Program for the
Chennai (Tamil Nadu, India) -- Springfield (PA, USA)
twenty-five minute segment

Dress rehearsal --
Thursday, May 11
9:00am (Eastern USA time)
6:30pm (India time)

2006 Megaconference Jr. presentation --
Thursday, May 18
8:15am - 8:40am (Eastern USA time)
5:45pm - 6:10pm (India time)

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This copy of the program was updated on Thursday, May 11.
This program is posted at
http://ccat.sas.upenn.edu/videoconference/series/May_18__Program.pdf

For information regarding the 2006 Megaconference Jr. (including the live streams on May 18), please see, http://www.megaconferencejr.org
General notes:

The plan is to have three question-and-answer sessions, interspersed with the songs-chants-dances-games.

One chant is in the question-and-answer format: the Handclapping game, "Enna biscuit?" ("What biscuit?") (page 20 of this program). Thus, my sense is that "Enna biscuit?" is a key activity of the session.

When we in Chennai present a song-chant-dance-game, we will (as much as possible) first perform it in English translation, then in the original Tamil. (In the case of "Enna biscuit?", the original is in a mix of Tamil and English.)

With each song-chant-dance-game, we in Chennai will (as much as possible): 1) demonstrate it; 2) teach it to the Springfield children; and 3) seek to play the activity together with the Springfield children. This last will require some creative and inventive thinking about how to transpose physically-present interaction into tele-present interaction.

A purpose of this session is to explore possibilities of how playing with children’s songs-chants-dances-games can assist with the learning and teaching of spoken languages. Two ways that this might occur involve: repetition with variation (including re-using the end of one line to begin the next line); and saying and doing things simultaneously.

In this session, we in Chennai hope to teach the Springfield children a little Tamil, and we hope that the Springfield children will teach the Chennai children some English (the Chennai children already know some English; this event gives them an opportunity to practice and improve their English). Myself and Jeeva (a Tamil woman who is a professional storyteller) will be helping with translating on the Chennai side.

We in Chennai are developing strategies for teaching each activity to the Springfield children, partly in English, and partly in Tamil. Probably most of the activities that the Springfield children will teach to the Chennai children will be in English only -- although it would be great if the Springfield children might translate their activities into Tamil a little also.

One other note: This session involves spoken Tamil, which usually is not written down. The word-forms and -endings in formal written Tamil in many cases are quite different than those given here.

Many thanks,

- Eric
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Q-and-A

At least sometimes, the questioner will be on side A of the videoconference, and the answerer will be on side B.

After a person on side B answers the initial question, the next question -- whether it is a follow-up question (such as "Why?" or "What use is that?"), or another question altogether -- could be asked by a person on either side A or B.

First question:
1) What is this? (point to eyes, nose, mouth...)

Introduction questions:
2) What is your name?
3) What is your place?

Basic questions:
4) What do you do? (as an occupation)
5) What are you doing? (at the present moment)
6) What do you eat?
7) What do you study?
8) Where do you go?
9) What are you thinking?

Follow-up questions:
10) What kind of _____?
11) What is the use of _____?
The speaker points to the corresponding part of her body, and asks --

**Tamil.**

International Phonetic System transliteration.

English translation -- word for word.

English translation -- colloquial sentence.

What is this?

---

This is an eye.

What use is an eye?

To see a nose.

---
This is a nose.

What use is a nose?

(pronounced, "swa-sik-ka")

To breathe air.

To smell a flower.
This is a tongue.

What use is a tongue?

To speak.

To tell a story.

This is a tooth.

What use is a tooth?

To eat.
To eat what?

To eat a fruit.

What fruit?

To eat a fruit.

or

To eat what?

food (rhymes with "chore-ru")

To eat what?

rice food
What rice?

What raw / green ("pac-chai" means both "raw" [in the previous line] and "green" [in the following line] -- this is a pun.)

A green leaf.

This is a hand.

What use is a hand?

To pick up

To throw
To throw what?

pan thu e Ri ya
To throw a ball.

