CHAPTER - IV

MORPHOPHONEMICS

Morphophonemics deals with the changes or additions or deletion of phonemes when two or more morphemes come together. All the rules presented here are referred to in the body of the grammar. These rules have been numbered as SR 1, SR2, etc., (Sandhi Rules 1,2) and they are ordered set of rules. That is, in those cases where two or more morphophonemic rules operate to explain a change or changes they operate one after another in the order in which they are given.

The symbol ‘&’ denotes the morpheme boundary and the hyphen ‘-’ in the morphophonemic rule represents the place or position of occurrence of the rule or rules. The morpheme boundary symbol is deleted finally inorder to realize the actual form/ forms.

SR.1  Vf. -> Vf.y

-&V.....

Vn.f. -> Vnf.V

eg. vali-e > valiye ‘to overflow’

katti-e > kattiye ‘knife(acc.)’

eg: vale-e > valeye> valaye‘net’(acc).

pacu-e> pacuve ‘cow(acc.)

alu-e > aluve ‘to weep’

SR.2  m    n    k

-> -

n    m    p
eg. marom-kel > maranke ‘trees’
en-payyen > empayyen ‘my son’
on-payyen > ompayyen ‘your son’

SR.3

<table>
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g. ke:lx-t-a:n > ke:ltta:n > ke:ttta:n ‘asked, he’
kon-n-a:n > konna:n ‘killed, he’
ton-nu:ru > tonnu:ru ‘ninety’
tan-ne: > tanni: ‘water’

SR.4

(C) V C1 -> (C)V C1 C1 / V.....

dg. kan-e > kanne ‘of the eye’
pal-e > palle ‘of the tooth’
en-e > enne ‘of me’
on-e > onne ‘of you’

SR.5

S -> C1 / -& C1......

(where c1 is a plosive)

p, t, k, c, T.

dg. pa:rX-t-a:n-> pa:rtta:n -> pa:ttta:n ‘saw, he’
ke:lX-T-a:l -> ke:TTa:l -> ke:TTa: ‘asked, she’
ke:lX-ke -> ke:lkke -> ke:kke ‘to ask’
SR.6

NP+ X-> PP(denasalization)

eg. mayank-X -> mayakk- ‘attract’
tirump-X -> tirupp- ‘turn something’

SR.7

X -> KK/-&V.....

eg. annex-e -> anakke ‘to put off’
eriX-e -> erikke ‘to burn’
matiX-e -> matikke ‘to fold’

SR.8

i

-tt- > -cc- e -

y

eg. eriX-t-a:n > eritta:n > ericca:n ‘burned it, he’
anex-t-a:n > anetta:n > anecca:n ‘put off, he’
vayX-t-a:n > vaytta:n > vacca:n ‘placed it, he’

SR.9

i

-nt- > -nc- e -

y

eg. eri-nt-atu > erinsatu ‘burned, it’
anex-nt-utu > anenctu ‘went off, it’
ote-nt-utu > otencutu ‘was broken, it’
ka:y-nt-utu > ka:ncutu ‘dried’
pa:y-nt-a:n > pa:nca:n ‘leaped, he’
ca:y-nt-utu > ca:ncutu ‘leaned’

SR.10

\[
\begin{array}{c}
C2 \ C2 \ & \ C3 \\
\end{array}
\]

\[
\begin{array}{c}
C1 \ C2 \ & \ C2 \ C3 \\
\end{array}
\]

\[
\begin{array}{c}
C22C3/C2C3 \\
\end{array}
\]

(Consonant reduction rule)

eg. pa:rX-t-a:n > pa:tt-a:n ‘saw, he’
pa:rX-kr-a:n > pa:rkra:n > pa:kkra:n ‘sees, he’

SR.11

\[-l \]

\[
\rightarrow
\]

(final consonant deletion)

\[-l \]

eg. avel > ave ‘she’

vanta:l > vanta: ‘if comes (Some one)’

SR.12

\[-e(n) \] \rightarrow \[-a(n) \] \&

\[-e(l) \] \rightarrow \[-a(l) \]

eg. marom-a: > marama: ‘is it a tree!’
aven-a: > avana: ‘is it he?.
avel-a: > avala: ‘is it she?.
avel-a:le > avala:le ‘by her’
pane-marom > panamarom ‘palm tree’
SR.13

