The topic of the article, as well as the lecture, is bout Steller's extinction as a huge marine mammal. The author states that there exist three theories so as to justify the primary cause of extinction. In contrast, the lecturer casts doubt on all of the reasons the passage indicates about the authenticity of this study. He proposes that no one knows the main reason for this extinction, and there is a problem with each theory.

Initially, the author argues sea cows were an appropriate source of foods for native Siberian people, so they might have been overhunted by them. However, the lecturer points out that these mammals were massive creaturs with an excessive length and weight, so hunting two of them was adequate for native people's food. Hence they did not need to hunter a myriad of them, resulting in extinction.

Second, the writer thinks that ecosystem disturbances adjacent to Bering Island cause a decline in the kelp population, which were their main source of food. Yet again, the speaker underscores that these ecological changes could have affected other plant species and marine animals, like Whales, but fish shippings did not have report Whales' extinction.

The final point of disagreement between the reading and the listening passage is European fur traders. The author claims European fur traders who came to the island after 1741 hunted by weapons, which enabled them to kill a great deal of the animals. On the other hand, the lecturer asserts that these traders arrived at this site when the sea cows' population had already been declined.