This is a head.

What is inside a head?

a brain

What use is a brain?

to think
2) உங்கள் பெயர் என்ன காண்டு என்ன?
wung ga pe yar en na
your name what
What is your name?

என்ன பெயர் _________.
en pe yar _________.
my name _________.
My name is _________.

3) உங்கள் இடம் என்ன காண்டு என்ன?
wung ga uur e thu
your place which
Which is your place?

என்ன இடம் _________.
en uur _________.
my place _________.
My your place is _________.

எங்கு இடம் _________.
eng ga uur _________.
our place _________.
Our place is _________.
4) en na sey Riing ga?

What are you doing

(As an occupation.)

"Reen" is pronounced, "rain"

I am studying.

5) en na paN DRing ga?

What are you doing

(At the present moment.)

"pee-sa" is pronounced, "pay-sa"

I am speaking.

6) eng ghee poo Riing ga

Where are you going?

"eng-ghee" is pronounced, "eng-gay"

I am going to the house

I am going to the house

7) en na saap Du Riing ga?

What eating

I am eating a banana.

I am eating a banana.
8) en na pa Dik ki Riing ga?
What are you studying?

What are you studying?

naan ka Nak ku pa Dik ki Reen
I am studying math.

9) en na yoo sik ki Riing ga
What are you thinking?

What are you thinking?

naan paa Dam yoo sik ki Reen
I am thinking about schoolwork.

Follow-up questions:

10) en na _____?
What _____?
What _____? (What kind of _____?)

11) _____ e thaRk ku
What use
What is the use of _____?
1) **Finger play with talk.**

A) Fox creeping, crab creeping. (Indian activity)

B) One little piggy. (USA activity)

This activity has four stages:

i) The speaker, with her right hand, points to successive fingers on another person's right hand, saying:

```
非法字符
```

saap paa du  rice

```
非法字符
```

ko LRZHam bu  a vegetable

```
非法字符
```

saam baar  a lentil stew  ("saambaar" is similar to "dhal")

```
非法字符
```

ra sam  a sauce

ii) The speaker gestures with her right elbow in the palm of her partner's right hand as if to mix the food, saying,

```
非法字符
```

paap pu ka Dai ma  paap pu ka Dai  ( pa rup pu )

dhal mixing  dhal mixing  ( dhal )
iii) The speaker gestures with her right hand as if to give some of the food to various people, saying:

*tham bi kon jom*  
younger brother little  
A little for younger brother.

*thang gac chi kon jom*  
younger sister little  
A little for younger sister.

*ap paa kon jom*  
father little  
A little for father.

*am maa kon jom*  
mother little  
A little for mother.

*thaat thaa kon jom*  
grandfather little  
A little for grandfather.

*paaT Ti kon jom*  
grandmother little  
A little for grandmother.

*wu nak ku kon jom*  
for you a little  
A little for you.

*e nak ku kon jom*  
for me a little  
A little for me.
iv) The speaker, using her right hand, finger-walks up the right arm of the listener and finally tickles the listener's right armpit, saying

The crab is creeping.

The fox is creeping.

The person being tickled usually giggles, and squirms to escape.
2) **Counting-out games, using fingers.**

A) aak-ku baak-ku. (Indian activity)

B) Eeny meeny mine-y mo. (USA activity)

---

A) aak-ku baak-ku (Indian activity)

The speaker points to players’ outstretched fingers as she chants. The finger that is pointed to when the the final syllable of the line is spoken is bent back-and-under. That person then says something which is incorporated into the next go-round (Jeeva and myself are not yet quite certain how this works).