-om \rightarrow \text{att} / \&\text{case}

eg. marom-a:le > maratta:le ‘by the tree’

kolom-le > kolattle > kalotle ‘in the lake’

palom-le > palattle palatle n ‘in the fruit’

SR.14

-tu -ttu

> -&

-ru -ttu

eg. ka:tu-pu:ne > ka:ttu pu:ne ‘wild cat’

c:o:ru-pa:ne > c:ttu p:ane ‘rice pot’

SR.15

-u \rightarrow /&V.....

eg. ka:tu-e \rightarrow ka:tte ‘of the forest’

va:lu-e \rightarrow va:le ‘of the tail’

va:lu-a:le \rightarrow va:la:le ‘by the tail’

SR.16

-k

\rightarrow-v-/V-V

-p-

eg. po:-kum > po:vum ‘will go’

no:-kum > no:vum ‘will give pain’

iru-patu > iruvatu ‘twenty’

SR.17
\(-e \rightarrow /- &-a:t\) (negative morpheme)

eg. \(vare-a:t-inke \rightarrow vara:tinke\, \text{‘don’t come’}\)
\(po:ke-a:t-inke \rightarrow po:ka:tinke\, \text{‘don’t go’}\)
\(katikke-a:t-u \rightarrow katikka:tu\, \text{‘it will not bite’}\)
\(pitikke-a:t-u \rightarrow pitikka:tu\, \text{‘it wont catch’}\)

4.1. NOUNS

4.1.1. Nouns

Nouns are those forms which can take or capable of taking case markers. They can occur or function as subject or object in a construction designating a person, place or thing. They can also be defined as a class of words whose stems are distinguished or inflected for on or more categories of gender, number and case. Nouns include pronouns, numerals and derived nouns from verbal and other bases apart from simple nouns.

4.2. Simple Nouns

All those nouns which are inherent and monomorphemic are called simple nouns. Simple nouns are of two types namely:

(i) Simple human nouns and (ii) Simple non-human nouns.

i. Simple Human nouns

This class is further divided into two sub-classes:

i. Personal nouns and ii. Non-personal nouns. Those nouns taking different plural suffixes are further grouped under different type.

i. Personal Nouns

Masculine nouns

\(pullaya:ru\) \(\text{‘god vinayaka’}\)
kuppen
‘kuppan’

4.2.1. Personal nouns (Feminine)

ma:riyamma: ‘mariyamma’
muniya:mma ‘muniyamma’
annom ‘annam’

4.2.2. Non-Personal nouns

Masculine

appa: ‘father’
ample ‘man’
periyappa: ‘father’s elder brother’
tampi ‘younger brother’

Feminine

amma: ‘mother’
atte ‘aunt’
akka: ‘elder sister’
tanka:cci ‘younger sister’

4.2.3. Simple non-human nouns

Simple non-human nouns are divided into two main types: i. place nouns and ii. non-place nouns. Nouns are further divided into tow types on the basis of the neuter plural suffixes they take.

4.2.3.1. Place names.

palaya:ru ‘Palaiyar’
ci:rka:li ‘Sirkali’
maila:Tuturai ‘Mayladuthurai’
4.2.3.2. Non-place nouns

Non-place nouns are those which take or capable of taking plural suffixal marker.

- to:ni ‘boat’
- vale ‘net’
- mi:nu ‘fish’
- nanTu ‘crab’
- natte ‘snail’

4.2.3.3. Noun stems classification

Gender-number marked simple noun stems have been classified on the basis of their capability of taking masculine singular gender markers. These classes are further sub-divided into various divisions such as Ia, Ib, Ic etc. One the basis of their capability of taking feminine singular markers, these stems are listed blow with their classifications and sub-divisions.

Classification of noun stems:

4.2.3.4. Class

Stem of this class take /-en/ as the masculine suffix.

1a. ann- ‘elder brother/sister in lam’
    tirut ‘steal’
    kelav- ‘old’
    kuruT- ‘blind’
manuc- ‘human being’

1b. mov- ‘son/daughter’
marumov ‘son/daughter in law’

1c. paTna- ‘fisher’
cempTa- ‘fisher’
kocav-/koc- ‘potter’
korav-/kor- ‘koravas’

1d. amaTT- ‘barber’
ott- ‘odd’a’
tuluk- ‘muslim’
velluv- ‘valluva’
vella:l- ‘vellala’

1e. eTa- ‘shepherd’
paray- para- ‘harijan’

1f. pe:r /pe:- ‘grand-son/-daughter’

4.3.4. Class II:

Stems of this class take /-a:n/ as the masculine suffix.

