

TABLE 1—Item persistence by semantic groups

a) Personal Pronouns	h) Time Periods	n) Animals	r) Oral Activities
I..... 100%	year..... 100%	worm..... 100%	laugh..... 92%
thou..... 92	day..... 85	snake..... 91	sing..... 83
we..... 92	night..... 82	louse..... 80	suck..... 75
he..... 70		fish..... 66	cry..... 68
ye..... 67	i) Numerals	dog..... 50	spit..... 56
they..... 50	one to ten, incl.. 100%	animal..... 42	speak..... 56
	twenty..... 83	bird..... 40	
b) Interrogatives	hundred..... 82		s) Colors
who..... 83%			black..... 83%
where..... 75	j) Quantitatives	o) Persons	green..... 83
what..... 74	all..... 92%	person (human	red..... 66
when..... 74	few..... 74	being)..... 74%	white..... 51
how..... 70	many..... 58	woman..... 71	yellow..... 51
	some..... 40	child..... 50	t) Descriptives
c) Correlatives		man..... 45	old..... 100%
and..... 57%	k) Size		dry..... 89
if..... 31	wide..... 85%	p) Body Parts and	good..... 83
because..... 25	thick..... 83	Substances	new..... 82
	long..... 82		warm..... 79
d) Locatives	thin..... 79	blood..... 100%	rotten..... 66
at..... 100%	narrow..... 59	ear..... 100	cold..... 65
in..... 57	big..... 48	hand..... 100	sharp..... 58
with..... 51	small..... 41	tongue..... 100	right (correct) .. 50
	short..... 25	tooth..... 100	straight..... 49
e) Location		foot..... 90	smooth..... 41
there..... 88%	l) Natural Objects and	egg..... 84	bad..... 40
far..... 74	Phenomena	back..... 83	wet..... 33
near..... 51	ice..... 100%	tail..... 83	dull..... 20
right (side)..... 51	salt..... 100	meat (flesh)..... 77	dirty..... 10
here..... 49	star..... 100	eye..... 74	
that..... 42	sun..... 100	feather..... 74	u) Kinship
this..... 34	wind..... 100	skin..... 74	brother..... 100%
left (side)..... 33	sky..... 92	bone..... 71	sister..... 100
f) Position and Move-	cloud..... 83	head..... 71	father..... 83
ment	rain..... 83	mouth..... 68	mother..... 83
come..... 100%	water..... 83	nose..... 66	husband..... 57
sit..... 100	sea..... 82	wing..... 66	wife..... 51
give..... 85	smoke..... 81	heart..... 65	
fly..... 82	snow..... 79	fat..... 56	v) Cultural Objects
stand..... 77	sand..... 68	guts..... 55	and Activities
hold..... 69	stone..... 68	belly..... 50	sew..... 100%
fall..... 67	mountain..... 67	neck..... 49	rope..... 85
swim..... 59	ashes..... 66	hair..... 48	shoot..... 60
turn..... 59	earth..... 66	liver..... 40	hunt..... 59
walk..... 59	dust..... 56	leg..... 17	cook..... 58
throw..... 49	lake..... 56		count..... 51
pull..... 43	fog..... 51	q) Body Sensations and	play..... 50
float..... 40	river..... 51	Activities	clothing..... 42
flow..... 33	fire..... 33		work..... 37
lie..... 33		drink..... 92%	dance..... 33
push..... 17	m) Plants & Plant	die..... 92	spear..... 33
	Parts	hear..... 85	stab..... 30
g) Manipulations	bark..... 100%	see..... 82	fight..... 9
wash..... 83%	leaf..... 100	sleep..... 82	
split..... 75	grass..... 83	live..... 75	w) Miscellaneous
tie..... 74	tree..... 83	eat..... 68	name..... 100%
hit..... 69	root..... 82	know..... 59	other..... 92
wipe..... 58	flower..... 75	bite..... 57	not..... 83
cut..... 56	woods..... 68	fear..... 43	burn..... 67
rub..... 50	seed..... 66	think..... 33	blow..... 66
dig..... 42	berry (fruit)..... 59	breathe..... 25	freeze..... 65
scratch..... 31	stick..... 27	vomit..... 19	swell..... 51
squeeze..... 28		smell..... 0	road..... 33
			kill..... 25

