CHAPTER 3

SENTENCE PATTERNS IN INSCRIPTIONAL TAMIL
(DESCRIPTIONS)
3.1 Introduction

Sentences in Tamil are normally classified on the basis of the occurrence or non-occurrence of copula verbs and finite verbs under two major headings, namely copula sentences and sentences with finite verbs. Among the affirmative sentences, depending upon the order of the constituents different varieties of affirmative sentences can be conceived of. For example, modern Tamil sentences like,

avan rasman 'He is Raman'
avan nallavan 'He is a good person'
avan karuppan 'He is Karuppan'

are treated as sentences with implicit copula verb. Implicit copula sentences are considered by some (Porko, 1972) as sentences with nominal predicates. Sentences such as,

avan natantasn 'He walked'
avan paricukalai valankinain 'He distributed prizes'

avan aiciyarukkup puttakattaik kotuttaín

'He gave book to the teacher'

etc.

are treated as non-copula sentences or sentences with affirmative finite verbs. Sentences such as,

raːman puttakattaip patittasːn

or

puttakattai raːman patittasːn

'Raman read the book'

are treated as sentences reflecting change in the word order.

These three varieties of sentences namely copula sentences, affirmative sentences and word order modified sentences are found to occur in the Inscriptional Tamil.

3.2 Types of sentences

3.2.1 Copula Sentences

Most of the Inscriptional Tamil sentences are highly complex reflecting multiple embeddings of the constituents. So, for
illustrating the types of sentences found in the inscriptional data, we take into consideration here only the subject and predicate part of the long inscriptional sentences.

Copula sentences have a copula verb (aiku 'to become') which may be explicit or implicit in its occurrence. On the basis of the presence or absence of the copula predicate sentences may be classified into explicit copula sentences and implicit copula sentences.

3.2.1.1 Implicit Copula sentences

i. pon aintu (Mul., 44a)
   'coin five in number'

ii. nilam ettu (Mul., 179a)
   'land eight in number'

iii. pacu irupattuna:lu (Mul., 47)
    'cows twenty four in number'

In the above mentioned examples the copula verb aikum 'will become-it/they' which is expected after the numeral is absent, and therefore these sentences become implicit copula sentences.
3.2.1.2 Explicit copula sentences

i. a:ntumuppata:vatu (Mai., 38)
'thirtieth year'

ii. a:ntu irupattimu:nra:vatu (Chan., 128)
'twenty third year'

iii. ketutta:r ..... konravarkala:var (Chik., 42)
'those who stop ..... are killers'

iv. immu:vo:m ..... katavo:ma:no:m (Bow., 35a)
'these three ........ are people with liabilities'

3.2.2 Affirmative Sentences (non-copula sentences)

These sentences irrespective of their complexity, have a subject noun phrase and a predicate which is in the form of a non-copula verb. In the chapter on verb phrases (in 2.2.2.1.2.2) it has been mentioned that a finite non-copula verb normally carries certain pronominal terminations. Any sentence which ends up with an action verb with due pronominal terminations is an affirmative sentence. The affirmative sentences (non-copula) may be classified in a variety of ways.
3.2.2.1 Sentences with different tense carrying predicate

Affirmative sentences could be classified on the basis of the tense markers found in the verb of the predicate into:

i. Sentences in past form
and ii. Sentences in future form.

These two types can have further varieties depending upon the type of pronominal terminations which occur as final constituents of the verbal sequence.

3.2.2.1.1 Sentences in past form

eg. i. cañkanayakatte:van ...... vite:nn (Srini., 8)
'Samkanayakathevan gave'

ii. pomnakkal ........... pañho:al (Chin., 161)
'Ponnakkal plunged'

iii. ........na:ttavaro:m kututto:m (Sid., 26)
'all the headmen of the village (we) gave'

iv. co:ma:ca:nta:n kututto:m (Mul., 183)
'Somasandan gave'
v. ca:na:ntai pannuvitta:n

'Sanandai caused to do'

vi. turaiyaracr patta:r

'Duraiyaracr died'

3.2.2.1.2 Sentences in future form

eg. i. alippa:n ........ patuvain

'he who does not follow will suffer'

ii. mantala:titta cetti .......... anupavippo:m

'I Mandaladitta Shetty ..... will enjoy'

iii. asmallavenravan ..... po:varkal

'those who do not comply will die'

iv. ........ alivu ceya:ir pa:ttakarenappatuvo:re:y

'destroyers will be called traitors'