IIa. macc- ‘brother/sister in law’

IIb. pa:pp- ‘brahmin’
taTT- ‘goldsmith’
karay- ‘fisher’
vann- ‘washer’

4.3.5 Class III
Stems which take \( /\mathrm{a}/:\) as the masculine suffix belong to this class. There is only one stem in this data. However forms ending in \(-a:/\) occur in other fishermen speech. (pa:tta: grand father).

ma:m- ‘uncle/aunt’

4.3.6. Class IV

Stems which take \(-/\) as the masculine suffix belong to this class

e:kka:li ‘washer’
pariya:ri ‘barber’
to:TTi ‘scavenger’
ceTTi ‘chetti’
cakkili ‘cobler’

4.3. Gender Number Marker Nouns

The occupational terms of Tamil has only three genders and two number. The genders are masculine, feminine and neuter. The numbers are singular and plural. Since the gender and number markers are not different in the third person singular, they are treated together. The plural marker always follows the singular, as suffix.

4.3.1.1. Masculine Singular

There are four marker to denote masculine singular in this dialect of Tamil.

Masculine singular

\{-en\} /-en/, /-a:\n/, /-a/ and / /. 

i. -en occurs with the stems of class I.

eg. korav-en ‘korava man’
ann-en ‘elder brother’
paray-en ‘harijan’
tiruTen ‘theif’
kocav-en ‘potter’
kelav-en ‘old man’
amaTT-en ‘barber’

ii. -a:n occurs with the stems of class II

eg. macc-a:n ‘brother in law’
vann-a:n ‘washerman’
karey-a:n ‘fisherman’
pa:pp-a:n ‘brahmin man’
cekk-a:n ‘oil monger’

macc- stem takes the suffix /-a:n/ and also /-inen/ without any change in its meaning or distribution.

macc-a:n ‘brother in law’
macc-inen ‘brother in law’

iii. -a: occurs with the stems of class III

eg. ma:m-a ‘uncle’
    pa:TT-a: ‘grandfather’

ma:m- stem also takes the suffix /-en/ instead of /-a:/ when the ago is elder than the referent. It is also an impolite form.

ma:m-en ‘uncle.
ma:m-a: ‘uncle’ (polite)

iv. - occurs with the stems of class IV.

eg. e:ka:li- ‘washerman’
There are eight markers to denote feminine singular in the dialect of fishermen.

{-i} -i, -el, -atti, -acci, -a:tti, -incci, -cci, -tti.

i. -I occur with the noun stems of the class Ia, and II.

   eg. ann-i ‘elder brother’s wife’
      tirut-I ‘thief’
      kelav-i ‘old woman’
      ma:m-i ‘aunt/ mother in law’
      o:pt-i ‘husband’s brothers’ wives’

   The stems /ma:m-/ and /o:pt-/ can take a freevarying alternant /iya:/ ma:m-iya: ‘aunt’, o:pti-ya: ‘co-sisters’

ii. -el occurs with the stems of class Ib.

   eg. mov-el (SR 11) move ‘daughter’
      marumov-el (SR 11) marumove ‘daughter-in-law’

iii. -atti occurs with the stems of class Ic.

   eg. kor-atti ‘korava woman’
      patnav-atti ‘fisher woman’

iv. -a:tti occurs with the stem of class IIb.

   eg. vann-a:tti ‘washer woman’
      karay-a:tti ‘fisher woman’
      kamma-a:tti ‘carpenter woman’
pa:pp-a:tti ‘brahmin woman’
taTT-a:tti ‘goldsmith’s wife’

v. -acci occurs with the stems of class Id.
   eg. vallu-acci (SR 1) valluvacci ‘valluva woman’

vi -incci occurs with the stems of class IIa.
   eg. macc-incci ‘sisters-in-law’

vi. -tti occurs with the stems of class II.
   eg. pe:-tti ‘grand daughter’
   koca-tti ‘potter woman’

3.3. Derived Nouns

Nouns are derived from noun stems, verb stems and adjective stems by adding derivative suffixes. All the derived nouns can be inflected for cases. A few nouns alone can take masculine and feminine gender suffixes morphologically. Derived nouns in general are classified into three groups according to the stem from which they are derived.