	Cop	Chi	Eng	Ger	Swe	Fre	Rum	Ath	Persistence	
									Decades	Pct
*all	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	1139/1239	92
and	-	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	704/1239	57
animal	-	+	-	+	+	-	-	+	519/1239	42
*ashes	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	812/1239	66
at	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	-	837/837	100
back	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	1032/1239	83
bad	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	+	492/1239	40
*bark	0	+	0	+	0	+	+	+	817/817	100
because	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	307/1239	25
*belly	+	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	612/1239	50
berry	0	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	597/1019	59
*big	-	+	-	-	+	+	-	+	594/1239	48
*bird	-	+	-	+	+	+	-	-	497/1239	40
*bite	-	-	+	+	+	+	0	+	704/1024	57
*black	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	1032/1239	83
*blood	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	1239/1239	100
blow	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	812/1239	66
*bone	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	-	922/1239	71
breathe	-	+	-	+	+	-	-	-	312/1239	25
brother	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	1239/1239	100
*burn	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	834/1239	67
child	-	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	619/1239	50
clothing	+	+	+	-	+	-	-	-	522/1239	42
*cloud	+	+	-	+	-	+	+	+	1037/1239	83
*cold	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	804/1239	65
*come	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	1239/1239	100
cook	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	-	715/1239	58
count	+	+	-	+	-	-	-	+	637/1239	51
cry	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	839/1239	68
cut	+	0	-	+	+	-	-	+	639/1139	56
dance	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	+	409/1239	33
day	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	1054/1239	85
*die	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	1139/1239	92
dig	-	+	-	+	+	-	-	+	519/1239	42
dirty	0	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	100/1019	10
*dog	-	-	-	+	+	+	+	-	612/1239	50
*drink	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	1139/1239	92
*dry	+	+	+	-	+	+	0	+	914/1024	89
dull	0	+	-	-	+	-	-	-	202/1019	20
dust	-	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	702/1239	56
*ear	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	1239/1239	100
*earth	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	817/1239	66
*eat	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	839/1239	68
*egg	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	1039/1239	84
eight	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	1239/1239	100

TABLE 2—Persistence of diagnostic items—Continued

	Cop	Chi	Eng	Ger	Swe	Fre	Rum	Ath	Persistence	
									Decades	Pct
*eye	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	919/1239	74
fall	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	834/1239	67
far	+	+	+	-	+	+	-	+	914/1239	74
*fat (grease)	-	+	+	-	+	+	-	+	694/1239	56
father	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	1024/1239	83
fear	-	-	-	+	-	-	+	+	532/1239	43
*feather	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	919/1239	74
few	+	+	+	-	+	+	-	+	914/1239	74
fight	-	0	+	-	-	-	-	-	100/1139	9
*fire	-	+	+	+	+	-	-	-	412/1239	33
*fish	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	812/1239	66
five	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	1239/1239	100
float	0	-	+	-	+	-	-	+	409/1019	40
flow	-	+	+	+	+	-	-	-	412/1239	33
flower	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	932/1239	82
*fly	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	1019/1239	82
fog	0	+	+	+	-	-	-	+	517/1019	51
*foot	+	-	+	+	+	+	0	+	924/1024	90
four	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	1239/1239	100
freeze	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	804/1239	65
*give	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	1054/1239	85
*good	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	1032/1239	83
grass	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	1032/1239	83
*green	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	1032/1239	83
guts	+	+	0	-	+	-	-	+	629/1139	55
*hair	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	597/1239	48
*hand	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	1239/1239	100
he	+	-	+	+	+	0	-	+	739/1054	70
*head	0	+	+	-	+	-	+	+	724/1019	71
*hear	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	1054/1239	85
*heart	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	804/1239	65
here	-	-	+	+	+	+	0	+	497/1024	49
hit	+	-	-	+	+	-	+	+	854/1239	69
hold	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	0	712/1032	69
how	-	-	+	+	+	0	+	+	734/1054	70
hundred	+	+	+	+	0	+	-	+	922/1137	82
hunt	-	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	732/1239	59
husband	+	+	-	-	-	+	-	+	712/1239	57
*I	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	1239/1239	100
ice	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	1019/1019	100
if	-	+	+	-	-	+	-	-	385/1239	31
in	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	712/1239	57
*kill	-	+	-	+	+	-	-	-	312/1239	25
*know	-	+	+	+	+	0	+	-	627/1054	59
lake	-	+	-	+	0	-	+	+	632/1137	56

