*Cèmuhi (New Caledonia) Semantic Primes, with English equivalents*

Source: Margo Lecompte-Van Poucke (fieldnotes)

Version 2.1 - 2016

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **WAEO, WOGO, PACE, NAADO, APULIE, EEN** | substantives |
| i, you, someone, something~thing, people, body |
| **TOTO, BE-** | relational substantives |
| kinds, parts |
| **-CE, WIEN, ITE** | determiners |
| this, the same, other~else |
| **CEIU/A, ALO, (I)-CEI, TAI, TOME~HIWON, MEHIN** | quantifiers |
| one, two, some, all, much~many, little~few |
| **WAE, TA** | evaluators |
| good, bad |
| **UBWO, WAHIN** | descriptors |
| big, small |
| **TEMEHI, NIIMIHI, NIME-(N), TIME NIME-(N), TENE, ALIHI, TENE** | mental predicates |
| know, think, want, don’t want, feel, see, hear |
| **PII, PWOOTI, JU** | speech |
| say, words, true |
| **PWO, TUIE, PENEM** | actions, events, movement |
| do, happen, move |
| **MU, PWO, TE** | location, existence,specification |
| be (somewhere), there is, be (someone/something) |
| **TONG** | possession |
| (is) mine |
| **MULIE, MELE** | life and death |
| live, die |
| **HE-ME~TAN, JENAA, ANABUN, ITE, MWO, EMWONU, BENAAMWON, BENAAMWON** | time |
| when~time, now, before, after, a long time, a short time, for some time, moment |
| **WE~BENAAMWON, ENI, PWO-(N), HAAHI-(N), KOJA, JE-, DUAA-(N), HE-(N), TI** | place |
| where~place, here, above, below, far, near,side, inside, touch |
| **TIME, HIE, TEMEHI, BE, MEPIE** | logical concepts |
| not, maybe, can, because, if |
| **NIHE, KOJA** | intensifier, augmentor |
| very, more |
| **WIELI** | similarity |
| like~as |

**Notes**: • Exponents of primes can be polysemous, i.e. they can have other, additional meanings • Exponents of primes may be words, bound morphemes, or phrasemes • They can be formally complex • They can have language-specific combinatorial variants (allolexes, indicated with ~) • Each prime has well-specified syntactic (combinatorial) properties.