3.2.2.2 Sentences with change in the word order

Affirmative sentences which show variation due to the change in the order of the constituents are also recorded in the inscriptionsal Tamil data. Casal noun phrases which generally occur
before the verb, may sometimes, come after the verb and there by.

bring constructions with different word order.

eg. i. alana: tako:n ........ vitte:n ta:nama:ka (Hos., 162)

N V Adv

'I who is Alanatakkon .... gave as gift'

ii. valla:late:van .... kututto:m .... mutala:ka (Mal., 71)

N V Adv

'King Ballala..... gave(Hon.)...from ... date'

iii. ivvanaivo:mum pannikututto:m..... a: lva:rkku (Mal., 37)

N V Adv

'We all established ...... for the deity Alvar'

iv. vi: raka:nkan ... Vitte:n...kuli a:yirattainu:ru (Kol., 121)

N V Obj

'Veeragangan (I) gave thousand five hundred measure of land'

3.2.2.3 Sentences with negative predicates

On the basis of mood and voice Tamil sentences could be
classified as negative, passive, imperative, hortative, etc.
In a sentence, if the finite verb form carries some negative markers, then that type of sentence may be treated as a negative sentence. Negative markers can occur even with nouns, participial nouns, etc. But the occurrence of the negative markers in the predicate could be taken as the major factor that decides negative sentences. Inscriptional Tamil has a very limited number of negative sentences with negative predicates.

eg. i. aram maravarka
   0 V
   'charity, don't forget'

ii. ..... aramallatu tunaiyillai
   'no companion other than dharma/charity'

3.2.2.4 Passive Sentences

Sentences can be classified as passive on the basis of the voice category of the predicates. Passive constructions are limited in the modern spoken Tamil and are found to occur both in the literary as well as in the Tamil used for science writing. Inscriptional data also reveals the existence of passive constructions.

eg. i. ... mutaliya:r avarkala:l vrutti ceyyappattatu
   Inst V
   '(It) was renovated by Mudaliyar'
ii. alivu ceyta:r.....pa\(\text{\textasciitilde}n\)karenappatu vo\(\text{\textasciitilde}t\)ey (Sid., 16)

'those who destroy the dharma....will be called as traitors'

3.2.2.5 Hortative Sentences

Hortative sentences will have mostly hortative predicates which carry suffixes like -\text{\textasciitilde}ka, -\text{\textasciitilde}a:ka, etc.

i. ittanmam jayikka (Chin., 88)

'let this dharma succeed'

ii. \ldots celuttuvo:ma\(\text{\textasciitilde}k\)a (Bow., 29)

'let us pay/offer'

Many sentences found in the inscriptive data could be treated as hortative or future directive, since the predicates of the sentences appear to be a kind of directive. The directives in the inscriptive data also reflect the function of threatening. Some of the examples of future directive sentences with hortative predicates are as follows:

eg. i. cantira:tit\(\text{\textasciitilde}t\)avarai cellakkatavatu (Kol., 41)

'till the existence of sun and moon let it go'
3.2.2.6 Conjunctive Sentences

Sentences on the basis of their complexity, that is, depending upon the type and number of clauses they carry, are classified as Conjunctive sentences or Co-ordinate sentences and Complex or Subordinate clause carrying sentences. Co-ordinate sentences carry two or more simple sentences connected by certain conjunctive markers.

Co-ordinate sentences are classified as:

i. those carrying co-ordinate markers and
ii. those which do not carry co-ordinate markers.

3.2.2.6.1 Co-ordinate Sentences with markers

i. ...... ninaippomaskir .......... anupavippo:m marrum

...... virotam pannuva:r ..... anupavippa:r (Sid., 92)

'If we think against (it) we will suffer and those
who discord the dharma ..... will suffer' 

3.2.2.7 Complex Sentences

Another variety of sentence, generally called as Complex
sentence, can be identified if it has two clauses of which one is
matrix clause within which another clause is embedded. The
embedded clauses may be in the non-infinitive form and they may be
infinitive clause or participial clause. Inscriptional data also
provides complex sentences with two different types of embedded
clauses.

