

Linguistic and Cultural Implications of the Armenian Frequency Dictionary  
R. David Zorc and Louisa Baghdasarian (MRM Inc.)

1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

We have recently completed an *Armenian (Eastern) Newspaper Reader and Grammar* (Zorc and Baghdasarian, 1995; henceforth Z&B) and an *Armenian (Eastern) - English Dictionary* (Baghdasarian and Zorc, 1995; henceforth B&Z). In researching the latter, we made ample use of B. K. Ghazaryan's Armenian Frequency Dictionary (henceforth AFD) since it contains a great deal of basic and culturally-important vocabulary.

Our work was done at MRM Inc., which compiles and publishes textbooks, grammars, dictionaries, and newspaper readers (to bridge the gap between spoken language and the media) in the less commonly taught languages.

2. THE ARMENIAN FREQUENCY DICTIONARY

Work on the *Dictionary of Frequently Used Words in Contemporary Armenian* was commenced in 1967 and published in 1982. The corpus was drawn from a total of 2,026,148 word usages, resulting in 36,200 lexical items taken from 89 pieces of literature (published between 1950-1973) in eleven categories: 1-Prose (270,000), 2-Poetry (230,000), 3-Drama (155,424), 4-Children's literature (203,000), 5-Linguistics (178,000), 6-Literary Studies or Philology (230,000), 7-Social Sciences (101,724), 8-Textbooks (210,000), 9-Monthly magazines (200,000), 10-Newspapers (180,000), and 11-"Neutral" words of youths aged 15-17 (68,000).

The author acknowledges the following occurrences in the list:

A. Participles used as nouns or adjectives: *աշխատող* 'worker' (not just 'working'), *գրող* 'writer' (not just 'writing'), *հարբած* 'drunk,' etc.

B. Alternate versions of the same word: *բաղնիք* (25) - *բաղանիք* (7) - *բաղնիս* (1) 'bathroom;' *քարավան* (102) - *կարավան* (13) 'caravan;' *մորուք* (97) - *միրուք* (6) 'beard.' [Note: in B&Z, alphabetically-close alternate forms were given under a single headword.]

C. Armenian synonyms of Russian or foreign words: *հեղափոխություն* (425) - *ուկոլյուցիա* (66) 'revolution;' *վերելակ* (5) - *լիֆտ* (3) 'elevator.' [Note: in B&Z, synonyms and antonyms are presented in a cross-reference field.]

D. The inclusion of dialectal, colloquial, Russian and foreign words: *ավտոբուս* (372) 'bus' {Russian}, *մերսի* (9) 'thank you' {French}, *ախի* (8) 'girl,' *աղա* (406) 'hey kid,' *դայի* (242) 'man!' {colloquial}.

E. Homonyms that have been differentiated by some context, thus: *ակ* (*ակունք*) 'well (for water),' *ակ* (*անիվ*) 'wheel,' and *ակ* (*զարդ*) 'ornament.' [Note: in B&Z, each such headword is marked with a superscript and treated as a separate entry.]

After the frontmatter (pp 1-22), the structure of the book is tripartite:

The first (pp 23-264) is a list of words in their order of frequency, from the most frequent (54,254 = *եղ* ~ *և* 'and') down to 3 hits (*ֆրանսիում* 'francium'). If words have the same frequency, they are listed in alphabetical order. A set of three numbers is presented for each: total number of hits + total number out of the 89 selections or pieces of literature represented + subtotal out of the 11 categories; thus some form of the verb *ունենալ* (9071-85-11) 'to have' occurred 9,071 times in 85 of the 89 books and in all eleven categories.

The second (pp 265-368) is a list of words in alphabetical order that occurred two times, followed by an alphabetical list of words that appeared only once. The sum of both lists totals approximately 15,000 entries.

The third (pp 369-757) is an alphabetical list of words that occurred ten or more times. This section is particularly valuable, because after the total number of hits, the frequencies within each of the 11 categories of literature are given.

