

## Basic Vocabulary List

1	<b>I</b>	26	<b>root</b>	51	<b>breasts</b>	76	<b>rain</b>
2	<b>you</b>	27	<b>bark</b>	52	<b>heart</b>	77	<b>stone</b>
3	<b>we</b>	28	<b>skin</b>	53	<b>liver</b>	78	<b>sand</b>
4	<b>this</b>	29	<b>flesh</b>	54	<b>drink</b>	79	<b>earth</b>
5	<b>that</b>	30	<b>blood</b>	55	<b>eat</b>	80	<b>cloud</b>
6	<b>who</b>	31	<b>bone</b>	56	<b>bite</b>	81	<b>smoke</b>
7	<b>what</b>	32	<b>grease</b>	57	<b>see</b>	82	<b>fire</b>
8	<b>not</b>	33	<b>egg</b>	58	<b>hear</b>	83	<b>ash</b>
9	<b>all</b>	34	<b>horn</b>	59	<b>know</b>	84	<b>burn</b>
10	<b>many</b>	35	<b>tail</b>	60	<b>sleep</b>	85	<b>path</b>
11	<b>one</b>	36	<b>feather</b>	61	<b>die</b>	86	<b>mountain</b>
12	<b>two</b>	37	<b>hair</b>	62	<b>kill</b>	87	<b>red</b>
13	<b>big</b>	38	<b>head</b>	63	<b>swim</b>	88	<b>green</b>
14	<b>long</b>	39	<b>eye</b>	64	<b>fly</b>	89	<b>yellow</b>
15	<b>small</b>	40	<b>ear</b>	65	<b>walk</b>	90	<b>white</b>
16	<b>woman</b>	41	<b>nose</b>	66	<b>come</b>	91	<b>black</b>
17	<b>man</b>	42	<b>mouth</b>	67	<b>lie</b>	92	<b>night</b>
18	<b>person</b>	43	<b>tooth</b>	68	<b>sit</b>	93	<b>hot</b>
19	<b>fish</b>	44	<b>tongue</b>	69	<b>stand</b>	94	<b>cold</b>
20	<b>bird</b>	45	<b>claw</b>	70	<b>give</b>	95	<b>full</b>
21	<b>dog</b>	46	<b>foot</b>	71	<b>say</b>	96	<b>new</b>
22	<b>louse</b>	47	<b>knee</b>	72	<b>sun</b>	97	<b>good</b>
23	<b>tree</b>	48	<b>hand</b>	73	<b>moon</b>	98	<b>round</b>
24	<b>seed</b>	49	<b>belly</b>	74	<b>star</b>	99	<b>dry</b>
25	<b>leaf</b>	50	<b>neck</b>	75	<b>water</b>	100	<b>name</b>

What do you notice about this list? What do you think is good? Do you see any problems with it? Semantic Grammatical Items on the list:

Pronouns (1-3), locatives (4-5), Q-words (6-7), negation (8), quantifiers (9-10), numbers (11-12), dimension adjectives (13-15), gender (16-17), human term (18), biological (19-22), plants etc (23-27), anatomical (28-31), grease? (32), animal stuff (33-36), anatomical (37-44), animal stuff (45), anatomical (46-53), consumption verbs (55-57) less animate verbs (57-60), action verbs (61-65), less animate verbs (66-71), astronomy (72-74), terrestrial (75-79), cooking (80-84), geography (85-86), color terms adjectives (87-91), time (92), temperature adjectives (92-93), various adjectives (95-99) nominative (100).

It seems like it is somewhat disorganized in terms of semantic domains. The use of semantic domains gives the people you are working with a sense of context. Pictures may be helpful as well and other semiotic features such as gestures, but these too can be culturally defined. (I would probably keep all of the anatomical terms together. It may be helpful to order the verbal categories by an animacy hierarchy. I would also keep the anatomical terms together, and include the terms for people just prior to these. Question words and adjectives can be very difficult to elicit, so these may be best reserved until the end of your word list. It is best to start with the concepts you would consider the easiest, such simple nouns (those of nature), and move to trees, animals, people, anatomy, numbers, colors, verbs, adjectives, pronouns, adjectives, and question words, thereby moving from concrete items to more abstract items. You want to be familiar with the semantic domains of the people you will survey to know how they classify things.

Remember in developing this word list, Swadesh was after a way to give a time period of divergence for related languages. The word list is composed of basic terms that he considered most likely to resist change from borrowing. Then he assumed that these terms would change over time at a uniform rate (his analogy was based on radiometric dating methods where an isotope degrades at a uniform rate which by measuring, geologists, and paleontologists can give approximate dates to rocks and bones, respectively). His basis for assigning dates was to compare the language changes in Indo-European languages with known dates and use this to