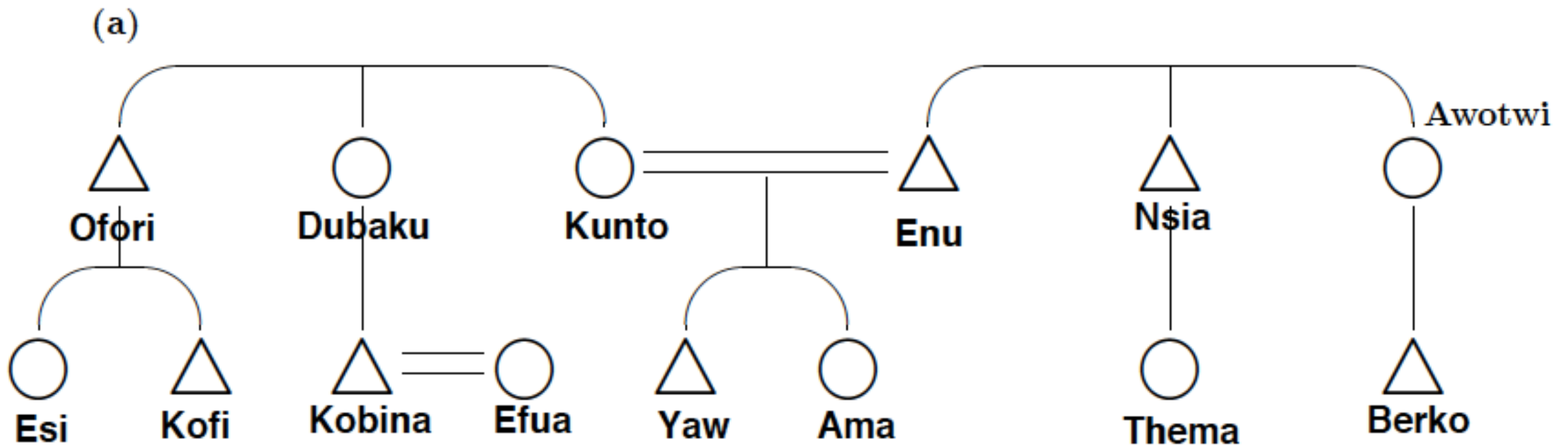
1. Yɛfrɛ me Enu. Yɛfrɛ me **banom** Thema ne Yaw ne Ama. Yɛfrɛ me **yere** Kunto. Yɛfrɛ me **nuanom** Awotwi ne Nsia. Yɛfrɛ me **wɔfaase** Berko.
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3. Yɛfrɛ me Kobina. Yɛfrɛ me **ɛnanom** Dubaku ne Kunto. Yɛfrɛ me **nuanom** Yaw ne Ama. Yɛfrɛ me **wɔfa** Ofori. Yɛfrɛ me **yere** Efua.





- (b)
1. Yɛfrɛ me Yaw. Yɛfrɛ me enanom **Dubaku ne Kunto**. Yɛfrɛ me **agyanom** Nsia ne **Enu**. Yɛfrɛ me nuanom Thema ne **Ama ne Kobina**. Yɛfrɛ me **sewaa** Awotwi. Yɛfrɛ me **wɔfa** Ofori. Yɛfrɛ me \_\_\_\_\_ Esi ne **Kofi**. Yɛfrɛ me **sewaaba** Berko.
  2. Yɛfrɛ me **Ofori**. Yɛfrɛ me banom Kofi ne **Esi**. Yɛfrɛ me **wɔfaasenom** Yaw ne **Ama ne Kobina**. Yɛfrɛ me **nuanom** Kunto ne **Dubaku**.





- (b) 1. Yεfrε me Yaw. Yεfrε me enanom **Dubaku ne Kunto**. Yεfrε me **agyanom** Nsia ne **Enu**. Yεfrε me nuanom Thema ne **Ama ne Kobina**. Yεfrε me **sewaa** Awotwi. Yεfrε me **wɔfa** Ofori. Yεfrε me **wɔfabanom** Esi ne **Kofi**. Yεfrε me **sewaaba** Berko.
2. Yεfrε me **Ofori**. Yεfrε me banom Kofi ne **Esi**. Yεfrε me **wɔfaasenom** Yaw ne **Ama ne Kobina**. Yεfrε me **nuanom** Kunto ne **Dubaku**.