A series of interesting statistics are presented showing that as frequency increases, so does word length. Thus the first fifty words have an average length of 3.5 letters; the next fifty, 4.5; the first thousand, 5.6.

### 3. PEDAGOGICAL USE OF THE AFD.

A student would do best to learn high frequency words first, since they are presumably the most productive. One problem endemic to any frequency count is that words that one might wish to learn together will rarely so appear. Thus, names of months and days range as follows: *շաբաթ* 'Saturday' ~ 'week' (331-54-10), *մարտ* 'March' ~ 'battle' (283-48-10), *մայիս* 'May' (173-38-09), *կիրակի* 'Sunday' (89-27-09), *նոյեմբեր* 'November' (67-19-08), *հոկտեմբեր* 'October' (41-21-09), *հունվար* 'January' (40-20-08), *հունիս* 'June' (39-16-08), *ապրիլ* 'April' (39-14-08), *դեկտեմբեր* 'December' (38-12-06), *հուլիս* 'July' (37-20-08), *օգոստոս* 'August' [n] ~ august [adj] (34-23-08), *սեպտեմբեր* 'September' (32-20-09), *փետրվար* 'February' (29-17-07), *երկուշաբթի* 'Monday' (16-12-06), *հինգշաբթի* 'Thursday' (13-06-04), *ուրբաթ* 'Friday' (06-05-04), *չորեքշաբթի* 'Wednesday' (04-03-03), all the way down to *երեքշաբթի* 'Tuesday' (02).

Since synonyms are also widely separated, e.g., *հանրապետություն* (672) vs. *ռեսպուբլիկա* (66) 'republic,' the teacher or curriculum designed will need to bring them together for the student.

Although not stated explicitly, the AFD does not treat numbers (either cardinal or ordinal). In Z&B, given the appearance of dates and statistics in the press, we found these to be very high frequency items. Even though numerals are immediately understandable to the American student (since the Arabic system is used as in English), we found it useful (if not imperative) that one know the pronunciation of them in Armenian.

Not all words with an overall high frequency are of pedagogical value, especially if they appear in only one or two categories. This is why one must consider the three sets of numbers presented and take the time to look at the overall distribution of a word in the third section, e.g., *թեքույթ* 'inflection' (100-1-1) is relevant to linguistic literature alone, or *տապկնոցի* 'hide and seek' (150-1-1) is limited to teenage vocabulary.

#### 4. LINGUISTIC OR LANGUAGE-RELATED ISSUES

If **functors** (grammatically significant forms) are distinguished from **contentives** (standard meaning-based members of the lexicon), then the first ten items are function words *և* 'and,' *նա* 'he/she/that,' *,* 'and,' *որ* 'which,' *ես* 'I,' *դու* 'you,' *մի* 'a(n),' *այդ* 'that (nor far),' *լինել* 'be,' and *մեջ* 'in.' The first contentive is #11 (*ստեղծ* 'say, utter'), followed by #19 (*ունենալ* 'have'), and thence #22 (*գալ* 'come, arrive'). Indeed, of the first 50 items, only 20 are contentives. This overall pattern is true of frequency counts in any language (as we can attest for Tagalog, Somali, Oromo, and English). In Z&B, we separated affixes from inflected or derived words and, with a corpus of just 2,531 words, came up with these in the highest frequencies:

-ի (240) genitive [Decl. 1]	-ներ (153) plural noun suffix
-ը (205) definite [after consonant]	-վ- (87) passive verb suffix
-ա- (201) linker ~ ligature	-ական (82) adjective former
-ություն (154) noun former	-ն (74) definite [after vowel]

In our data *և* 'and' (the first entry in the AFD) was used 53 times and was 14th in frequency; the first contentive was *գործ* 'work; business' (used 31 times and 27th in our frequency; relatively comparable with the AFD where it was 79th, with a frequency of 2828-82-10).

