6. **Grammatical differences between Formal and Informal Tamil**

It is difficult to state exhaustively all the grammatical differences because, firstly, the morphological and syntactic items are relatively larger in number than the phonological items and secondly, to say that a particular grammatical item does not occur in Formal Tamil, a larger sample of modern written texts and formal speeches must be surveyed. The main focus of this study being the phonological component, this large scale survey was not possible. Hence the following methodology was followed. A text was written in Formal Tamil using certain grammatical categories which were assume to differ in Formal and Informal Tamil. This text was given to four educated native speakers of Tamil asking them to render it in spoken Tamil. The spoken and written texts were compared and the changes made in the spoken texts from the written text were noted.

It may be observed from the following that there are some items exclusive to Formal Tamil and some exclusive to Informal Tamil. But in most cases, Formal
Tamil has two or more alternating items. One could say that one of the alternants is more frequent in Formal Tamil and the other in Informal Tamil. Nevertheless both occur in Formal Tamil.

a. Morphology

1. Dative case relation

The dative case relation is expressed either with the case marker -ku or without the case marker in Informal Tamil. The form with -ku is more common in Informal Tamil and without -ku is more common in Formal Tamil as in the following:

Formal Tamil

1. na:n si":"ambaram po:hire:n 'I go to Chidambaram'
2. na:n ma":"urai po:hire:n 'I go to Madurai'

Informal Tamil

1. nā: si":"ambarattukk po:hire:\ē:
2. nā: ma":"urekki po:hire:\ē:

2. Possessive case relation.

The possessive case relation is expressed with the case markers atu and in exclusively in Formal Tamil
and the suffix utaiya is used both in Formal Tamil and Informal Tamil but the form without utaiya is more common in Informal Tamil.

**Formal Tamil**

1. aṟi avaraṟi sotti 'That is his property'
2. puttaham me:saιyin me:l irikkirariri
   'The book is on the table'
3. aval ennuṭaiya mahal 'She is my daughter

**Informal Tamil**

1. aṟi avari sotti
2. pustahō me:ce me:ke irikkiiṭi
3. ava en maha

3. **Locative case relation.**

To express the locative case relation with human nouns the case suffix in Formal Tamil is idam and in Informal Tamil it is kitte.

**Formal Tamil**

1. naːn peːnaːvai avanidam koṭi tteːn
   'I gave the pen to him'
2. avan ori puttaham ennidam koṭittaːn
   'He gave a book to me'
3. aval panattai amma:widam kodittai:
   'She gave the money to her mother'

Informal Tamil

1. nã: pe:na:ve avãgitte kudittai:
2. avã ori puttahõ eygitte kudittai:
3. ava panatte amma:hitte kuditta:

4. Consecutive action.

The sentences which express the consecutive actions have two suffixes namely -um and utan. Both the suffixes are used in both Formal and Informal Tamil but the form with the suffix utan is more common in Informal Tamil and um is more common in Formal Tamil.

Formal Tamil.

1. avan vandãrum pañam ke:ttai:n
   'As soon as he came he asked money'
2. marai nindãrum avan po:na:ñ
   'As soon as the rain stopped he went'
3. madai tirandãrum tãnnir vandañi
   'As soon as the sluice opened, water came'
Informal Tamil

1. avē̂ vandavodene pañō keṭṭāi
2. mare ninnaodane avē po:nāi
3. made terandavođane tanni vandaśi

5. Negation.

These two negative verbs are to negate existence or event and to negate identity in Tamil. They are respectively illai and alla and both are used in Formal Tamil. In Informal Tamil, only illai is used for both negatives. It must be mentioned that in the contemporary Formal Tamil illai is used for negation of identity also.

Formal Tamil

1. iṉi pe:na illai pensil 'This is not a pen, but a pencil'
2. iṉi puttaham illai, noṭṭi 'This is not a book, but a notebook'
3. pe:na ennidam illai 'The pen is not with me'
4. avan iṅgī illai 'He is not here'

Informal Tamil.

1. iṉi pe:na ille, pensǐt
2. iētt puttahā ille, noṭṭi
3. peːna engitte ille
4. avē inge ille

6. **Modal Verb.**

The modal verb kuːdum used in Formal Tamil to express probability is very rare in Informal Tamil. The modal -aːm in the same meaning is used in both Formal and Informal Tamil.

**Formal Tamil.**

1. naːn naːlai varakkudum
   'I may come tomorrow'
2. avan indtti poːhakkuːdum 'He may go today'
3. avar iːaippatttti indtti sollakkudum
   'He may tell about this today'

**Informal Tamil.**

1. naːː nāːlekki varalaː
2. avē innekkı poːhalaː
3. avar iːepatti innekkı sollalaː
7. **Participial noun.**

The participial noun, the verbal noun and the relative participle are formed with future tense suffix in Formal Tamil are formed with the present tense in Informal Tamil. For example, seybavar 'one who does', seyva\(\tilde{a}\)ti 'doing', seyyum 'which will do' in Formal Tamil will be seyravar, seyr\(\tilde{a}\)ti, seyra in Informal Tamil.