**Hugh Dobbs**

**Bruno L'Astorina**



# GRADING SCHEME

## Practice

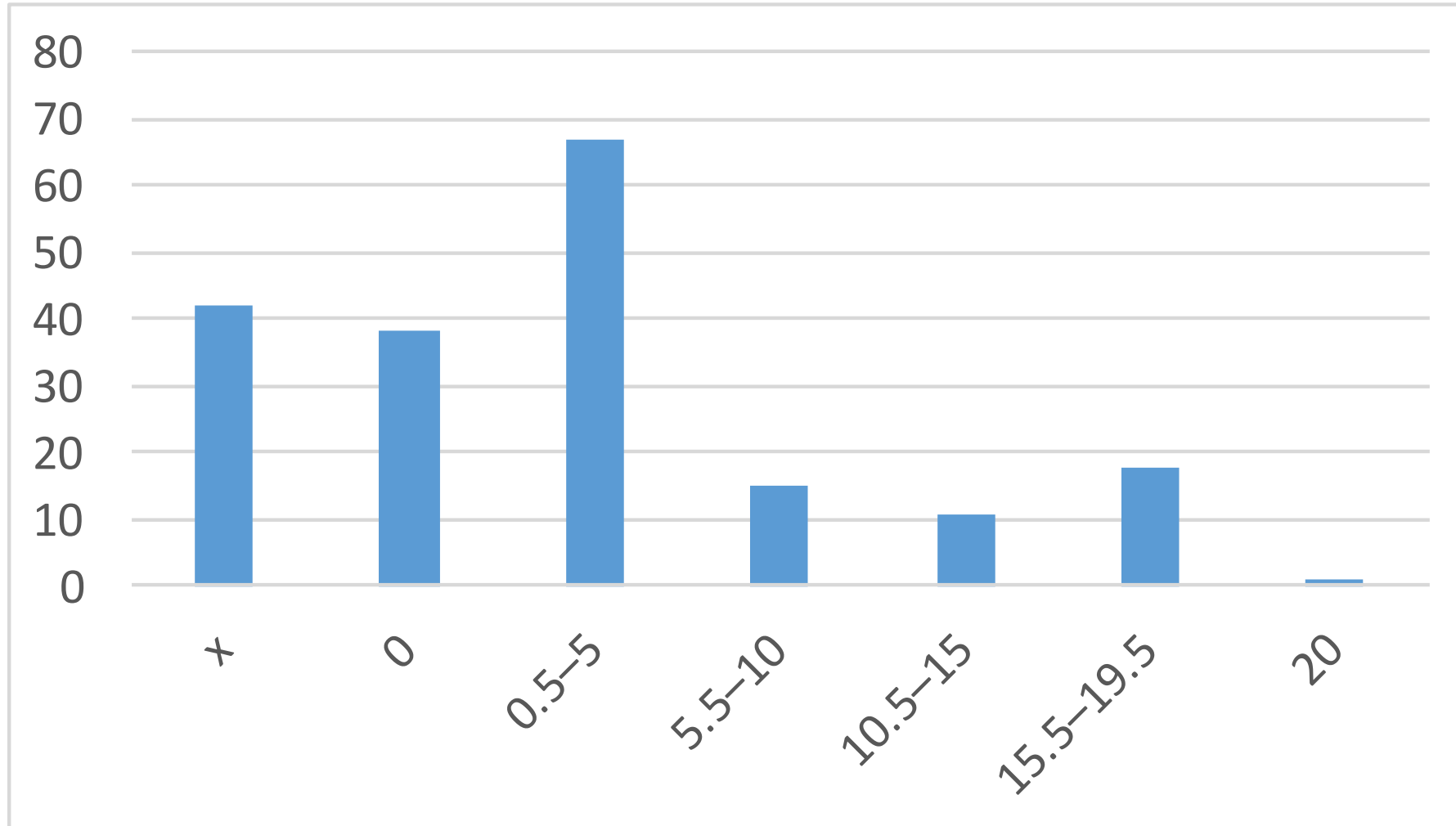
- maximum 6 points for assignment (a)
- maximum 10 points for assignment (b)  
(wofaba – 1.5 points/)

## Theory

- 4 points



# DISTRIBUTION OF MARKS



- 192 participants
- 150 papers submitted
- average score = 4
- 38 participants got 0 points
- 1 participant got 20 points
- 7 participants got 19,5 points



# The prize for the best solution goes to...

- Swapnil Garg (USA)
- Przemysław Podleśny (Poland)
- Angikar Ghosal (India)





emma  
@negansvoid



Follow

name a more iconic duo.. I'll wait.



THANK YOU!

te agya Olori. Y  
Yaw ne Ama r