There are certain language-related problems with the AFD, such as its treatment of homonyms; only a few are actually differentiated, such as *ափ* (*եզր*) 'shore, bank' (640-56-10) vs. (*ձեռքի*) 'palm (of hand)' (74-14-8). For example, *շաբաթ* (331-54-10) is not specified for any difference between 'Saturday' and 'week,' nor is *մարտ* (283-48-10) for 'March' vs. 'battle.' There are similar problems with extended

meanings. Altogether, out of 530 such occurrences, we split over 250 pairs or triplets in our dictionary research, where either grammatical usage or meaning required it.

Conversely, approximately 148 words are given more than one statistical treatment, even though a difference in meaning is not indicated, thus, *ուր* 'where?' is given at 1533-74-10 + 346-36-9; *ընդհատում* 'interruption, break' at 17-11-6 + 16-8-4; *բազմահարկ* 'multistorey' at 28-8-7 + 02.

There are also at least 360 discrepancies between the first and third parts of the book. Thus, *գալ* 'come' is given as 8360-27-11 in the front, but 8360-87 in the back; *մեծ* 'large' is 5217-88-11 vs. 5210-88; *երկիր* 'earth' is 2446-79-10 vs. 2436-79.

Some 86 entries appear in the third part of the AFD, but not in the first, e.g., *ականջ* 'ear' (1032-61), *առավոտ* 'morning' (671-58), *ետ* 'back' (656-72), *ազատ* 'free' (549-72), *բջիջ* 'cell (of body); honeycomb' (270-13), *մշակում* 'cultivation' (253-32), *խաղաղութուն* 'peace, tranquility' (209-43), *դահիճ* 'executioner' (67-10), etc.

Since the AFD is primarily a monolingual list, it would have been helpful if details such as the geographical distribution of a word (e.g., which dialect it may represent) were indicated. Finally, given the recent and drastic changes in the former Soviet Union and in the Republic of Armenia, some updated count of recent literature might show a scewing of scores of pure Armenian as opposed to borrowed vocabulary.

We must underscore that none of these detract from the overall value of the AFD. If we consider that the work was done on cards well before the computer became such an accessible and invaluable tool, there are relatively few errors (in terms of overall percentage). We also feel that the third section of the AFD has the highest level of both accuracy and quality; it could profitably be used by lexicographers, philologists, or course developers.

## 5. CULTURAL DOMAINS AND THEIR IMPORTANCE

The cultural implications of the AFD are perhaps its most interesting facet. Limitations of time and space do not allow more than cursory treatment here. However, we suggest that this would make a fascinating dissertation topic and therefore would be prepared to supply a degree candidate or other interested scholars with the statistics we have developed thus far.

Firstly, at least some Armenians object to the implications behind the frequency of a few items relative to others, e.g., *առյուծ* 'lion' (525) before *բարեկամ* 'friend' (523), or *խոտ* 'grass' (540) before *միս* 'meat' (516).

Secondly, once one accounts for functors (discussed above), a survey of the contentives reveals the cultural importance of the lexicon, at least within the sphere and the time period of the literature selected. In order to show the breadth of meaning of some of these words, all of the glosses below are taken from B&Z.

However, the isolation of particular categories to account for all vocabulary can indeed be problematic. It depends to some degree on how wide we want to cast our semantic net, and how closely the holes on the net are placed. Is *նաւ* 'ship' (508) simply a **vehicle** in the same category as *տաքսի* 'taxi' (214), or do we want to keep it with items relating to the **sea**, such as *օվկիանոս* 'ocean' (223)?

There are, of course, several areas where the classification of entries does not present any problem. **Time words**, for example, are straightforward and many are of very high frequency, e.g., *ժամանակ* 'time' (4841), *օր* 'day' (4219), *տարի* 'year' (3297), *դար* 'century' (1457). The spread of the names of days and months throughout the AFD was mentioned in section three above.

One might generally categorize adjectives (and, to some extent, adverbs) according to the seven types outlined by Dixon (1982).