8. **Action nominal.**

This is another form of verbal noun formed by adding -tal to the verb as in the following examples. This form occurs only in Formal Tamil and it is in free variation with the other form mentioned above, which is formed by adding tense suffix and atu to the verb.

1. ve:shama:ha eru\(\tilde{a}\)t\(\tilde{a}\)al avar parakkam
   'It is his habit to write fast'

2. ka:laiyil \(\dot{t}\)i ku:dittal parakkama:hivitt\(\tilde{a}\)\(\tilde{a}\)ti
   'It has become a habit to take tea in the morning'

3. ka:laiyil pa:dittal nalla\(\tilde{a}\)ti
   'Reading in the morning is good'
4. **esson cinema all the time is not good**

9. **Temporal clause**

For the temporal when clause, *pośt* is added after the relative participle in Formal Tamil whereas *-pa* is added in Informal Tamil. *Pa* cannot be phonologically derived from *poś* by regular rules and is treated as difference in the form of the morpheme. In other words, it is an example of morpheme replacement.

**Formal Tamil**

1. avan edțkkimbọ:ōt na:n pa:rtte:n
   'I saw him when he was taking (it)'

2. avar varimbọ:ōt na:n irinde:n
   'I was there when he was coming'

3. na:n kođikkimbọ:ōt avar irinda:r
   'He was there when I gave it'

4. na:n po:humbo:ōt avan munnai:l vanda:n
   'He came before me when I was going'
Informal Tamil

1. avē edikra-pa nā: pa:ttē
2. avarē vara-pa nā: pa:ttē
3. nā: kodikra-pa avarē irinda:rī
4. nā: po:ra-pa avē munna:le vanda:

10. Imperative

The infinitive plus -um like varavum is used for imperative in Formal Tamil but not in Informal Tamil.

1. ni na:lai tavara:mal varavum
   'You should come tomorrow without fail'
2. ni ičaikke:tti sollavím
   'You should tell this after asking'
3. ni ičaicceyyavím 'You do it'
4. angt enakkē orī idam pa:rttē vaikkavím
   'You reserve a place for me'

11. Degree of Comparison.

The comparative degree is expressed with two suffixes -inum or -ilum and aivida in Formal Tamil but Informal Tamil has only suffix vida.
Formal Tamil

1. kural ga:nattinum inimaiya:ha irındaõt
   'The voice was sweeter than the song'

2. avan ennilum periyavan
   'He is greater than me'

3. aõt malaiyinum periyadõt
   'That is bigger than the mountain'

4. iravõt munnilum irındaõt
   'The night darkened than before'

Informal Tamil

1. koral ga:natte vide inimeya irındaõt
2. avõ ennevıde periyave
3. aõt maleye vide perısi
4. ra:tri munne vide irındaõt

12. Gender and number

   The third person neuter endings are used with human nouns to indicate ambivalence about respect in Informal Tamil. This is not found in Formal Tamil.

   1. akka vandaõt   'elder sister came'
      or
   akka vandiccī
2. akka sonnad:i
   or
   akka sollicci
3. annē varē
4. anne sonnad:i
   or
   anne sollicci

'Elder sister told'
'Elder brother will come'
'Elder brother told'

There is no gender distinction in the third person plural in Formal Tamil. But Informal Tamil distinguishes masculine and feminine gender in third person human plural.

1. avanīvo vanda:nīvo
2. avanīvo vara:nīvo
3. avalīvo vanda:līvo
4. avalīvo vara:līvo

'They came (mas.)'
'They are coming (mas.)'
'They came (fem.)'
'They are coming (fem.)'
b. Syntax

There is not much difference between Formal and Informal Tamil. In general, the sentences are comparatively simple in Informal Tamil, whereas in Formal Tamil, there are more number of compound and complex sentences. The frequency of use of compound and complex sentences in Formal Tamil varies according to the subject matter also. For example, in legal documents and research papers there are more number of complex and compound sentences but in novels and short stories they are comparatively few.

The following are some differences in the surface of sentences of Formal and Informal Tamil.

1. Infinitive + verbs of mental state.

Verbs like maru 'refuse', ottukkol 'accept', virumbu 'want' etc. which may be called verbs of mental state for want of better name, take infinitive as their complements in Formal Tamil as given below.

1. avan varamarutta:n 'He refused to come'
2. na:n poîha ottukkonde:n 'I accepted to go'
3. ni colla virumbina:y 'You wanted to tell'

The surface structure of these sentences is

\[ S \rightarrow NP + \text{Verb}^\text{inf} + \text{Verb} \]

It may be represented in a tree-diagram as follows:

```
S
   /\  
  NP  VP
     /\   /
    N  VP  V
       /  /  /
      var a marutta:n
```

These verbs do not occur or are very rare in Informal Tamil. The corresponding sentences are formed with finite verb followed by quotative verb.