3.2.2.7.1 With Dependent Clause

3.2.2.7.1.1 Infinitive Clauses

eg. i. co:makkal ti:ppa:ya (ikkal ceyvitta:r) (Devana., 14)

N  Inf  O  V
'because Somakkal plunged into the funeral pire (somebody established this herostone)'

ii. valla:la te:var .... arula ....  (Mala., 54)

N  Inf

(mouli:ouram etuppittai:n cantramutali:annan)

O  V  N

'while king Ballala ruled........ (Cantramutali constructed Mouliswaram)

3.2.2.7.1.2 Participial Clauses

eg. i. pi:tamunca:tti ..... celvamunta:kkina:n

Parti.  V(Finite)

............ na:tai:ntai  (Hos .,96)

N

'Nadandai having constructed Sanctum (and) gave wealth'

ii. ippon kai:kkontu....... celluttakkatavo:m (Bow., 29)

Parti.  V

'having accepted the coins, let us perform due offerings'
3.3 Sentences classified on the basis of their internal components

In the second chapter of this dissertation (Chapter - II) some discussion has been given with reference to the constituent phrases of a sentence, and the different general types of sentences found in the inscriptional data. In this section the components constituting the subject adjunct and predicates constituting the sentences are being discussed individually, and the total components that are found in the sentences of the inscriptional data are presented.

Any sentence will have in its superficial structure a subject and a predicate. The subject of the sentence will be grammatically a noun phrase, and it may occur either at the initial, medial or final position of a sentence.

Sentences of the Inscriptional Tamil can be classified on the basis of the types of elements functioning in the subject, predicate and adjunct of the sentences.

3.3.1 Subject Based Sentence types

3.3.1.1 Subject position based sentence types

3.3.1.1.1 Sentences with subject in the initial position

eg. i. tanimaini:kkina:rena .... vitte:n (Mul., 184)
'I, Tanimainikkinar .... gave'

ii. ca:nantai .... pannuvittan

'Sanandai caused to make'

3.3.1.1.2 Sentences with subject in the medial position

eg. i. ...... kacava:ntain ceyvittain

'Kasavandian caused to do'

ii. ........ pirain pattar kontom

'all including Piranpattar accepted'

3.3.1.1.3 Sentences with subject in the final position

eg. i. utakam pannine:n cettai:lvaren

'gave the registered land I, Chettalvar'

ii. natuppittain .... masteivan

'caused to progress Madhevan'

3.3.1.2 Sentences based on the person of the subject

3.3.1.2.1 Sentences with first person as subject

First person singular

eg. i. ka:inka perumal: .... vittan

'I, Kangaperumal offered'
ii. alanatakkon .... vitte:n

'I, Alanathakon ...... gave'

First person honorific singular

eg. i. valla:la te:varacar .... kututto:m

'We (hon.), king Ballala ...... gave'

ii. amara:paranan .... varikal vitto:m

'We (hon.), Amaraparana .... offered tax free'

First person plural

eg. i. ........ utaiya:rum .... kututto:m

'We two utaiyars ...... gave'

ii. ........ ivvanaivosm .... kututto:m

'We all ....................... gave'

3.3.1.2.2 Sentences with third person as subject

It is to be observed here that sentences with second person singular or plural or honorific are rarely found in the data taken for analysis. Even the apparent imperative sentences are written in the inscriptions with third person subject only. The occurrence of this type of sentence is a common feature in the inscriptional Tamil, and perhaps this strategy is adopted just to present even
the imperative sentences in a non-second person direction or in a non-committed direction.

eg. i. aram maravarka

' don't forget dharma'

The following are some of the examples for the subject of the sentences which are nouns in third person singular, plural or honorific.

3.3.1.2.3 Sentences with third person human and non-human subjects

eg. i. varatan......... pata:n

'Varadhan ....... died'

[ Mas. Sg. ]

ii. ponnakkal......... pa:nca:l

'Ponnakkal ....... plunged'

[ Fem. Sg. ]

iii. ve:la:r.............ceyvittai:r

'Velar .......... made some one to do'

[ Mas. Sg. Hon. ]

iv. capaiya:r............ceyvittai:r

'administrators .......... made someone to do'

[ Mas. Pl. ]
Usually the third person singular honorific and plural sentences may be seen in the passive or causative constructions. Affirmative simple finite verbs are rarely found to occur with third person human subjects. Mention may be made here that noun phrases which carry head nouns representing third person may be neuter singular, and they may be occurring as subject of the sentences. Subjects in the neuter plural form are not found to occur in the inscriptional data.

eg. 1. itu .......... cellakkatavatu (Mal., 37)