TABLE 2—Persistence of diagnostic items—Continued

	Cop	Chi	Eng	Ger	Swe	Fre	Rum	Ath	Persistence	
									Decades	Pct
laugh . . . . .	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	1137/1239	92
*leaf . . . . .	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	1239/1239	100
left(side) . . . . .	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	+	409/1239	33
leg . . . . .	-	+	-	+	-	-	-	-	210/1239	17
*lie . . . . .	-	+	+	+	+	-	-	-	412/1239	33
live . . . . .	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	924/1239	75
*liver . . . . .	0	+	+	+	+	-	-	-	412/1019	40
*long . . . . .	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	1019/1239	82
*louse . . . . .	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	812/1019	80
*man . . . . .	-	+	+	+	0	-	-	+	517/1137	45
*many . . . . .	-	+	+	-	+	-	+	+	724/1239	58
*meat(flesh) . . . . .	+	+	-	+	+	-	+	+	954/1239	77
mother . . . . .	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	1024/1239	83
*mountain . . . . .	+	+	-	+	-	+	+	-	830/1239	67
*mouth . . . . .	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	839/1239	68
*name . . . . .	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	1239/1239	100
narrow . . . . .	-	-	+	+	+	-	+	+	734/1239	59
near . . . . .	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	627/1239	51
*neck . . . . .	-	-	-	+	+	+	-	+	604/1239	49
*new . . . . .	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	1019/1239	82
*night . . . . .	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	1019/1239	82
nine . . . . .	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	1239/1239	100
*nose . . . . .	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	812/1239	66
*not . . . . .	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	1032/1239	83
old . . . . .	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	1239/1239	100
*one . . . . .	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	1239/1239	100
other . . . . .	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	1139/1239	92
*person(human being) . . . . .	-	+	0	+	0	0	+	+	632/852	74
play . . . . .	-	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	619/1239	50
pull . . . . .	-	+	-	+	+	-	+	-	527/1239	43
push . . . . .	-	+	-	+	-	-	-	-	210/1239	17
*rain . . . . .	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	1032/1239	83
*red . . . . .	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	817/1239	66
right(side) . . . . .	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	629/1239	51
right(correct) . . . . .	+	+	-	-	+	-	-	+	617/1239	50
river . . . . .	+	+	-	+	-	-	-	+	637/1239	51
*road(path) . . . . .	-	+	+	+	+	-	-	-	412/1239	33
*root . . . . .	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	1019/1239	82
rope . . . . .	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	1054/1239	85
rotten . . . . .	-	0	-	+	+	0	+	+	634/954	66
rub . . . . .	-	-	-	+	-	0	+	+	532/1054	50
salt . . . . .	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	1239/1239	100
*sand . . . . .	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	839/1239	68
scratch . . . . .	-	0	0	+	-	-	-	+	317/1039	31
sea . . . . .	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	1019/1239	82