**value** : *թանկ* 'expensive' (181); *նման* 'like, similar' (2699)

**dimension** : *մեծ* 'big' (5217); *երկար* 'long' (1365); *փոքր* 'small' (1061); *կարճ* 'short' (396)

**physical property** : *հեռու* 'far' (1676) - *մոտիկ* 'close' (229); *ծանր* 'heavy' (1073) - *թեթև* 'light' (not heavy) (489); *խոր* 'deep' (1064)

**speed** : *չուտ* (899) ~ *արագ* 'fast' (840); *դանդաղ* 'slow' (381)

**human propensity** : *լավ* 'good' (4072); *վատ* 'bad' (642)

**age** : *նոր* 'new' (4576) - *հին* 'old' (1629); *երիտասարդ* 'young' (997) - *ծեր* 'old' (362)

**color** : *կանաչ* 'green' (923); *սև* 'black' (863); *կապույտ* 'blue' (733); *կարմիր* 'red' (668); *սպիտակ* 'white' (657) ~ *ճերմակ* (373); *դեղին* 'yellow' (172)

Although **kin terms** are not problematic, it may be of interest to see in what order and frequency the top twenty appeared. Note that in ascending generations, the female (mother, grandmother) usually precedes the male (father, grandfather), whereas of the same generation male (brother) precedes female (sister):

0089 (2686-74-11) *մայր* 'mother'

0111 (2287-68-11) *կին* 'woman; wife'

0145 (1937-68-11) *հայր* 'father'

0240 (1171-68-11) *եղբայր* 'brother; close relative'

0268 (1069-40-8) *քեռի* 'uncle' (mother's brother)

0326 (916-33-9) *տատ* 'grandmother'

- 0345 (872-59-10) *քույր* 'sister; nurse; nanny'  
 0473 (666-42-10) *պապ* 'grandfather, grandpapa'  
 0503 (632-27-8) *սասիկ* 'grandma, grandmother'  
 0638 (519-22-7) *մորաքույր* 'aunt' (mother's sister)  
 0682 (482-19-8) *հորեղբայր* 'uncle' (father's brother)  
 0705 (460-34-7) *հայրիկ* 'father, papa'  
 0745 (439-33-9) *հարս* 'bride; daughter-in-law'  
 0779 (424-40-10) *ամուսին* 'husband, (male) spouse'  
 0975 (339-5-5) *մորեղբայր* 'uncle' (mother's brother)  
 0989 (334-10-6) *հորաքույր* 'aunt' (father's sister)  
 1045 (312-40-9) *ծնող* 'parent'  
 1056 (310-44-9-shared) *թոռ* 'grandchild, grandson, granddaughter'  
 1137 (285-22-6; 37-10-3-alt) *պապիկ* 'grandpa' {diminutive}  
 1170 (279-44-10) *զավակ* 'child (son, daughter); offspring; heir'

If someone does undertake the task of sorting out all the cultural implications within the AFD, it is imperative that it be done from an Armenian perspective. Listing *աչք* 'eye; sight; [ext] vision' simply as a **body part** loses sight that it is #46 (4183-79-10) precisely because it is widely used in Armenian idioms and phrases, prose and poetry. The same could be said for *ձեռք* 'hand' #54 (3913-79-11) and several other entries discussed below.

The following are our comments on some of the highest frequency items and why they so appeared:

- 0011 (12277-86-11) *ասել* 'say, utter; tell, inform; mean (intend to say)' is the first contentive and reflects a preoccupation with **speech**, especially in the context of other high frequency words like 0057 (3693-71-11) *բառ* 'word, term; motto, expression;' 0071 (3160-78-10) *լեզու* 'tongue; language, speech style; dialect, idiom;' 0072 (3087-82-10) *խոսք* 'message, speech, spoken word, phrase;' 0076 (2879-83-11) *խոսել* 'speak;' 0124 (2183-74-10) *հարց* 'question, issue, problem;' 0181 (1554-64-11) *հարցնել* 'ask;' 0217 (1267-69-11) *պատասխանել* 'answer, respond, reply;' 0509 (626-73-11) *պատասխան* 'answer, response.'
- 0043 (4258-85-11) *անել* 'do, make, work, perform, create' reflects Armenian **productivity**, especially given its proximity to 0069 (3185-77-11) *աշխատանք* 'work, job, labor; business, occupation, career, employment; service; activity;' 0079 (2828-82-10) *գործ* 'work, job; business; affair; effort, toil, doing, act; occupation, employment;' and 0151 (1899-75-11) *աշխատել* 'work, act; labor, toil, slave (away); earn; try, strive, strain; tend;' 0287 (1018-51-9) *գործողություն* 'action, act, deed,