'let this be observed'

ii. cantati viruttikka (Devana., 76)

'let the projoni expand'

[ explicit neuter subject ]

iii. .......... mutta:mal cellakkatavatu (Kol., 41)

'without obstruction let this be observed'

iv. .......... vrutti ceyyappattatu (Bang., 64)

'(it) was expanded'

v. .......... vaitti iruppatu (Mal., 71)

'having praised and be well'
3.3.1.3 Sentences with subjects decided on the basis of their derivational status

The noun phrase which functions as the subject of a sentence may be a simple noun phrase with relevant adjectival form or it may be a noun phrase with a head noun qualified by an embedded sentence in relative participle form or it may be a noun-phrase with conjunct noun-phrase subject.

1. Sentences with simple NP as subject

   eg. i. varatan .......... pattain (Hos., 98)
       'Varadhan .......... died'

   ii. .......... pannina:r .......... kolluva:rkal (Mal., 14)
       'he who does .......... will reach'

   iii. cañkana:yakate:van .......... vitte:n (Srini., 8)
       '(I), Sanganayakadhevan ....... gave'

2. Sentences with compound NP as subject

   eg. i. atika:rikalum viruvina:yanum ivvanaivo:mun (Mal., 37)
       .......... pannikkututto:m
       'officials, Viruvinayan and we all made and offered'
The conjoining of the noun phrases is operated through the addition of the discontinuous conjunctive marker -um ... -um with the two noun phrases planned on left-hand side of the marker - um.

3.3.1.3. Sentences with derived NP as subject

Noun phrase with a head noun and embedded sentence in relative participle form functions as the subject of a sentence. Transformational grammar (Agesthialingom, 1969) tries to explain the formation of such phrases with the help of a structure in which a head noun is attributed with a transformed sentence as an attribute. The sentences are modified into a relative participle construction and will be attached to the head noun of a noun phrase. This type of derivation is not discussed in detail here, because we are not going to present or describe the transformational process of the rules concerned. Some of the examples of the subject of a sentence which is a sentence embedded noun-phrase may be as follows:

eg. i. ....... kututta pañam cellakkatavatu (T. Nara., 127)  
   'let the money paid be observed'

   ii. ......... vaittapacu ......... celvataika (Mul., 47)  
   'let the cow that is given continue to be used'
3.3.1.4 Sentences classified on the basis of the inner structure of the subject NPs

Sentences may be made up of subject noun phrases which in turn may be made up of their own characteristic constituents. While discussing the constituents of NPs, mention was made that a noun phrase may have a head noun which is preceded by different modifiers. The constituents may be genitive phrases, identifier phrases, relative participle phrases, proper nouns, adjectives and particles. These constituents are considered as qualifiers of nouns. Qualifier + Head noun combinations may function as subject of the sentences and sentences may be classified according to the constituents of the subject ending.

3.3.1.4.1 Sentences with subject NP carrying genitive phrases

1. With explicit genitive + NP as subject

eg. i. nammutaiya ....... e:ri .......... V  (Mul., 183)

' my lake'

ii. makalutaiya pillai .......... V  (Hos., 108 & 109.B)

'daughter's children'
2. With implicit genitive + NP as subject

eg. i. cisyan makan ................V (Chin., 85)
   'Ciyar's son'

ii. ka:muntan makan .............V (Srini., 123)
   'Kamundan's son'

3.3.1.4.2 Sentences with identifier + N as subject

1. With implicit identifier marker

eg. i. manumakaspracasyittan casntilyan (Hos., 146, F.)
   'Minister Chandilyan'

2. With explicit identifier marker askiya

eg. i. veslaslaraskiya veslasyata mutaliyasr (Srini., 8)
   'Velayudamudaliyar who is an agriculturist'

   ii. mutaliyasr ...... puttipirara:kiya nallatampi (Srini., 8)
       .......... V

   'Nallatampi who is the son of Velayudamudaliyar'
3. With explicit marker enra/ena

eg. i. alutaiya:rena na:n ........ V (Mal., 99)

'I, who is called Aludaiyar'

3.3.1.4.3 Sentences with subject NP carrying relative participle as modifier

eg. i. pustavu:rilirukkum vella:lar ........ V (Bow., 29)

'the agriculturists who are in Pudhavur'

ii. karupula:n perra pillai ........ V (Bow., 26)

'the son of Karuppular'

