Chapter 8

BENGALI AND TAMIL ADJECTIVES

ADJECTIVES

(Tamil)

Adjective in Tamil could be

1. Base Adjectives - like
   - nalla- good
   - siriya small
   - Periya big
   - Pudiya new, fresh
   - Pazhaiya old
   - azhahiya beautiful
   - Kurukiya narrow
   - Ahan
   - tūya- pure, clean
   - fiya- bad, evil
   - Koriya- wicked

   Keṭṭa- bad, spoiled
   - siRanda- verygood
   - kaRutta- black in colour
   - sivanda- red in colour
   - uyarnda- high, noble
   - nīnda- long
   - kulinda- cold
   - uraiya- that which has
   - neriya- tall

2. Derived Adjectives could be formed
   a) by adding the suffix ‘aN’ to nouns.
      - azhahu+aNa-azhahaNa-beautiful
      - SURUSURUPPU+aNa- SURUSURUPPAN-active
      - mōsam+aNa-mōsamāNa- bad, of bad quality
      - Suvai+aNa- SuvaiyāNa-tasteful, enjoyable.
      - Vazhakkam+aNa- vazhakkamāNa- usual.

   Most of the nouns which are changed ot adverbs by adding ‘aha’ can be used to form
   Adjectives by adding aNa.

   e.g. aNbaNa - dear, affectionate
        adihannāNa - much, excess
        mukkanmēnaNa - important
        vināNa - wasteful
        PāzhāNa - wasted
        aNāvaśiyāmēnaNa - unnecessary
        tavaRāNa - wrong
VaruttamāNa - Sad
kelaravamaNa - healthy
vidamvadamāNa - of many varieties
kārāmāNa - hot, Pungent
iNippāNa, tittippāNa - Sweet
veppamāNa - tight
UrukkaṁaNa - moving, melting
veṟikkaiyāNa - funny
mūdiyāNa - remaining
ahalamāNa - broad
niLamāNa - long
PuLippāNa - sour
kūraNa - hot
PuzhukkamāNa - stuffy
URudiyāNa - strong
ŚariyāNa - correct
kaśappāNa - bitter
iruttaNa - dark
maṅgatāNa - dim
neritalāNa - conjugated
uyaramāNa - tall
āzhamaNa - deep
muṟivāNa - final, finalized
kōnantāNa - crooked
vattazhāNa - circular
kaṟumaiyāNa - harsh
śāndamaNa - calm
kalavaramāNa - chaotic
TramāNa - wet
nēṟmaiyāNa - honest
PoruttamāNa - suitable
āṉavamāNa - arrogant
apiṟvamāNa - rare
śīRaPPāNa - exemplary
tāzhvāNa - low
nidākamaNa - sober
VaLaivāNa - bent
arakkamāNa - modest
KaṇṭiyamāNa - decent
b-1 The following are with reference to directives

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Adjective</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>varakkattiyayya</td>
<td>northern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>meRkattiyayya</td>
<td>western</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>teRkattiyayya</td>
<td>southern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kizhakkattiyayya</td>
<td>eastern</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

b-2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Adjective</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>nāhaiya</td>
<td>of tomorrow future</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>iNRIya</td>
<td>of today, of present times</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nēRtriya</td>
<td>pertaining to yesterday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>aNRaiya</td>
<td>of olden days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>iNDRaiya</td>
<td>today's</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>aNDRaiya seydi</td>
<td>news of that day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>iNDRaiya seydi</td>
<td>today's news</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mundaiya talaivar</td>
<td>former leader</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

C. by addition of 'ULLA' (that which is)

Putti- wisdom-PuttiyayLa paiyan-wise, intelligent azhahu- beauty –azhahuLLa pen-beautiful girl, iraKKam-capacity to feel for others-irakkamuLLa-kind

tahudi-qualification –tajudiyayLa-qualified viruppam –liking-viruppaLLa-one who has the liking.

aNbu-love, affection-aNbuLLa ammē-dear, loving mother.

Sattu-nutrition-SattuyLa-nutritious-SattuLLa ūpavu-nutritious food.

D. by the addition of the postposition uraiya (that which has)

aRivu-wisdom-aRivuraiya Seyal-wise deed.

māNam-self respect- māNambruiya- Self respecting

3. Demonstrative Adjectives.

anda-that-andap pen-that girl

inda-this –inda viru-this house

eNda-which-endat teru?- which street?

elvaLavu/ettaNai-how much-etaNai+Uram?-how far?

aLavu-quantity, measure
attachment/apparippatta—that kind of, that sort of
ittahaiya/ipparippatta—this kind of, this sort of
ettahaiya/ epparippatta—what kind of? What sort of?
e.g. nāN apparippattavaN illai- I am not that kind of person.
4. when two nouns are placed next to each other the first noun becomes the adjective.
e.g. passai+kiLi —passaikkLi-parrot.
Talaivar vīry-leader’s house.
Śāmbār Śādam-rise with sambar
maśalā tōsai-masala dosa
śīNīmā tikkat—cinema ticket
nariKal —fox’s tail.
1. The first noun takes the respective oblique form.
(m) ending pakkam-side-pakkattu vīru next house kiLam — kuLattut tānḍīyi, water of
the pond.
(ru) ending —kāru-kāttup pūNai— jungle caï
vīru—vītup patRus—cow of the house
nāru—nāttup patRu—Patriotism
(RU) ending vayiRu—vaYi+Ru vali—stomach ache kayiRu—kayitruk kattil—cot
woven by rope.
2. The first noun drops the final (m)
nilam (blue)+puravai—nilap puravai—blue saree
maram-marakkhai—branch of tree.
Vāram-vārap pattitihai—weekly paper
The numeral adjectives will be given under the section on Numerals.