- function; proceeding, activity; case; operation' {mil ~ surg}; 0464 (672-46-9) *բանվոր* and 1101 (297-35-10) *աշխատավոր* 'laborer, worker, workman;' 0488 (647-65-11) *գործել* 'work, act, do, perform, labor, operate; exert; fabricate; braid (hair); crochet;' 0513 (618-58-11; 13-3-2-alt) *գործարան* 'factory, manufactory, workshop;' 0635 (520-38-8) *գործունեություն* 'activity, operation, action, function; work, business.'
- 0047 (4179-76-11) *տուն* 'home, house; family; household; commercial establishment; [ext] couplet, verse' is used in all categories of literature and represents the **center of Armenian family life** and has commercial and literary extensions.
- 0050 (4072/4102-85-11-err) *լավ* 'good, well; OK, fine; honest, kind' reflects both a **positive and moral outlook on life** since both it and 0365 (830-63-10) *բարի* 'good, kind, fine; easy, good-natured; noble, benign; useful; pure' occur far ahead of either 0491 (642-70-10) *վատ* 'loose; bad, wicked, mean, shameful, mean spirited; debauched' or 0723 (451-53-9) *չար* 'evil, bad, wicked, malicious; naughty; ill; wretched; villainous, sinister.'
- 0066 (3311-77-10) *աշխարհ* 'world; Earth; land' reveals that Armenian **territoriality** extends far beyond geo-political boundaries, as does 0104 (2446/2436-79-10-err) *երկիր* 'earth, world, globe; country; region; land, soil, ground; continent; fatherland.' The basic units are 0105 (2431-68-11) *գյուղ* 'village; country (area)' and 0128 (2134-80-11) *քաղաք* 'city.'
- 0075 (2949-75-10) *սիրտ* 'heart,' is used in all major categories of literature, especially in poetry, and refers to the **seat of one's emotions and cares**, not just the organ. The verb and noun which share this root do not follow far behind: 0127 (2152-77-11) *սիրել* 'love, be in love with; be fond of, like; have a passion for; delight in' and 0130 (2123-63-10) *սեր* 'love, affection, tenderness, fondness; attachment; passion, eros.'
- 0080 (2827-80-11) *գլուխ* 'head, pate; chief, commander, leader; expert; top, apex, summit; chapter' refers not only to the body part, but to **leadership**.
- 0103 (2458-68-11) *երգ* 'song; hymn' reflects the Armenian **love of music**. Other entries support this: 0244 (1161-63-11) *երգել* 'sing, chant; warble;' 0673 (488-33-10) *նվագել* 'play ~ perform music on a musical instrument;' 1165 (281-28-8-shared) *օրգան* 'organ' (secondary meaning); 1472 (216-16-7) *օպերա* 'opera;' 1715 (179-39-11) *երաժշտություն* 'music.'
- 0110 (2294-84-11) *գրել* 'write' and 0219 (1262-74-11) *կարդալ* 'read' reveal the **love of letters**, as do: 0183 (1542-42-10) *գրականություն* 'literature;' 0232 (1198-50-10) *բանաստեղծ* 'poet;' 0398 (776-45-9-shared) *գրող* 'writer, author, writing master;' 0652 (508-28-8) *սյուժե* 'poem;' and 1874 (161-29-10) *գրավոր* 'written.' This long standing