4.3.1 Class I.

Nouns derived from noun stems belong to this class I.

i. Derivative suffix

{-ca:li} -ca:li

-ca:li occurs with the following three stems.
   putti-, pele-, and takiriye-

eg. putti-ca:li ‘clever person’
   pale-ca:li ‘strong person’
   tayiriye-ca:li (SR 12) tayiriyaca:li ‘brave person’
ii. Quantitative suffix

{-va:ci} -va:ci

-va:ci occurs with fractions (numerals)

eg. ka:l-va:ci ‘one fourth of something’
    are-va:ci (SR 12) arava:ci ‘half of something’

It is to be noted here that in fast speech ka:l becomes ka:- before -va:ci and the result may be /ka:va:ci/.

iii. Agentive suffix

{-a:tti} -a:TTi

-a:tti occurs with two stems only.

eg. koranku-a:TTi (SR 11) koranka:tti ‘monkey dance’
    pa:mpu-a:TTi (SR 11) pa:mpa:tti ‘snake charmer’

iv. Agentive suffix

{-a:li} -a:li

-a:li occurs with the following noun stems.

ka:valu, ku:TTu, celavu, panku, pe:ccu, kole, katan, motalu, no:y, tolilu and pake.

eg. ka:valu-a:li (SR 11) ka:valalli ‘watchman’
    tolilu-a:li (SR 11) tolila:li ‘worker’
    no:y-a:li ‘sick person’

v. Possessive suffix

{-e:ri} -e:ri

-e:ri occurs with three stems.
co:mp-, maram-, pane-.

eg. co:mp-e:ri ‘lazy person’
maram-e:ri ‘toddy tapper’
pane-e:ri (SR 12) panaya:ri ‘palm tree climber’

vi. Possessive suffix

This possessive suffixal morpheme is very productive in this dialect. It differs from other derivative suffixes by taking gender markers. It is a bound morpheme. It is preceded by the stem and obligatorily followed by the gender marker. The derived noun behaves like any other noun in the dialect.

{kər-}

-ka:r-

ka:r- occurs with any noun stem in the dialect.

eg. mi:n-ka:r-en ‘fisher man’
    mi:n-ka:r-i ‘fisher woman’
    vale-ka:r-en ‘owner of the net’/ alaka:ren
    kaTe-ka:r-en (SR 11) kaTaka:ren ‘shop keeper’
    ve:le-ka:r-i (SR 11) ve:laka:ri ‘servant maid’
    ku:Te-ka:r-i (SR 11) ku:Taka:ri ‘vendor’

4.4.2 Class II.

Nouns derived from verbal stems belong to this second class. These derived nouns also are capable of taking case markers. The verbal stems have been classified under verb morphology. Derivative suffixes are listed below along with their allomorphs one after another.
i.i Nominaliser

{i} -i denotes the door of the action which occurs with the following verbal stems.

m:Tu- 'close', ku:tta:Tu- 'dance',
tunnu- 'eat', tu:nku- 'sleep',
porukku- 'pick', va:ya:Tu- 'speak',
and nakku- 'lick'

eg.
mu:Tu-i (SR 11) mu:Ti 'cover'
ku:tta:Tu-i (SR 11) ku:tta:Ti 'dancer'
va:ya:Tu-i (SR 11) va:ya:Ti 'talkative person'

ii. Nominalizer

{-e} -e

-e occurs with a limited number of verbs.

They are: vil-/vel-, 'sell', kol- 'kill',
nil-/nel- 'stand'

eg. vel-e 'price'
kol-e 'murder'

iii. Nominalizer

{-cci} -cci

-cci occurs with two stems muTi- 'tie', taTi- 'stout'.

eg. muTi-cci 'knot'
taTi-cci 'stout woman'
The stem taTi- also takes masculine derivative suffix -en and becomes taTi-en(SR1) taTiyen ‘stout man’

iv. Nominalizer

{-alu} -alu

-alu occurs with the following two stems

pinnu- ‘plait’ and vale- ‘bend’

eg. pinnu-alu (SR 11) pinnalu ‘plait’
    vale-alu (SR 11) valayalu ‘bangles’

v. Nominalizer

{-ttalu-} -ttalu

-ttalu occurs with the following stems.