3.3.1.4.4 Sentences with adjective + N as a subject

eg. i. ka:ncaimai:nakarattu vanikan ........ V (Sriini., 8)

'the merchant from Kanchi'

ii. amma:n wayira:ntai.......... V (Bow., 29)

'uncle Vayirandai'

iii. rajara:na va:cute:var (Chin., 102)

'King Vasudhevar'
3.3.1.4.5 Sentences with subject NP carrying particles as modifiers

eg. i. tanmaciyar ullitta na:ttavarom....V (Bang., 133 F)

'the headmen (village) including Thanmaciyar'

3.3.1.4.6 Sentences with subject NPs carrying Proper noun as modifiers

eg. i. kutikila:n caǹkana:ya:yakate:van..... (Srin., 8)

vitt:en

'(I), Sanganayakathevan who is a land lord...... gave'

ii. tuṣṭara:tittyya va:cute:van.....V (Chin., 102)

'(I), Vasudhevan with the title Thustaratitya'

3.3.1.4.7 Sentences with subject NPs carrying Pronoun as head

eg. i. na:n ............... kotutte:n (Kol., 234)

'I ............... gave'
3.3.2 Sentences classified on the basis of the predicate structure

3.3.2.1 Sentences classified on the basis of mood, voice and aspect

Any sentence will have a predicate which is made up of a simple verb or complex verb, if they are in the finite form. A sentence may also have a non-finite predicate but such non-finite predicate carrying sentences may not have an independent occurrence, and it will be embedded as a part of the noun phrase which functions as a subject or an object or causal endings (noun phrases) which function as adjuncts of verb-phrase or a sentence.

The finite predicate of a sentence manifests four types depending upon their aspects and mood. For example, finite verbs that function as predicate of a sentence in the inscriptions! data may be in the affirmative, negative, positive, hortative, active or passive forms.

3.3.2.1.1 Sentences with affirmative predicates

eg. i. va:cute:van ...........kututte:n (Chin., 102)

'I, Vasudhevan gave'
ii. vilakkuvain .... pa:vattile:poivain    (Srini., 8)

neither 'one who does nor adopt .... will die with sin'

3.3.2.1.2 Sentences with negative predicates

eg. i. aram maravarka    (Chan., 97 b)

'don't forget dharma'

ii. aramallatu tuṇaiyillai    (Kol., 77)

'no companian other than dharma'

3.3.2.1.3 Sentences with hortative

eg. i. itanmam jayikka    (Chin., 88)

'let this dharma win'

ii. vatti polika    (Mul., 45)

'let the interest multiply'

iii. vilakkina:n narakam pukuva:n    (Mul., 100)

'he who does not follow will go to the hell'

iv. panninavan vamśam nirmulama:m    (Bow., 31)

'the decendence of the one who does not observe will be eradicated'
3.3.2.1.4 Sentences with active predicate

eg. i. pantitar ...... kututto:m

'(I), Pandit gave'

ii. karkatama:ra:yan .... pannikututte:n

'I, Karkadamarayan having made .... gave'

3.3.2.1.5 Sentences with passive predicates

eg. i. vrutti ceyyappattatu

'(it) was expanded'

ii. alivu ceyta:r pa:takarenappatuvo:rey

'he who violates (it) will be named as traitor'

3.3.2.2 Sentences classified on the basis of the components of the verb

Sentences will also be classified differently on the basis of the type of finite verb forms which function as predicates. The following are the different types of sentences thus classified:
3.3.2.2.1 Sentence classification on the basis of the verb base

1. With intransitive verb base

- *farmer died*

- Duraiyaracar died

2. With transitive verb base

- *those who go against .... will suffer*

- *Alanadakkon gave*

3. With causative verb base

- *Samandai caused (somebody) to construct*

- Adhiccan dug (the lake)
3.3.2.2 Sentences with different tense predicate

1. With past predicate

eg. i. va:sctevan ...... utakam pannivitto:m (Chin., 102)
   'I, Vasudhevan (hon.) ...... registered and gave'

ii. ninnu natuppita:n .......... maste:van (Mala., 54)
   'Madhevan looked after'

2. With future predicate

eg. i. a:mallavenravan ...... pa:vattile: (Mul., 34)
   po:va:rkal
   'those who say no, will die due to sin'

3.3.2.3 Sentences with predicates carrying different pronominal terminations

eg. i. tanimainikkina:r ...... vitte:n (Mul., 184)
   'I, Tanimainikkinar offered'
   [ I Pr. Sg. ]
Such types of sentences appear in the inscriptive data also. Tamil linguists tried to derive this NP NP type of sentences from a construction with verbal predicates by way of assigning copula verbs for such sentences (Porko, 1972). Supportive arguments were also given by linguists in order to establish the existence of copula predicate.

eg. i. ittanmattai ketuttavan cuva: mikku tappinavan

(Nelama*, 38 b)

'those who stopped this dharma become sinner to god'.