TABLE 2—Persistence of diagnostic items—Continued

	Cop	Chi	Eng	Ger	Swe	Fre	Rum	Ath	Persistence	
									Decades	Pct
*see . . . . .	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	1019/1239	82
*seed . . . . .	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	812/1239	66
seven . . . . .	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	1239/1239	100
sew . . . . .	0	+	+	+	0	+	+	+	917/917	100
sharp . . . . .	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	-	717/1239	58
shoot . . . . .	+	+	+	+	+	0	-	-	632/1054	60
short . . . . .	-	+	+	+	-	-	-	-	310/1239	25
sing . . . . .	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	1032/1239	83
sister . . . . .	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	1239/1239	100
*sit . . . . .	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	1239/1239	100
six . . . . .	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	1239/1239	100
*skin . . . . .	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	919/1239	74
sky . . . . .	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	1139/1239	92
*sleep . . . . .	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	1019/1239	82
*small . . . . .	-	+	+	-	+	-	-	+	509/1239	41
smell . . . . .	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0/1239	0
*smoke . . . . .	-	+	0	+	+	+	+	+	919/1139	81
smooth . . . . .	-	+	+	-	+	-	-	+	509/1239	41
snake . . . . .	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	1129/1239	91
snow . . . . .	0	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	804/1019	79
some . . . . .	+	-	+	-	+	0	-	-	422/1054	40
speak . . . . .	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	-	632/1239	51
spear . . . . .	-	+	+	+	+	-	-	-	412/1239	33
spit . . . . .	-	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	732/1239	56
split . . . . .	+	+	-	+	+	+	-	+	924/1239	75
squeeze . . . . .	-	+	-	0	-	-	+	-	315/1129	28
stab . . . . .	-	+	-	+	+	0	-	-	312/1054	30
*stand . . . . .	+	-	+	+	+	-	+	+	954/1239	77
*star . . . . .	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	1239/1239	100
stick . . . . .	-	+	0	+	+	-	-	-	412/1139	27
*stone . . . . .	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	839/1239	68
straight . . . . .	-	+	-	-	+	+	+	-	602/1239	49
suck . . . . .	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	932/1239	75
*sun . . . . .	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	1239/1239	100
swell . . . . .	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	-	632/1239	51
*swim . . . . .	-	-	+	+	+	-	+	+	734/1239	59
*tail . . . . .	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	1027/1239	83
ten . . . . .	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	1239/1239	100
*that . . . . .	-	-	+	+	+	-	-	+	519/1239	42
there . . . . .	+	-	+	+	+	0	0	+	739/839	88
they . . . . .	0	-	-	+	+	0	-	+	419/834	50
thick . . . . .	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	1024/1239	83
thin . . . . .	0	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	804/1019	79
think . . . . .	-	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	407/1239	33
*this . . . . .	-	-	+	+	-	-	-	+	417/1239	34

TABLE 2—Persistence of diagnostic items—Continued

	Cop	Chi	Eng	Ger	Swe	Fre	Rum	Ath	Persistence	
									Decades	Pct
*thou.....	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	1139/1239	92
three.....	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	1239/1239	100
throw.....	-	-	-	+	+	+	-	+	604/1239	49
tie.....	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	919/1239	74
*tongue.....	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	1239/1239	100
*tooth.....	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	1239/1239	100
*tree.....	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	1024/1239	83
turn.....	-	+	-	+	+	-	+	+	734/1239	59
twenty.....	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	1024/1239	83
*two.....	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	1239/1239	100
vomit.....	-	+	-	-	+	0	-	-	202/1054	19
*walk.....	-	+	-	+	+	-	+	+	734/1239	59
*warm(hot).....	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	812/1032	79
wash.....	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	1024/1239	83
*water.....	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	1032/1239	83
*we.....	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	1139/1239	92
wet.....	-	+	+	+	+	-	-	-	412/1239	33
*what.....	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	919/1239	74
when.....	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	919/1239	74
where.....	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	924/1239	75
*white.....	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	627/1239	51
*who.....	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	1032/1239	83
wide.....	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	1054/1239	85
wife.....	+	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	627/1239	51
wind.....	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	1239/1239	100
wing.....	+	+	-	-	+	+	-	+	814/1239	66
wipe.....	0	-	+	+	0	0	+	-	425/732	58
with.....	-	-	-	+	+	-	+	+	634/1239	51
*woman.....	+	+	0	-	+	+	-	+	814/1139	71
woods.....	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	839/1239	68
work.....	-	0	+	+	-	-	-	+	417/1139	37
worm.....	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	1239/1239	100
ye.....	+	-	+	+	-	+	+	-	830/1239	67
year.....	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	1239/1239	100
*yellow.....	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	-	632/1239	51