viti- ‘spread’, ote-‘break’, tuni-‘brave’

kali- ‘remove’, vele- ‘yield’, vaku- ‘divide’

ale- ‘wander’

eg. tuni-ttalu (SR 8) tuniccalu ‘braveness’
    vaku-ttalu ‘division’
    ale-ttalu (SR 8) aleccalu ‘wandering’

vi. Nominalizer

{-ppu} -ppu

-ppu occurs with the stems: ciri- ‘laugh’,
    viri- ‘spread’, and veru- ‘hate’

eg. cirri-ppu ‘laughing’

vii. Nominalizer

{-ve} -ve
-ve occurs with the following stems.

ve:r- ‘sweat’,
po:r- ‘cover’,
pa:r ‘see’
ko:r ‘string’
alu- ‘weep’

eg. po:r-ve ‘blanket to cover’
pa:r-ve ‘sight’
ve:r-ve ‘sweating’

viii. Nominalizer

{-vu} -vu

-vu occurs with the following verbal stems which are listed below:

ali- ‘to ruin’
ala- ‘to measure’
muTi- ‘to finish’
oli- ‘to hide’
mare- ‘to hide’

eg. ali-vu ‘destruction’
muTi-vu ‘end’
oli-vu ‘hiding’

ix. Nominalizer

{-tale} -tale

-tale occurs with three stems. They are

ve:nTu- ‘request’
viTu-  ‘leave’
maru-  ‘refute’

eg. ve:nTu-tale  ‘request’
viTu-tale  ‘freedom’
maur-tale  ‘refuting’

x. Nominalizer

{-tte}  -tte  -te

tte occurs with the three stems. They are
pare-  ‘fly’
cur-  ‘curl’
uru-  ‘round’

eg. pare-tte  (SR 12) paratte  ‘unkept hair’
curu-tte  ‘curled hair’

-te occurs with the stem urun- which is an alternant of the morpheme
{-urul}  -urul  urun-

urun-Te  ‘that which is round’ ‘ball’
urul-te  uruTTe  ‘round’

xi. Nominalizer

{-ane}  -ane

-ane occurs with two verbs. They are
co:t-  ‘verify’
ca:t-  ‘achieve’

eg. co:t-ane  ‘experiment’
cati-ane  ‘achievement’
xii. Nominalizer

\{-ma:nom\} -ma:nom

-\ma:nom occurs with the verbs listed below.

\begin{itemize}
\item \textit{ti:r-} ‘decision’
\item \textit{poru-} ‘worth’
\item \textit{kattu-} ‘build’
\item \textit{var-} ‘income’
\item \textit{piTi-} ‘hold’
\item \textit{ceri-} ‘digest’
\end{itemize}

\textit{eg.} \textit{ti:r-ma:nom} ‘decision’

\textit{piTi-ma:nom} ‘hold’

\textit{varu-ma:nom} ‘income’

\textit{ceri-ma:nom} ‘digestion’

\textit{kaTTu-ma:nom} ‘construction’

\textit{poru-ma:nom} ‘value’

xiii. Nominalizer

\{-om\} -om

-\om occurs with the following verbs.

\begin{itemize}
\item \textit{palakku} ‘train’
\item \textit{mayakku} ‘swoon’
\item \textit{kerakku} ‘giddy’
\item \textit{erakku} ‘unload’
\item \textit{e:ttu} ‘load’
\item \textit{a:TTu} ‘shake/dance’
\end{itemize}
o:TTu  ‘drive’
ku:ttu  ‘dance’
mu:TTu  ‘bring’

eg.  palakku-om (SR 11) palakkom  ‘habit’
a:TTu-om (SR 11) a:TTom  ‘paly’
ku:TTu-om (SR 11) ku:TTom  ‘crowd’

xiv. Nominalizer

{kke}  -kke

-kke occurs with the following stems. It is in free variation with the suffix -tte when it occurs with the stem nate-.

c:r-  ‘join’
va:l-  ‘live’
nate-  ‘walk’

eg.  c:r-kke  ‘joint’
va:l-kke  ‘life’
mate-kke (SR 12)* naTakke  ‘walking’
nate-tte (SR 12) naTatte  ‘walking’

- The standard Tamil form is /naTattai/ and its equivalent spoken form is /naTatte/. In the fishermen speech this form also competes with the analogically created form /naTakke/ (va:lkke, c:rkke) which is more frequent than /naTatte/.