1. avē' vara ma:tte:nna: 'He said "I will not come"

2. na: po:re:nne: 'I said "I will go"
3. *ni colluṟṟē′mme* 'You said "You will tell" '

These sentences are also found in Formal Tamil but they sound as Formal. The surface structure of these sentences is

\[
S \rightarrow NP + S + \text{Verb quot.}
\]

It may be represented in a tree-diagram as follows:

![Tree diagram](attachment:tree_diagram.png)

2. **Coordination of nouns**

When there are two nouns to conjoin, conjunctive particle *-um* is added after the nouns as in *raːman-um, goːbaːl-um* both in Formal and
Informal Tamil. When there are more than two nouns
conjunctive particle is not added in Informal Tamil
but the summative word ella: 'all' is added after
all the nouns. The sentences in Formal Tamil are

1. na:n pe:na:vum, pensilum, puttahamum kodutte:n
   'I gave pen, pencil and book'

2. avan itliyum pu:riyum to:saiyum sa:ppitta:n
   'He ate itli, puri and toca'

The surface structure of these sentences is

\[ S \rightarrow N + N_{co} + N_{co} + N_{co} + V \]

It may be represented in tree diagram as follows:
The corresponding sentences in Informal Tamil are

1. naː̃ peːna, pencilu, pustahō ellaː kodit-teː
2. avē itli, puːri, toːse ellaː caːppittaː

The surface structure of these sentences is

\[ S \rightarrow N + N + N + N + \text{Verb} \]

It may be represented in a tree diagram as follows:

```
       S
       /\  
      NP  VP
     /  \  /
    N   N  N
   /\  /\ /
  naː peːna pensil puttahō ellaː kodit-teː
```
In Formal Tamil also, there are sentences similar to this where the summative words like a:hiya and mu:aliya are used.

1. kannan, raman, kamalam a:hiyo:r vanda:rhall
   'Kannan, Raman and Kamalam came'

2. n:nn ma:du:rai, si:ambaram, maisu:r a:hiya
   u:rhall:kkipo:ne:n
   'I went to Madurai, Chidambaram and Mysore'

3. kannan, raman, kamalam mu:aliyo:r vanda:rhall
   u:rhall:kkipo:ne:n

3. Passive construction

One kind of passive sentence is formed by changing the subject into instrumental, object into subject and adding padu to the infinitive of the verb. This kind of passive sentence is found only in Formal Tamil.

1. kali:ai enna:l er:appatt:i
   'The poem was written by me'

2. puttaham enna:l padikkappatt:i
   'The book was read by me'
3. pillai tandaiya:l valarkkappatta

'The child was brought up by the father'

The surface structure of these passive sentences is

\[ S \rightarrow N + N + \text{instr} + V + \text{patu} \]

It may be represented in a tree-diagram as below:

4. Dative subjects

The experiencer verbs like ko:bam adai 'get angry', kunam adai 'get well' etc. have nominative subject or dative subject. Formal Tamil has both, whereas Informal Tamil has only the dative subject except with the auxiliary verb pad\(\hat{\text{i}}\) as in avē ko:bappatta:\(\hat{\text{i}}\) 'he got angry' which has nominative
subject. The following sentences are found only in Formal Tamil.

1. avan koːbam adaindaːn 'He got angry'
2. avan kunam adaindaːn 'He got cured'
3. avan laːbam adaindaːn 'He got profit'

The surface structure is

\[ S \rightarrow N + N + \text{verb} \]

It may be represented in a tree-diagram as follows:

```
      S
     /\  
    NP VP
   /    /
  N V  aux
 ```

The corresponding sentences with dative subject found in both Informal and Formal Tamil.

1. avanikké koːbam vandaiː. lit: 'Anger to him came'
2. avalṭkkī kunam aːhiyaːti. lit: 'Curing to her became'

3. avanṭkkī laːbam vandaːti " : 'Profit to him came'

Their surface structure is

\[ S \rightarrow N + \text{dative} + N + V \]

They may be represented in a tree-diagram as below:
5. **Honorific and non-honorific**

The use of honorific and non-honorific forms in non-imperative sentences is restricted to Informal Tamil only.

1. $i\hat{\alpha}t$ enna:$\eta$ga
   "What is this, Sir''

2. $i\hat{\alpha}t$ pe:na:$\eta$ga
   "This is pen, Sir''

3. ni enda urappa:
   "Which is your native place'"

4. ni: enna colrappa:
   "What do you say'"

5. $i\hat{\alpha}t$ enna:da:
   "What is this, boy'"

6. $i\hat{\alpha}t$ enna:di:
   "What is this, girl'"

7. $i\hat{\alpha}t$ $\tilde{e}$:pe:na:da:
   "This is my pen, boy'"

8. $i\hat{\alpha}t$ $\tilde{e}$: po:da$\tilde{v}$adi:
   "This is my sari, girl'"