This is a sentence which appears to be with nominal subject and predicate. Instead of calling such sentences as sentences with nominal predicates one could assume that the existence of the copula verb aivas 'will become - he' and make a sentence as the one with copula predicate.

ittanmattai ketuttavan cuva:mikku tappinavan aivas

(Nelama*, 38 b)

'those who stopped this dharma will become sinner to god'

It is to be noted here that the internal evidence is also there for supporting the implicit existence of the copula form of the verb even in the inscriptive data.
eg. i. itaikketuttair .......... pacuvaik konravarkala:var

(Chik., 42 )

'those who stopped will become the killers of cow'

Some sentences with copula verb as their predicate along with
the characteristic pronominal terminations are as follows:

eg. i. immu:vo:m ........ katavo:ma:mo:m (Bow., 35 a)

'we three ........ are destined to do'

ii. pattan tanta nilam ettu (Mul., 179 a)

'the land pattan gave are eight'

3.3.2.4 Sentences with non-finite predicates

Sentences can also be classified as non-finite or dependent,
on the basis of the non-finite predicates they carry. The
sentence with a subject and a non-finite form of a verb functioning
as a predicate with or without specific adjunct type may be called
as a non-finite sentence. Non-finite sentences may function as a
part of a noun phrase which functions as a subject or object or
adjunct. Generally, the non-finite sentences functioning as part
of the component phrases of sentences may be classified as verbal
participles or infinitives. Depending upon their position in the phrasal elements in which they occur such sentences may be treated as subjects, objects, compliments or adjuncts.

3.3.2.4.1 Sentences with infinitive predicates

eg. i. co:marai. can ca:va ...... (Chin., 161)

'when Somaraican died'

ii. co:makkal ti:ppa:y a (Devana., 14)

'because Somakkal plunged into the fire'

iii. vi:nnappam ce:yappa:ra .......... (Mal., 71)

'because (somebody) requested'

3.3.2.4.2 Sentences with verbal participle predicates

eg. i. tiruppanium natatti .......... (Chik., 20)

'having conducted the temple renovation'

ii. ko:pu:ra:mum ce:yvittu .......... (Bow., 38 a)

'having caused the construction of temple tower'
3.3.2.5 Sentences with dislocated predicates

Sentences may also be classified on the basis of the positions the predicates occupy in sentences. Sentences with predicates in the middle or in the final position of the sentence are commonly found to occur in the inscriptional data.

1. Predicate in the middle position

eg. i. vitte:n tanimaini:kkina:r (Mul., 184)
   'gave I, Thanimainikkinar'

ii. kututto:m ...... na:l mutala:ka (Mal., 71)
   'gave ....... from (some) day onwards'

2. Predicate in the final position

eg. i. pratistai ...... pennuvitta:n (Chin., 85)
   'he caused to erect the idol'

ii. ra:ja ra:ja ve:la:n ........ (Hos., 142)
   nilamitu vitta:n
'Rajaraja Velan donated the land'

3.3.3 Sentences based on adjuncts

So far the classification of the sentences has been explained on the basis of the type of subjects and predicates they carry. Since a sentence also has various adjunct elements attached with the predicate of the sentence, one could also think of the existence of sentence types on the basis of the occurrence or non-occurrence of the different types of adjuncts, and also on the basis of the number and kinds of adjuncts associated with the predicate of the sentence.

While dealing with the verb phrases found in the inscriptive sentences mention was made about the occurrence of manner adverbials, non-manner adverbials, causal noun phrases functioning as object, location, dative, instrument etc. Depending upon such adjunct elements, sentences found in the Inscriptional Tamil can be classified under a variety of phrases.

3.3.3.1 Sentences based on type of adjuncts

3.3.3.1.1 Sentences with participial adjunct

eg. 1. *pujaiyum..... natatti .... kututtom* (Mul., 182)

'having directed ...... we gave'
3.3.3.1.2 Sentences with infinitive as adjunct

eg. i. vinnappam ceyyappera ...... kututto:m (Mal., 71)

'(because somebody requested (we) ............ gave'

3.3.3.1.3 Sentences with casal adjunct

eg. i. coːmiːcuramutaiyaːrkku ............

