SYLLABUS
SASLI Elementary Tamil – Summer 2009

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I. Objectives

To help students acquire Tamil listening, reading, speaking and writing skills at the beginning level. This is achieved through developing an implicit system of Tamil language acquisition at the subconscious level.

II. Structure of in-class/home activities

Class time is comprised of listening, speaking, reading, and writing in the classroom, language lab, and computer lab. Students are expected to complete reading and writing assignments and work with audio materials at home before they come to class. Class content roughly follows the order of structures as they appear in the text. Classroom time is organized to maximize contact with the target language.

III. Class Materials

Texts:

A Basic Tamil Reader and Grammar (with cassettes) by K. Paramasivam and James Lindholm.

The Jim and Raja Conversations (with cassettes) by E. Annamalai

Handouts
Computer conversations
Movie – Nayakan
IV. Class Content

The attempt is to develop an implicit system of Tamil language acquisition through conscious and subconscious practices in class and at home. For developing such a system, the following syntactical development is pursued:

1. Weeks 1-2

Familiarizing students with Tamil sounds and script using very simple sentences consisting of a word or two.
Introducing verbless sentences, thus familiarizing students with different syntactical modes of Tamil.

2. Weeks 3-4

Introducing sentences that require person-number-gender verb conjugation.
Introducing sentences that require the addition of dative case to subject.
Present tense.
Future tense.

3. Weeks 5-6

Introducing the complex past tense system.

4. Weeks 7-8

Adverbial participles and dynamic extension of verbs.
Adjectival participles.

V. Class Requirements

1. EXAMS. Test for proficiency in listening, reading, speaking, and writing.
   i. Test I (practice test third week, midterm end of fourth week)
   ii. Test II (end of eighth week)

2. Written Assignments. Exercises in:
   i. Reading comprehension
   ii. Writing
   iii. Translation

3. Class participation

Proficiency of students in language culminates in the final exam, however, regularity of attendance and consistent effort in completing homework assignments and participating in class activities will be taken into consideration when formulating grades.