- Areca nut
- Betel leaf

---

B) Eeny meeny mine-y mo. (USA activity)

Eeny meen-y mine-y moe,
catch a tiger by the toe.
If he hollers, let me go,
eeny meen-y mine-y moe.
3) **Say-and-do games.**

A) **Crow crow, fly fly.** (Indian activity)

B) **Simon says.** (USA activity)

---

A) **Crow crow, fly fly.** (Indian activity)

The speaker says a bird name; and then all say, "Fly, fly" and tap their outstretched fingers up-and-down. If the speaker names an animal other than a bird, and a player goes along with that, tapping her fingers, that player is out.

\[
\text{kaar kaar, kaar kaar, pa Ra pa Ra}
\]

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{kaar} & \quad \text{kaar} \\
\text{crow} & \quad \text{crow} \\
\text{fly} & \quad \text{fly}
\end{align*}
\]

- **ki Li**
  - parrot

- **ma yil**
  - peacock

- **pu Raa**
  - dove

- **aan thai**
  - owl

- **ku ru vi**
  - sparrow

- **naay**
  - dog (rhymes with "sigh")
pu nai
  cat

æ  li
  rat

yaa nai
  elephant

B) Simon says.  (USA activity)

The speaker says, "Simon says," and then simultaneously says a body part and says "touch your head" (for example). The other players imitate this gesture. However, if the speaker omits the phrase "Simon says," and a player goes along with the subsequent gesture, that player is out.

Simon says, touch your head.
Bala says, touch your head.  (The name is changed to a Tamil name.)
Bala says, touch your tha-lai.  (The body part is translated into Tamil.)

tha lai
  head

kaN Nu
  eyes

muuk ku
  nose

vaay
  mouth  (rhymes with "sigh")
துளு "(rhymes with "hole")

கை
hand
4) **Handclapping singing-games.**

A) "What biscuit?" (Indian activity)

B) "Miss Mary Mack", or any other handclapping singing-game. (USA activity)

"What biscuit?"

A rule in this chanting-game seems to be: whatever answer is given, ask "What?" (that is, "What kind of?") about the first part of that answer.

Some of the introductions of new words are justified by the *association of the objects* (biscuit and jam -- for example); and some are justified by the *association of sounds* for objects, such as puns, rhymes, and other wordplay ("What bun?" "Ribbon" -- for example).

Below is an English translation of the chant (with explanations). Following that is a Tamil/transliteration/translation presentation of the chant.

As the words are spoken, three hand motions are repeated: 1) right hand up (facing downwards) and left hand down (facing upwards), and then clap with one's partner; 2) both hands forward, and then clap with one's partner; and 3) palms facing together, and then clap one's own hands.

*English (with explanations):*

Biscuit, biscuit,

1
What biscuit?  
Jam biscuit.

2
What jam?  
Tea jam.

3
What tea?  
Bun bread.  (In Tamil, the word for "tea", and this word for "bread", rhyme.)

4
What bun?  
Ribbon.
What ribbon?  
Green ribbon.

What green?  
Mango green.

What mother?  
Teacher mother.  
(In Tamil, the word for "mango", and the word for "mother", is almost the same -- this works as a pun.)

What teacher?  
Math teacher.

What math?  
Upper-level math.

What upper-level?  
The top upper-level.

What shaved-head?  
Palani shaved-head.  
(In Tamil, the word for "top" [as in the line above], and the word for "shaved-head" [as in this line], is the same -- this is a pun.)

What Palani?  
Vadapalani.  
(Palani is a town in southwest Tamil Nadu where people often shave their heads as part of the religious worship.)

What vadai?  
Tortoise vadai.  
(The first two syllables of "Va-da-pa-la-ni" sound almost the same as "va-dai," which is the word for a fried-dough snack.)

What tortoise?  
Pond tortoise.

