

With the above considerations in mind, 40 words were selected from the Swadesh word list. All of them, except two, were taken from the short 100-word list. The two words taken from the longer Swadesh word list were “snake” and “worm.” This was done to have five animal names. One of the animal names in the short list was not used (“louse”) because of the difficulty in representing it.

In developing the test, the following strategies were used:

Table 1
Cross-linguistic naming test

English	Frequency	Order of difficulty	Spanish	Frequency	Order of difficulty
Body-parts (10)					
Ear	305	3	Oreja	2,742	33
Eye	240	2	Ojo	147	3
Nose	1,940	27	Nariz	2,367	31
Mouth	1,014	15	Boca	559	9
Tooth	1,756	25	Diente	2,121	28
Tongue	2,878	32	Lengua	901	14
Knee	1,966	29	Rodilla	3,684	37
Belly	5,676	40	Estomago	3,003	35
Neck	1,598	24	Cuello	1,714	24
Foot	484	8	Pie	329	4
Natural phenomena (5)					
Sun	1,058	17	Sol	362	5
Moon	3,020	34	Luna	2,254	30
Cloud	2,456	31	Nube	1,307	20
Fire	719	12	Fuego	667	11
Mountain	1,590	23	Montaña	883	13
External objects (5)					
Tree	695	11	Arbol	582	10
Leaf	1,852	26	Hoja	881	12
Bone	1,955	28	Hueso	1,574	23
Egg	1,544	22	Huevo	4,142	38
Feather	5,302	37	Pluma	1,035	16
Animals (5)					
Dog	823	14	Perro	1,121	17
Bird	1,115	18	Ave	2,802	34
Snake	5,513	39	Serpiente	3,472	36
Fish	1,017	16	Pez	2,600	32
Worm	5,336	38	Gusano	4,970	40
Colors (5)					
Red	791	13	Rojo	1,494	22
Green	1,116	19	Verde	1,998	26
Yellow	2,162	30	Amarillo	2,004	27
White	3,436	35	Blanco	1,286	19
Black	502	9	Negro	2,161	29
Actions (10)					
To drink	1,129	20	Beber	1,002	15
To eat	662	10	Comer	445	8
To hear	258	4	Oir	130	2
To sleep	1,381	21	Dormir	387	6
To swim	2,952	33	Nadar	4,796	39
To fly	3,892	36	Volar	1,321	21
To walk	463	7	Caminar	1,559	25
To lie down	447	6	Acostarse	1,129	18
To sit	317	5	Sentarse	444	7
To say (talk)	34	1	Decir (hablar)	42	1

Note. Word frequency in English (Kilgarriff, 1997; <http://www.itri.brighton.ac.uk/~Adam.Kilgarriff/bnc-readme.html#lemmatised>) and Spanish (Juilland & Chang-Rodriguez, 1964). The frequency order of each word is presented (1 corresponds to the most frequent word in the language). “Order of difficulty” refers to the relative difficulty in this naming test.