......... krakanattil vitteːn (Hos., 36,B)

'(I) offer land as a gift to Someshvaramudaiyar on the day of eclipse'

ii. ivwanaivomum makkal marumakkalukku ........

kututtoːm (Mal., 37)

'we all gave to children and in-laws'
3.3.3.1.4 Sentences with particle adjunct

eg. i. tannayakkar inna:lmutal kututto:m (Hos., 90,F)

'I (hon.), army officer from this day gave'

3.3.3.2 Sentences based on adjunct number

Sentences may also be classified on the basis of the number of adjuncts attached to the predicates. Such sentences may be of the types viz., one adjunct carrying, two adjunct carrying or more adjunct carrying.

eg. 1. With one adjunct

1. ca:nantai + yisa:pate:varai + pratistai pannuvittan

S 0 (adjn.) V

(Chin., 85)

'Sanandai established the idol of Rishabadeva'

2. With many adjuncts

na:yatama:jayan + pairavana:yana:rkku + (Adjn 1)

uccicantikku + (Adjn 2)

amutu patikku + (Adjn 3)
I, Thammajayan gave wet and dry land whole heartedly for Bairavanayanar's mid-day offering'

3.3.3.3 Sentences with different adjunct position

3.3.3.3.1 Sentences with pre-verbal adjunct

eg. i. cantira:tittavarai celvata:ka + (Adjn. 1)

\[ \text{utakam nanni} \]

\[ \text{kututto:m} \]

\[ \text{(Kol., 49)} \]

'we gave by registering, by saying that it be continued till the existence of moon and sun'

ii. ta:mappan + (Adjn. 1)

\[ \text{uruvum camaittu} \]

\[ \text{eluttum} \]

\[ \text{vettuvittai:n} \]

\[ \text{(Hos., 98)} \]

'Thanappan having designed the structure caused to inscribe (some thing)'
3.3.3.2 Sentences with post-verbal adjunct

eg. i. pannikkututtosm ♦
    va:lanta:lva:rkku (Adjn. 1)
    'offered to the deity Valandhalvar'

ii. kututtosm ♦
    na:l mutala:ka (Adjn. 1) (Mal., 71)
    'gave from (some) day onwards'

iii. vitte:n ♦
    ta:nama:ka (Adjn. 1) (Hos., 162)
    'gave as a gift'

3.4 Sample Analysis of a Sentence Structure

Sentence =========> Time adjunct ♦ subject ♦
            [purposive case adjunct ♦ objective case ♦ verbal participle ] ♦
            dative case adjunct ♦ object case adjunct ♦ finite verb.

Swastisri
    pramo:tu:ta varuśam pañkuni
    ma:cam mutal ♦ [ Temporal ]
ilaiyavaːcuteːvar nampiraːttiyaiːr

cettaiːlvaːrena + [ Subject ]

[ iːsvaramuːtaiyaːrkku amuṭu paṭikkku
tevakannattukku + purposive ]

tottikanpallikkulla naːncainuːncai

naːr paːllelliːum + [ Object ]

vittu + [ Verb ]

tiruppani ceyvitta vaːcu teːvappattarukku ·

[ Dative ]

kaːnī muluvatum + [ Object ]

utakam pannineːn [ predicate ] [Verb]

(Mul., 55)

'from parmotudha year Paṅkuni month'

'I, Ilaiya Vacudevar's wife Cettalvar'

'for Ishvaramudaiyar's food offering
and pooja'

'the dry and wet land at Thottikanpalli'

'having allocated'

'to Vasudhevpattar who looks after
the temple activities'
'all the lands registered and gave'

Rules for the Sentence

1. $S \rightarrow [S_{nf}, S_{nf}]
2. $S_{nf} \rightarrow NP \rightarrow VPnf
3. $VPnf \rightarrow VA \rightarrow VBnf
4. $VBnf \rightarrow \emptyset INF \emptyset
\emptyset PPL \emptyset
\emptyset RP \emptyset
5. $INF \rightarrow V \rightarrow INFm
6. $PPL \rightarrow V \rightarrow T_p \rightarrow PPLm
7. $RP \rightarrow V \rightarrow T \rightarrow RPm