Homework 1 – Part 1

CSCI 5832

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My native language is Tamil which is spoken in the southern-most state of India.

Analyzing my own writing and speech:

1.) இன்று என்ன சாப்பாடு பண்ணலாம். (What food can we make today?)

So, there are two different things about Tamil, there is the pure Tamil and the local(naive) Tamil where the pronunciation and affixes are different from that of the pure Tamil.

The above line is in pure Tamil and the naive Tamil would be:

இன்னக்கி என்ன சாப்பாடு பண்லாம். (What food can we make today?)

இன்று	இன்னக்கி
பண்ணலாம்	பண்லாம்

Here, eventhough both the words mean the same, the affixes are different. Hence I'm taking this as a single word.

2.) கல்லூரிக்கு தாமதம் ஆகுது. (It's getting late for college)
Since English is the medium of teaching in India, we very commonly use English words in our sentences in the native language. The above sentence becomes:

College ku late ஆகுது.

So, many words in Tamil are cut off from the count because we use English in between and we don't really know the meaning of those Tamil words.

3.) Tamil language has a very complicated grammar and multiple words for the same noun or objects.
For example, elephant is referred with more than 45 different words.

Elephant	தும்பி, கரிணி, சுண்டாலி, வழுவை வேழம், மதகயம், புழைக்கை……

4.) Same word has different meanings.

மலை	rain, tomorrow
மணி	time, bell, beads, eye ball

5.) A word can be a noun or a verb with different meanings.

வரான்	Verb – Coming, Noun – It's a name of a person.
மணி	1.) Time 2.) Name of a person.

There are around 124405 thousand words in Tamil according to [this source](#)

Tamil is the first language that I learned and have been using it very frequently since childhood.

The beauty of this language is that meaning of a word can be interpreted a bit easily because many words are made by joining 2 or more different words and it can be broken down to interpret the meaning of it and I cannot include those words to the count because when broken down it forms two or more different words which I already know.

These 124405 words are discrete entries in the Tamil dictionary and I on a daily basis use around a 700 discrete words and **I know a total of 5000 to 5500 words** in Tamil since I speak this language on a daily basis.