4.4. Derived nouns by internal changes.

4.4.1 Vowel change

There is a vowel change in the verbal stem by which the verb becomes a noun.
cuTu  ‘to heat’
cu:Tu  ‘heat’ / ‘hotness’

4.4.2. Consonant change

There are two nouns in this class where the verbs undergo germination of consonants in the last syllable.

pa:Tu  ‘sing’
pa:TTu  ‘a song’
vilaya:Tu  ‘to play’
vilaya:TTu  ‘a play’

4.4.3. Zero Suffix

The third group of derived nouns have zero derivative suffix. In other words the verb and the derived noun have the same shape.

Verbs  Nouns

taTTu  ‘to become flat’  taTTu  ‘palte’
ca:vu  ‘to die’  ca:vu  ‘death’

4.4.4. PRONOUNS

Pronouns is a grammatical element of variable reference which stands for some noun previously given explicitly in the context. (John Lyons, 1968:276.77). Thus pronouns are those which can be substituted for a noun or a noun phrase in constructions. The pronouns in the occupational terms of Tamil are broadly classified into personal pronouns, interrogative pronouns, and reflexive pronouns.

The personal pronouns especially first and second persons distinguish only number. They can distinguish only singular and plural while the third person pronouns distinguish both gender and number. There is inclusive and exclusive plural in the first person, similar to the
standard language, in this dialect. In the third person, however there is a
definite change both in the number of morphemes and their grammatical
structure. All the pronouns may have oblique forms before case suffixes.

4.4.4.1 First person

{na:-} na:- occurs before number marker.

eg. na:n ‘I’
    na:nke ‘we (Exclusive)’
    na:-mpe ‘we (Inclusive)’

In the written language the inclusive plural form is /na:m/ whereas
in this dialect the form is /na:mpe/, in which there is a additional syllable
/-pe/. Descriptively this cannot be divided or segmented out as a separate
morpheme because no meaning can be assigned to it. Therefore the whole
form is treated as stem plus plural suffix.

4.4.4.2. Second person

{ni:} ni:

ni:- occurs before number markers.

eg. ni:- ni: ‘you’
    ni:- nke ‘you’

4.4.4.3. Third person

Third person pronouns are classified into two groups viz. proximate
and remote demonstratives. These demonstratives show gender number
distinctions. There is a deviation in this dialect where there are masculine
plural, feminine plural and neuter plural apart from the regular epicene
plural and neuter plural.

Occupational Dialect Written Tamil

aven ‘he’ avan
ave( 1) ‘she’   aval
avuru ‘he’   avar ‘they’
atu ‘it’   atu ‘it’
atunke ‘they’   aval ‘she’

4.4.4. Remote demonstrative pronouns

{a-} -a,av-,avu-
avu- occurs before epicene plural suffix.

eg. avu-nke ‘they’
avu-ru ‘they’ / ‘he’

a-occurs before neuter.

eg. a-tu ‘it’
av-el (SR 11) ave ‘she’

4.4.4.1 Proximate demonstrative pronouns

{-i} i-, iv-, ivu-
i- occurs before neuter

eg. i-tu ‘it’ (this)

iv- occurs before gender and number markers.

eg. iv-en ‘this he’

iv-el (SR 11) ‘ive ‘this she’

ivu- occurs elsewhere

eg. ivu-nke ‘they’ (these)

ivu-ru ‘he’ (HON: )

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4.4.4.2. Gender-plural

Third person pronouns in this dialect take plural marker after the singular. This plural is different from the epicene plural and the neuter plural.

{-uvo:} -uvo:

-uvo: occurs with all the third person singular forms

eg. aven-uvo: (SR 12) avanuvo: ‘they’
    avel-uvo: (SR 12) avaluvo: ‘they’
    att-uvo: (SR 15) atuvo: ‘they’
    iven-uvo: (SR 12) ivanuvo: ‘they’

4.4.4.3. Epicene plural

ivu-nke ‘they’

avu-nke ‘they’

4.4.4.4 Honorafic singular

The honorific singular forms are /avuru/ and /ivuru/ which demote remote and proximate masculine singular in this dialect. The forms /avunke/ and /ivunke/ denote feminine singular of remote and proximate respectively. These terms are used exclusively for honorific within their sociolect.

Fishermen use the neuter singular form at times to denote their women and also close younger p\kin of their family. They may be accounted under the intimate style or informal variety.

