8. CONCLUSION

3.1 General

This chapter tries to expose the problems and perspectives involved in the standardization and modernization of lexical items in the light of earlier writings regarding the state of art and the experiments conducted for the present dissertation. It also contemplates on some guidelines which could be followed in the future activity viz., formalisation and systematisation of the standardization theory.

Philosophers and linguists concerned with language use in general have pointed out several factors which are to be taken care of while one makes an attempt over the appropriate use of the language. Since lexical standardization and modernization are based on the appropriateness of the use of lexical items, the following general factors can also be associated with modernization of lexical use. Factors like sincerity, relevancy, rationality, co-operation through the maintenance of quality, quantity, relation, manner and politeness are some of the factors which make the lexical usages appropriate and
acceptable to all the members of a society or larger section of the society.

Before discussing some general points regarding the planning of lexical items for technical purpose, it is better to give an account of the broader generalization obtained from the empirical study conducted for the present dissertation.

Of all the twenty subjects whose attitude towards standardization tested the lecturers are found to identify more number of known words and so they are more aware of the standard lexical items.

Of the one hundred lexical items given for testing twenty two items were found to be accepted as standardized items. Even within the twenty two items maximum number occurs in the domain of non-technical.

Based on test number two, the following broad generalization can be made: Of the forty two items given as synonyms only five items were found to receive the first preferential status from more than fifteen subjects and the rest of the
items were given first preference by less than fifteen subjects only. Moreover, of the four parameters, 'simpli-
city' was accepted as the primary factor governing standardi-
ization.

8.2 Lexical Standardization

Lexical standardization and modernization have to be undertaken through (1) status planning of lexical usages
and (2) corpus planning of the lexical usages.

3.2.1 Status Planning

In this planning the following aspects have to be given due consideration:

1. Periodic conduct of seminars and symposia with a view to make the standardization of lexical items and lexical usage up-to-date.

2. Establishment of an Institution to assign the work of (i) collecting technical terms (ii) giving final
shape to the technical terms so as to make them ready for use and popularization, (iii) encouraging text book writers to follow the technical terms which are made up-to-date, (iv) encouraging linguists and language specialists to detect the lexical resources of Tamil with reference to derivation and compounding, (v) bringing experts in Tamil, Linguistics and in the disciplines of technology together so as to enable them to discuss about the use of coinages of technical term meant for common man's use without any prejudice and (vi) to make the people involved in lexical creation and standardization to give preference to the newer concepts which arise in the special domains.

3. Government and private bodies should make a review of the requirements of lexical standardization for the use in popular journals, text books, science for layman through different media, etc. and allocate funds for this activity and should direct the agencies of different media to popularise the lexical messages.

9.2.2 Corpus Planning

Many scholars have infact discussed about the different aspects related to corpus planning of lexical items
(Ageethialingom, 1980). Script reformation, conditions for the modernization of lexical usages such as simplicity, regularity, isomorphism, minimization of spoken vs written gap, adoption of spoken usages (Annamalai, 1980 and Karunakaran, 1983) are matters relevant and related to modernization discussed by them.

Corpus planning indeed involves theoretical and applicational aspects. The theoretical aspects are concerned with the creation, modification and evaluation of the parameters of standardization according to the pluralistic needs of lexical usages. The theoretical aspect will always be enriched through the experience gained in the application of the theoretical aspects. The applicational aspects related to lexical planning involves the conduct of attitude surveys and the development of implementation strategies on the basis of attitude surveys. A series of experiments and models can be conducted and designed with reference to the modernization of Tamil lexical usages. The following are some of the surveys and models which could be attempted:

1. A survey to verify whether standardization is required in certain domains or not.
2. If standardization is required in a particular domain, an opinion pole can be made on the basis of the data obtained from different users of lexical items about the factors to which importance is to be given in the process of standardization.

3. A survey to test whether spoken Vs written style dichotomy has to be maintained or not with reference to the popularisation of lexical usages to be conducted.

4. A questionnaire can be administered to different people involved in using in specialized domain of science or technology, (such as popular science writers, text book writers, science translators, mass-media personnel and students). The questionnaire may be in a discourse form and the subjects will be directed to point out whether the technical terms used in the discourse are acceptable or not acceptable. If not acceptable, they will be asked to give reasons for their non-acceptability and the other alternation which they prefer. Through this
type of experiment, the conceptual aspects of lexical items, the social self of Tamil speakers behind the acceptance or rejection of lexical usages can be identified. This could be duly used while selecting the popularising technical terms.

5. A test have to be conducted to identify the strategies followed by different scholars in the lexical creation process both in the formal and semantic planes of the items. This will give an idea about the hierarchy of strategies on the predominance scale. After the identification of the predominance of the lexical strategies, a course of action be followed for the regularisation of the lexical creation by means of semantic shift, semantic restriction, expansion, etc. which would be duly used in future corpus planning activities related to the lexical usages in Tamil.