What pond?  
Krishna pond.  
(This refers to a temple and pond dedicated to the God, Krishna, which is near the neighborhood of the child who is chanting.)
An alternative ending is:

15
What pond?
  A cloth-wick pond.  (This refers to the cloth-wicks in oil-lamps often used in Hindu temples.)

16
What cloth-wick?
  An oil-lamp cloth-wick.

17
What oil-lamp?
  A standing oil-lamp.

18
What punch?  (In Tamil, the word for "standing" [as in the line above], and the word for "punch" [as in this line], is the same -- this is a pun.)
  A dance punch!
பிஸ்கெட், பிஸ்கெட், Tamil

International Phonetic System transliteration

biscuit biscuit

English translation

1

en na bis keT
what biscuit

jaam bis keT
jam biscuit

2

en na jaam
what jam

Ti jaam
tea jam

3

en na Ti
what tea

ban roT Ti
bun bread
4

en na ban
what bun

ribbon

5

en na rib ban
what ribbon

pac chai ribbon

6

en na pac chai
what green

maa (vu) pac chai
mango green

7

en na maa
what mango / mother

Tic char maa
teacher mother
8

What is the math teacher?

9

What is the upper-level math teacher?

10

What is the top upper-level?

11

What is the shaved head?
12

эң не чанд ла Дай?  
en na pa LRZa ni  
what Palani

валану ни

va Da pa LRZa ni  
Vadapalani

13

эң не чанд  ва?  
en na va Dai  
what vadai

валану ни

aa mai va Dai  
tortoise vadai

14

эң не чанд  аа маи?  
en na aa mai  
what tortoise

валану ни

ku Lat thuu aa mai  
pond tortoise

15

эң не чанд  ку Лам?  
en na ku Lam  
what pond

валану ни

paart tha saa ra thi ku Lam  
Krishna pond

An alternative ending is:
15

கான்கா கு லாம்  ?
en na ku Lam
what pond

கிரிய கு லாம்
thi ri ku Lam
cloth-wick pond

16

கான்கா கிரிய ?
en na thi ri
what cloth-wick

லிங்கு கு கிரிய
ti Lak ku thi ri
oil-lamp cloth-wick

17

கான்கா லிங்கு கு ?
en na vi Lak ku
what oil-lamp

குது லிங்கு
kut thu vi Lak ku
standing oil-lamp

18

கான்கா குது கு ?
en na kut thu
what punch

குமும் மாங்க குது
kum maang kut thu
dance punch
5) **Ring singing-games.**

A) One stone pick up, one stone throw... (Indian activity)

B) Ring around the rosie. (USA activity)

C) Duck, duck, goose. (USA activity)

D) A bunch, a bunch, of cashewnut fruits... (Indian activity)

A) One stone pick up, one stone throw... (Indian activity)

---

A stone to pick up

A stone to throw

One thousand parrots, having jumped, are flying.

Two

Two thousand

Three

Three thousand

Four

Four thousand

Five

Five thousand
B)  
Ring around the rosie. (USA activity)

Ring around the rosie, pocket full of posie,
ashes, ashes, we all fall down.

The cows are in the meadow, eating buttercups,
ashes, ashes, we all stand up.

C)  
Duck, duck, goose. (USA activity)

Duck, duck, goose.

D)  
A bunch, a bunch, of cashewnut fruits... (Indian activity)

A bunch, a bunch of cashewnut fruits.

More, more, come around.  (Fox, fox,)

Find him in the crowd.
6) **Line-and-arch singing-games.**

A) London bridge... (USA activity)

B) One bucket of water... (Indian activity)

---

A) London bridge... (USA activity)

London bridge is falling down, falling down, falling down,
London bridge is falling down, right on you!

B) One bucket of water... (Indian activity)

One pot of water taking,

One flower blooming.

Two

Three

Four

Five
The arch comes down, and a person in the line is caught. The people who formed the line ask the arch-makers:

The arch-makers reply:

The above exchange is performed three times, with the pleaders' arms successively wider apart each time, indicating larger and larger amounts of money.

Then the pleaders ask,

The arch-makers reply,

and they release the "young goat." The lead pleader grabs the "young goat", and quickly, gesturing far away, says to the arch-makers,
### Tamil transliteration

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### Vowels (International Phonetic System)

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### Consonants

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### Notes

- **Capital consonants (T, N, LRZH, R)**
  - = tongue is in up-and-back position
- **Underlined consonant (n)**
  - = tongue is in middle position
- **Other consonants**
  - = tongue is front position
- **Double vowel**
  - = long sound