

***Elicitation from the context: Semantic fields***

Try to elicit information from the following semantic fields and by using pictorial method discussed earlier.

The cues may be taken from the environment and the context of the speech. One should interview as many consultants as possible to have a wide range of words. Not everyone is efficient in all the fields. Some of the words especially those listed under 1, 2, and 3 below can be elicited by observing the society closely.

No.	Semantic Fields	Remarks	Grammar help
1.	Kinship terms	Make a chart of terms	How many are derived by reduplicating a syllable?
2.	Address terms	Relate them to Kinship terms	Does the hierarchical relation affect the grammar?
3.	Pronouns	Make a table including parameters of gender, number, and distance.	How do pronouns behave in various case relations?
4.	Profession names	This will introduce you to the social network	Is there a way to specify gender in profession names?
5.	Household items	Divide them by function they perform	What is the part-to-whole relationship and how is it symbolized, e.g. 'bottom of a pan', 'back of a house', 'neck of a bottle' etc.?
6.	Seasons, weather, time	Measurement techniques of each of them	What is the position of the names for seasons, weather and time in a sentence?
7.	Celestial bodies	Are these bare nouns, i.e. never case-marked?	If the language distinguishes between proximate and remote 'demonstrative' observe where are these placed. Ideal for collecting folk tales.
8	Pain, illness and diseases	Collect as many names for illnesses as possible.	These may be employed in dative or oblique-marked subject constructions, e.g., Hindi: <i>Sonia ko buk<sup>h</sup>ar he</i> 'Sonia DAT fever is' and not <i>*Sonia buk<sup>h</sup>ar he</i> 'Sonia fever is' 'Sonia has fever'.
9	Body parts	Collect names for organs inside the body also. There may be a separate marking for internal and external body parts	Most important for eliciting Genitive constructions. They are considered 'inalienable' possession and hence may differ from 'alienable ones' as in 'Sonia's book'.

10	Numerals	Collect both ordinals and cardinals.	Check the position of these with other quantifiers.
11	Adornment, Costumes etc.	Collect terms for both women and men's clothing and jewelry.	Check the case marking of possession. Should be collected with No. 8 and 9 above. Also useful for obtaining nominal compounds.
12	Flora and Fauna	Collect the names of indigenous plants, birds, fish, ants, insects and vertebrates.	The terms will give you good insight of syllable structure available in the language as the names may give you both long and short words. Also useful for obtaining nominal and adjectival compounds.
13	Edible items	Collect cooking terms and different verb forms of cooking.	Useful for collecting compound nouns, and imperative constructions as in command and respect.
14	Expressives	Elicit words pertaining to all emotions and five senses of perception.	A major research on the kind of reduplication can be done by collecting Expressives. A must for Tibeto-Burman languages.
15	Games, toys, and sports	Elicit words for games played by both adults and children.	Helpful in obtaining compound nouns. 'Make believe' games are generally rendered as reduplicated word, e.g. Hindi: <i>gʰər gʰər</i> 'each and every house'.

**Table 1. Various Semantic Fields for Data Elicitation**

Data elicitation should be done according to the location of fieldwork. If you are sitting in a kitchen, try to obtain words related to cooking, utensils, food items, taste etc. However, if you are sitting in an open area, flora and fauna and other related items should constitute your field of inquiry. You may refer to 'Field linguistics meets biology: how to obtain scientific designations for plant and animal names'.

Authors: David W. Fleck. In the journal *Language Typology and Universals (Sprachtypologie und Universalienforschung (STUF))*. Special issue on linguistic fieldwork. Volume: 60 | Issue: 1/2007

You may also like to consult *Great Andamanese Dictionary*. Anvita Abbi. 2012. An interactive English-Great Andamanese-Hindi dictionary of the endangered language of the Andaman Islands with pictures and sounds. Ratna Sagar. Delhi. ISBN 978-93-5036-125-2

***Ethno-ornithology. Birds of Great Andamanese - Names, Classification and Culture.*** 2011. Satish Pande and Anvita Abbi. Oxford University Press, Oxford, Ela foundation with Bombay Natural History Society.

In this way you can help the consultant relate to the existing world and in turn, may get words for which perhaps you have no term in your contact language. Elicitation of words will help you prepare bilingual dictionary at the end. If your purpose of fieldwork is to prepare a dictionary, then it is mandatory that you elicit background information of each word along with an exemplary sentence. Ultimately, you would like to embed the audio recording of each word and its examples in the voice of the native speaker under head-word. Do not forget to take pictures of as many items as possible. All these then can be inserted in the dictionary later. Let us move on to the dictionary making process. We cannot go in detail about all the aspects of dictionary making, however a brief account of the procedure should help.