**Hamid Jafari Sharemi – W7/T1**

The passage and the lecture are both discussing the reason for a vast explosion in the Tunguska area, Siberia. The author of the reading believes that the reason was a huge explosion of methane gas. The lecturer casts doubt on this point. He thinks that the cause is an asteroid’s explosion above the earth.

First, the author states that examinations did not show any evidence of an asteroid, because they are consisted of nickel and iridium, which are easily detected. He/She also mentions that nobody reported a view of asteroid in the sky. The lecturer disagrees with these statements. He says that there are some eyewitnesses for his conclusion. They reported a bright light and something like a split in the sky.

Second, the reading asserts that there are no impact craters representing the strike. Furthermore, a wide destroyed area, including many damaged trees, shows a methane gas explosion. However, the professor mentions that since the asteroid explosion occurred when it entered the atmosphere, we do not expect any impact craters on the earth. Any related rocks could be washed away or be in a very small quantity that was not recognizable. Besides that, all trees around the area were standing, and they only experienced some damages in their branches and barks.

Finally, although the text gives the idea that the cause was a huge amount of methane gas, stored underground and released naturally or by humans, the speaker states that the amount of pure methane gas required for this vast explosion is very high and there have not been this quantity. He also mentions that there was no witness reporting a fire or burning in the nearby forest, which is an essential consequent of an explosion in that amount of gas.