More examples

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tamil Word</th>
<th>English Translation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Periya Pāṭṭiram</td>
<td>big vessel,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sīNak Ku. handai</td>
<td>Small baby</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mūnūtuk kāLai</td>
<td>the wild Bull,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kurūṭṭup pūNai</td>
<td>Blind Cat.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kaRuppup peṭṭi</td>
<td>Black box</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>viṭṭu vās-al</td>
<td>front portion of the house</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vāyil/vās-al kadavu</td>
<td>Front door</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mārippari</td>
<td>Steps to the house front</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pakkattu aRai</td>
<td>Next room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pazḷutta pazham</td>
<td>ripe fruit,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>azhuhal pazham</td>
<td>rotten fruit</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Relative participles can also function as Adverbials by taking ‘puri’ & ৱুরু-(manner)
(post) ‘সোনাহরি’—as said, as was told
নিংগল-কেটাবারি সামন্গল-কন্দু বন্দরুক্কিরেন I have brought things as you wanted
asked for.
সোনা সোনাবারি কেই-দো অসি আইডাই এলারুম পার্ক্কমারি ঵াই-কেপ ঠান সো এন এলারুম পার্ক্কমারি ঵াই-কেপ ঠান সো এলারুম পার্ক্কমারি বাই.

The Adjective

The adjective in Bengali is typically an uninflected part of speech. It is only the words of Sanskrit origin that have certain inflexional elements i.e. indicators of gender and degrees of comparison.

The Sanskrit adjectives in combination with the Sanskrit nouns take the feminine ending – a (ায়ির–) তে বিবাহিতা নারী/বিবাহিতা নারী/ ‘unmarried woman’. Sundari balika/ sundari balika /‘pretty girl’.

Adjectives of this type rarely can take a feminine ending when combining with non-Sanskrit nouns (e.g. Sundari meye/Sundari meye ‘beautiful women’, pagoli meye/pagoli meye ‘foolish woman’).
The degrees of comparison, both the comparative and superlative, are formed by means of the affixes -wr (o) and - tomo: guru ‘important’, gurutdro ‘more important’, guruto ‘the most important’.

These forms, however, do not always function as true degrees of irrespective of comparison with some other object: tini ghorStfro bipode poriyachan ‘He got into serious trouble’ gurutor s5m&SSa ‘very important problem’.

The Sanskrit forms with the affixes/Tyas/and/-istha in Bengali are even less perceived as degrees of comparison. Certain adjectives were borrowed by Bengali in the comparative and ‘Superlative degrees and can be used in that form only: preyoSi stri ‘beloved wife’ (preyosi – fem of the comparative degree, correlative with stem ending in (-iyas/), koniStho bhrata ‘younger brother’, ieStho bhrata ‘older brother’, ghoniStho bondhu ‘best friend’, ghoniStho S&mndho ‘close ties’.

Derivational elements are a more productive morphological means of singling out adjectives as a part of speech.

**ADJECTIVES AND ADJECTIVALS**

Adjectives could be (i) Descriptive, (ii) Distinguishing or, (iii) of Number, (iv) Pronominal, (v) comparative, (vi) Distributive etc.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Meaning</th>
<th>Bengali</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beloved daughter</td>
<td>adorer meye</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small child</td>
<td>choto bacc</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Big house</td>
<td>boro bari</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Big rascal</td>
<td>badda badmais</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White paper</td>
<td>sada kamajo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black glass</td>
<td>kalo cosma</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Straight road</td>
<td>soja rasta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Front building</td>
<td>sarnner bari</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Banaras silk (saree)</td>
<td>benarasi sari</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Five person</td>
<td>pa(N)c jon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Five day of the month</td>
<td>pa(N)c tarikh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First house</td>
<td>prorthom bari</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Few days</td>
<td>kichu din</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All the time</td>
<td>sobos my</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Each and every day</td>
<td>prtekti chele</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In this manner</td>
<td>kar bacc</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Better than</td>
<td>cebebhalo</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Big like.....
More than anything
Very big
Four people(also, many)
Not specific number (lit) five person
In different ways
(all the sides)
rich
Strong
Intelligent
Smart, efficient
Mad
Daily
Weekly
Monthly
Yearly

ADJECTIVES

So relative participles:

The girl who came crying.
Je meyeta ka(N)dte Ka(N)dte esechilo šei meye.

The money you asked for.
je taka tumi ceyechile se taka.

When will the bus that goes to Howrah come?
fura jabar bas kɔkɔn asbe?

When does your bus (the bus you travel by) come?
tumi Je base ja seta kɔkɔn asbe?

Is this the school you attended?
ei skule ki tumi Parte?

Things not done usually.
na k rar kaj.
Unknown person.
Ochena lok.
This is the time for father’s coming/sleeping/eating.
Ekhon babar asbar/ghumobar/khabar somoy.

There is no necessity for going/writing/telling.
ja r/likhar/bolar/dorkar nei.

This one is very small.
eta khub chola.

Eating fruits is good.
ph l kha ata bhalo.

Reference: Dr. Ranganayaki Mhatra (P. 187-193)
S. K. Haldar, Bengali Language, (P. 62)