4.4.4.5. Reflexive pronouns

Reflexive pronouns distinguish only number. There are forms denoting singular and plural in this dialect. The stem takes number markers to denote singular and plural.
Reflexive stem.

\{ta-\}

\[ ta- \]

\[ ta:- \] occurs before number markers.

d\[ eg. \] \[ ta:n \] ‘oneself’

\[ ta:-nke \] or \[ ta:-m \] ‘themselves’

ta:nke is the free varying form of pta:m. But ta:nke has a bound alternant ta:nkel-

.4.4.6. Interrogative pronouns

There are two types of interrogatives in this dialect. They are gender distinguishing interrogative and non-gender interrogative.

.4.4.7. Gender marked interrogative

The deitic interrogative clitic base take gender markers.

Interrogative clitic base

\{-e\}

\[ e-, ev- \]

e- occurs before neuter marker.

d\[ eg. \] \[ e-tu \] ‘which’

\[ e-tu-uvo: (SR 15) etuvo: \] ‘which?(pl)’

\[ ev- \] occurs elsewhere.

\[ eg. \] \[ ev-en \] ‘who? (mas.)’

\[ ev-el (SR 11) eve \] ‘who?’(fem.)’

\[ ev-unke \] ‘who>(pl.)’

All the singular interrogative forms are capable of taking the common plural marker which occurs after the gender marker.
eg. even-uvo: (SR 12) evanuvo: ‘who?(mas.pl.)’
evel-uvo: (SR 12) evaluvo: ‘who?(fem.pl.)’
etu-uvo: (SR 15) etuvo: ‘which?(neut:pl.)’

4.4.4.8. Non-specific interrogative pronouns

The non specific interrogative pronoun /ya:ru/ ‘who’ is a lexical item used to denote any person. It is in free variation with /evuru/. But sometimes both the forms can occur together to reinforce the meaning.

/vantatu ya:ru evurunnu teriyle

‘No one known about the person who came’ (Non-specific)

4.5. Number

There are two numbers in this dialect. They are singular and plural.

4.5.1. Singular

Singular is marked in the first person, second person and reflexive pronouns. It is also shown in the third person along with gender marker.

{-n} -n,

- occurs with second person stem.

eg. ni:- > ni: ‘you’ (sg.)

-n occurs elsewhere

eg. na:-n ‘I’

ta:-n ‘oneself’

4.5.2. Plural

There are two types of plural in this dialect, viz. The plural which occurs with the stem and the other marker which occurs after the gender marker. The plural markers are divided into two groups on the basis of their distribution.
4.5.2.1 Plural markers which occur with the stems.

{-nke/} and {-mpe/} occur with the stems.

/-nke/ occurs as the general plural and also as exclusive with the first person while /-mpe/ occurs as inclusive plural.

eg. na:-mpe ‘we’(inclusive)
    na:-nke ‘we’(exclusive)
    ni:-nke ‘you’(pl.)
    avu-nke ‘they’(remote)
    ivu-nke ‘they’(proximate)
    evu-nke ‘who?’(pl.)

4.5.2.2. Plural marker which occurs with the gender marker

The third person and interrogative pronouns show gender and singular number together. The plural suffix occurs after this gender-number marker.

{-uvo:}-uvo:
-uvo: occur with the their person and interrogative pronouns.

eg. aven-uvo: (SR 12) avanuvo: ‘they’(mas.)
    avel-uvo: (SR 12) avaluvo: ‘they’(fem.)

4.7. Gender-Number

Gender and number are shown by the same suffix in the third person and in the interrogative pronouns. The various suffixes which denote gender-numbers are taken up for the study.

The following are gender-number distinctions made by these suffixes.
1. Masculine singular
2. Feminine singular
3. Neuter singular
4. Epicene plural
5. Neuter plural
6. Masculine plural
7. Feminine plural
8. Neuter plural

4.7.1. Masculine singular
{-en}

-en
-en occurs with deitic and interrogative stems.

eg.
iv-en ‘he’ (prox.)
av-en ‘he’ (rem.), ev-an ‘who?’

4.7.2 Feminine singular
{-el}

-el
-el occurs with deitic and interrogative stems.

eg.
iv-el (SR 11) ive ‘she’ (prox.)
av-el (SR 11) ave ‘she’ (rem.)
ev-el (SR 11) eve ‘who’ (fem.)