- tradition started with: 1873 (161-19-7) *գրաբար* 'Old Armenian' (the classic literary language).
- 0117 (2250-82-11) *ճանապարհ* 'path, route, road, way; line; trip, voyage' and 0282 (1026-49-7) *ճամփա* 'way, road, avenue, track; route, path ~ way of travel' underscore the Armenians' **wandering**, literally from country to country, and figuratively in songs and poetry.
- 0129 (2129-73-11) *ընկեր* 'friend, colleague, comrade, partner, fellow, associate; association, company' reveals the importance of **friendship**. This is reinforced by later entries: 0631 (523-62-11) *բարեկամ* 'friend, intimate (person); ally, confederate; relative, kin' and 1303 (246-37-10) *բարեկամություն* 'friendship, cordiality, affection, amity; relationship by marriage.'
- 0133 (2101-73-11) *դպրոց* 'school' illustrates the **centrality of education** and **love of knowledge**, along with words like: earlier 0078 (2872-79-10) *գիտենալ* 'know, have knowledge of, learn, understand, acknowledge; be sensible ~ aware of' and 0120 (2218/2212-79-10-err) *միտք* 'mind, intellect, intelligence; intention, design; thought, idea, opinion; sense'; or later: 0164 (1749-71-11) *մտածել* 'think; meditate;' 0179 (1560-78-11) *հիշել* 'remember, recall, remind (of);' 0201 (1407-73-11) *սովորել* 'learn, study; be studious ~ informed (of), understand; accustom, improve oneself;' 0410 (761-38-10) *դասարան* 'classroom;' 0416 (747-48-10) *ուսուցիչ* 'teacher, instructor, lecturer, tutor; master; professor.'
- 0144 (1938-81-11) *հող* 'land, soil, ground' or a synonym 0790 (417-58-10) *գետին* 'ground, earth, soil; plot, land, field; floor; support' may indicate some interest in **farming**, although after 0230 (1202-65-10) *այգի* 'vineyard, garden, orchard' there is either a perjorative connotation 0405 (765-54-10) *գյուղացի* 'peasant, villager, boor; husbandman, farmer' or some distance 0606 (542-58-10-shared) *վարել* 'plough, till; split, rend (cut).' Obviously, Soviet intrusions in this area were felt: 0729 (448-25-9) *կոլտնտեսություն* 'collective farm ~ economy' or 1258 (258-18-7) *կոլխոզ* 'collective farm' (note that the former is an Armenian formation, while the latter a Russian abbreviation). The vineyard (*այգի* above) is clearly connected with the production of 0759 (435-45-10) *գինի* 'wine.'
- 0146 (1936-70-11) *հոգի* 'soul, spirit, person' or its synonym 0730 (448-49-10) *ոգի* 'spirit, soul, ghost; animation; breath; essential item; genius' underscore Armenian **religious belief**, as also evidenced by the extended meaning of 0272 (1050-77-11) *ժամ* 'hour; time; o' clock; divine service; church,' the high occurrence of 0369 (820-53-9) *Աստված* 'God, The Eternal Being; omnipotent, almighty, all-powerful' (despite the Soviet ban) and words like: 0383 (790-60-9) *հավատալ* 'believe (in);'



