aadhara: the base of the ratha comprising boothappar and vigrahappar.
aali: car wheel.
aani: linchpin pin for the car wheel.
aaradhana: waving of camphor light during pooja.
abhinaya: action or gesticulation, usually in dances
abhiseka: sacred bath given to the god.
adhisthana: base of the temple or the top thala containing reliefs in the rathas
agni: the fire god.
alankara: decoration of the god.
amrita: nectar or ambrosia.
anjali hasta: a hand pose in which the palms are folded in the act of reverence
ankusa: it is the elephant- goad made of a wooden handle to the tip of which an iron hook is attached
anthrala: an antechamber or vestibule between the main shrine and the ardhamandapa.
ardhamandapa: a hall or a chamber before anthrala where devotees gather to worship
asana: a seated or standing posture on a pedestal or the pedestal itself.
ashta: eight
avathara: manifestation or incarnation of a deity.
ayudha: a weapon.
baana: arrow.
bali: an offering or sacrifice.
bera: image.
bhadra: a portigo or a projection or a platform in a car, other than
       narasana.
bhadrapeeta: an ordinary bench like pedestal.
bhaktha: devotee.
bhakthi: devotion.
bhanga: denotes a bend in the presentation of an image.
bhuja: upper arm.
boothaghana: the weight bearing goblins in the boothappar in a temple car.
bramhadeyam: lands given to brahman as gift.
brahmasvam: name given to the property of the Brahmands.
brahmothsava : the biggest festival of a temple.
dhanus: bow
dharu: wood.
dharukavanam: pitchavaram, near chidhamaram, with Thillai trees or
        Mangroove trees
dharusamagraha: collection of wood for the construction of the ratha.
dhasa: ten
dhasavathara: ten avatara
dheckshidhar: a special group of priests in chidhamaram temple.
dhevadhanam: lands given to the god.
dhevasvam: name given to the property of the gods.
dheva: god.
dhevakostha: a nich on the wall of a shrine or mandapam or on a thala in a
temple car, usually holding an image

dhyana: meditation.
dhyanamudra: a hand pose illustrating meditation in which the hands are placed on the lap, right above and left below with the palm exposed above.
dwarapalaka: door keepers at the entrance of the gates of the temples and the garbhagriha: sanctum sanctorum.
dvibhanga: two bends in an image.
gadha: an india mace
gajahastha: a pose in an image in which a hand is suspended below like an elephants proboscis
ghana: a class of demigods.
garbhagriha: sanctum and sactorum of the hindu temple.
ghanta: a small bell.
go: cow.
gopura: gigantic gate ways of hindu temples.
kaala: time or an attendant of yama or yama himself.
kalasa: the top most part of the vimana which is spheroid in shape and made of usually metal.
kalpavriksha: the wish fulfilling tree.
kamadhenu: the wish fulfilling cow.
kamandalu: a water jug.
kankana: bracelet.
kapaalas: a skull bowl.
karana: a pose in a dance movement.
karandamakuta: a makuta worn by a demigod.
kataka: a bracelet.
katyavalambita: also known as katihasta, in this pose the hand is suspended loosely down or placed on the hip.
khadaga: a sword.
hetaka: shield.
kheyura: a bracelet provided for the upper arm.
kiritamakuta: a crown worn by a superior god.
kodungai: a superstructure or cornice.
mahotsava: great festival.
makara: an aquatic animal, identified with crocodiles.
mandapa: a pavilion with a number of pillars ranging from four to thousand.
mantra: a sacred verse, uttered during poojas.
maththalam: a cylinder kcal musical instrument, made animal skin, beaten by hands or sticks.
maya: illusion
mayura: peacock
meykkirtti: the preamble to an inscription which contains historical information, usually in Chola inscriptions.
mridanga: a musical instrument, similar to maththalam.
mukha: face.
mudra: a hand poses.
naga: snake
naimithya pooja: special pooja.
narthana: dance
nava: nine.
nithya pooja: daily pooja.
nrithyamurthi: the dancing god.
kunda: pit.
linga: the phallus.
padma: lotus.
panch: five.
pancha kriya: the five cosmic activities of creation, maintenance, destruction, embodiment and release.
panchamurties: the five gods, namely Shiva, Amman, Ganapathi, Muruga and Chandikesa taken out in the procession in the festivals.
par: cross bar or wooden beams placed across the axle in the temple car.
parasu: an axe-like missile
pasa: a noose
peeta: pedestal.
periyammai: small pox.
prabhamandala: a semicircular frame, hovering above the head of the deities.
pradakshina: move to the left and come around in circumbulation.
prasadam: food offered to the gods which is distributed among the devotees.
prasthara: entablature.
prathista: consecration ceremony.
pratyalidhasana: same as alidhasana in which the right leg is thrown forward and
the left backwards.

pushpa vimana: aerial car.
ratha: chariot, temple car.
rathakara: the car maker.
rathotsava: car festival.
samabhanga: a pose in which the deity has no bends.
samhara: destruction.
sarvathobhadra: the temple or ratha having four doorways facing the cardinal directions.
sthalapurana: the story of the temple
sthapana: to install
sthapathi: master craftsman or an artisan.
sthubi: the summit of kalasa which forms the finial of a temple car
suchimudra: the gesture of warning in which the index finger is pointed while all other are folded
thorana: an ornamental arch
trishula: trident
udharabandha: an ornament adorning the waist.
upapeeta: a part of the plinth comprising ashwabandhana to adhisthana above the.
vigrahappar: the lowermost tier or thala of the car.
upargai: balcony.
urdhva: erect or upright position.
uktutikasana: a sitting posture in which the heels are kept close to the buttocks while the hands are usually placed on the knees.
vadam: the long and thick rope used to pull the temple car.
vahana: vehicle.
vajra: the thunderbolt.
varadha mudhra: the boon - giving attitude in which the palm of the hand is held straight and directed downwards.
vedi: a simple unadorned pedestal.
veethi: street.
vimana: the supra structure above the plinth of the car or above the sanctum.
veena: the indian lute.
sala: a javelin or pointed dart or may even denote the trident.
swami: literally master, in popular saivite usage denotes Shiva.
svayambhu: self-born.
thora: tier or storey.
thambura: a drum, used as a musical instrument.
thandava: dance of hard modes usually done by men.
theppakulam: the temple tank used to conduct the floating car festival.
theppatter: floating car.
ther: ratha, chariot or temple car.
theradi: the car stand.
ther thattu: pedestal of the temple car.
theseelai: the cloth used to cover the super structure of the temple car

tirtha: ghat for sacred bath.
thiruppani: renovation or building works in temples.
veerasana: a seated pose with one of the legs placed on the knee of the
**other.**

- **vismaya mudhra:** the hand pose which expresses wonder by turning the palm inward and spearing out the fingers in a circular way.

- **vithana:** canopy.

- **yajnopavitha:** a sacred thread worn around the waist.