- 0847 (392-53-9) հազարստ 'faith, belief, creed; fidelity; trust, assurance, safety, surety, sureness', 0985 (335/272-34-9-err) եկեղեցի 'church, place of worship,' 1219 (266-35-10) հոգեկան 'spiritual,' 1658 (187-6-4) տերտեր 'pastor, priest, clergyman;' or the expression 0909 (368-52-9) փառք Աստծո 'glory to God!'
- 0152 (1898-78-11) ջուր 'water, liquid' is essential for survival, but its high appearance in prose (806) and poetry (534) is noteworthy.
- 0160 (1775-72-11) քար 'stone, rock; precious stone; gravestone' figures highly in poetry (625) and reflects the mountainous terrain in which Armenians live, as does 0188 (1492-77-11) բարձր 'high, elevated, tall, lofty, towering; eminent, exalted; intense; loud; highly.'
- 0163 (1765-50-10) հայ 'Armenian (person),' 0364 (832-46-9) հայերեն 'Armenian (language),' 0533 (600-48-11) հայկական and 0880 (376-40-10) հայոց 'Armenian' [both adjectives] have rightful places (yet neither surprisingly nor pompously high).
- 0170 (1659-78-11) լույս 'light' appears in much poetry (717-12) and idioms; its meaning is both literal and symbolic for hope. Note its distance from: 0582 (560-54-8) մութ 'dark; [ext] gloomy; misty; night-; black; unknowable.'
- 0190 (1479-67-10) ծաղիկ '**flower**; [ext] smallpox' also appears frequently in poetry (514). Contrast the positions of: 0249 (1140-71-11) ծառ 'tree' and 0932 (358-37-11) բույս 'plant.'
- 0194 (1452-67-11) սպասել 'expect, wait ~ hope (for), look forward to, rely upon, stay for' may well reflect Armenian **optimism**. Note that հուսալ 'hope' had relatively few occurrences (33-20-8).
- 0196 (1435-75-11) պահել 'keep, save, preserve; take care of, nurse; protect, guard, defend; observe; fast' echoes the **need for conservation** in harsh times and lands. Its secondary meanings call to mind 0944 (355-59-10) պաշտպանել 'protect, defend, support, sustain; plead, advocate; patronize; assert; take care.'
- 0197 (1434-43-8) զարգացում '**development**, improvement, progress, evolution; proficiency; increase, growth' illustrates both the aspirations and facts of Armenian history.

Before closing, it is interesting to note that of the animal kingdom the 'horse' [ձի - 0357 (1111/852-58-11)] proved its worth over the 'dog' [չուն - 0377 (800-52-11)]. Thereafter, the 'cow' [կով - 0616 (533-37-9)] is important for its 'milk' [կաթ - 0669 (491-45-10)]. The next ten are: 0629 (525-34-11) առյուծ 'lion;' 0791 (416-34-10) առջ 'bear;' 0851 (388-29-10) աղվես 'fox;' 0918 (364-48-10) ձուկ 'fish;' 0933 (358-41-9-shared) գայլ 'wolf;' 0946 (354-41-9) կատու 'cat;' 1020 (320-22-9) փիղ 'elephant;' 1021 (320-33-11) օձ

'snake, serpent;' 1025 (319-22-9) նապաստակ 'hare;' 1089 (300-51-9) թռչուն 'bird, fowl.' While both may be assumed to be culturally important, note the distance of 1382 (230-24-7) էշ 'donkey, ass' and 1626 (191-13-6) ջորի 'mule.'

There is so much more that could be said and explored in this survey. For now, we hope to have highlighted the value of the AFD and whet someone's appetite for furthering such research.

## RESOURCES

- Acharyan Institute of Language. *Ժամանակակից Հայոց Լեզվի Բացատրական Բառարան* (Comprehensive Dictionary of Contemporary Armenian Language). 4 volumes. Yerevan: Academy of Sciences, 1969-1980.
- Aghayan, E. *Արդի Հայերենի Բացատրական Բառարան* (Comprehensive Dictionary of Modern Armenian). Yerevan: Hayastan Publishers, 1976.
- Asmangulian, H. A. and M. I. Hovhannisian. *English-Armenian Dictionary*. Yerevan: Hayastan Publishing House, 1984.
- Baghdasarian, Louisa and R. David Zorc. *Armenian (Eastern) - English Dictionary*. Kensington, MD: Dunwoody Press, 1995.
- Dixon, R. M. W. *Where Have All the Adjectives Gone -- and Other Essays in Semantics and Grammar*. Janua Linguarum, Series Maior, 107. The Hague: Mouton, 1982.
- Ghazaryan, B. K. *Ժամանակակից Հայոց Լեզվի Հաճախականության Բառարան* (Dictionary of Frequently Used Words in the Contemporary Armenian Language). Yerevan, 1982.
- Zorc, R. David and Louisa Baghdasarian. *Armenian (Eastern) Newspaper Reader and Grammar*. Kensington, MD: Dunwoody Press, 1995.