4.7.3. Neuter singular
{-tu}

-tu
-tu occurs with deitic and interrogative stems.

eg. a-tu ‘it’
    i-tu ‘this’
    e-tu ‘which’

4.7.4 Common plural

{-uvo:}

-ul, -uvo:

-ul occurs after gender markers and when followed by case markers.

eg. avel-ul-e (SR 12) avalule ‘of them’ (Fem.)
    aven-ul-e (SR 12) avanule ‘of them’ (mas.)
    atu-ul-e (SR 15) atule ‘of them’ (neut.)

-uvo: occurs elsewhere

eg. aven-uvo: (SR 12) avanuvo: ‘they’ (mas.)
    avel-uvo: (SR 12) avaluvo: ‘they’ (fem.)
    atu-uvo: (SR 15) atuvo: ‘they’ (neut.)

4.7.5 Epicene plural

{-nke}

-nke

-nke occurs with deitic and interrogative stems.

eg. avu-nke ‘they’
    ivu-nke ‘they (prox)
    evu-nke ‘who?’

4.7.6 Neuter plural

{-kel} -kel, -nkel
-kel occurs with the noun stem ending in /-m/.

eg. palom-kel (SR 12,11) palanke ‘fruits’  
marom-kel (SR 12,11) maramke ‘trees’

-nkel occurs elsewhere.

eg. eli-nkel (SR 11) elinke ‘rate’
to:ni-nkel (SR 11) to:ninke ‘boats’

4.8. Oblique Formation

The first and second person pronouns have a number of oblique forms before case markers. The different oblique forms of the first and second person pronouns have been taken up for study here.

4.8.1. First Person

The first person singular /na:n/ ‘I’ has two oblique forms before case markers, viz en- and ena-.

en- occurs before case markers which begin in a vowel or before other noun in construction.

en-a:le (SR 4) enna:le ‘by me’
en-o:te (SR 4) enno:te ‘with me’
ena- occurs elsewhere.

ena-kku ‘to me’

The first person plural /na:nke/ has one oblique form /enkle-/ before case suffixes.

enkel-a:le (SR 12) enkala:le ‘by us’
enkel-o:te (SR 12) ankalo:te ‘with us’

4.8.2. Second Person

The second person singular /ni:/ has two forms before case suffixs. They are /on-/ , and /ona-/.
on- occurs before case markers which begin in a vowel.

on-a:le (SR 4) onna:le ‘by you’
on-o:Te (SR 4) onno:Te ‘with you’

ona- occurs elsewhere.

ona-kku ‘to you’

The second person plural /ni:nke/ has only one form /onkel-/ which occurs before cases.

onkel-a:le (SR 12) onkala:le ‘by you’
onkel-o:te (SR 12) onkalo:te ‘with you’
onkel-ukku (SR 12) onkalukku ‘to you’

4.8.3. Reflexive pronouns

Reflexive pronouns have oblique forms before cases. They are as follows.

Singular /ta:n/ has the oblique form /tan-/

tan-a:le (SR 4) tanna:le ‘by himself’
tan-o:Te (SR 4) tanno:Te ‘with him’

Plural /ta:nke/ has the alternant oblique form as /tankel/

tankel-a:le (SR 12) tankala:le ‘by them’

4.8.4. Cases

Cases are a category of affixes which establish some kind of relationship between nouns and other word classes in an utterance, particularly the verb. In other words case is the grammatical category which reveals the syntactic-semantic relationship between the verb and the noun in an utterance. The semantic relations between a noun and a verb in a sentence are expressed by the various casal suffixes. The casal suffixes are the inflectional endings affixed to the nouns. In addition to these
inflectional endings certain postpositions also function as case markers. In the fishermen dialect of Tamil, the nouns are declined for eight cases.

4.8.5. Nominative

A noun when used as the subject of a sentence, it is in the nominative case. Nominative case in the occupational terms is shown by the absence of any case marker. In other words, it is unmarked.

eg. to:ni ‘boat’
/to:ni o:TTattle irukku/ ‘the boat is in the state of running’
/boat running is mi:nu/ ‘fish’
/mi:nu olapputu/ ‘fish swims’
/ra:mu/ ‘ram’
/ra:mu o:Tra:n/ ‘ram runs’

Accusative case

The accusative case is the case of the object of the verb and it is used only in one sense, i.e. to denote the object of an action expressed by the transitive verb.

In this dialect the accusative is expressed by the morpheme {-e}. This marker is obligatory with animate nouns and optional with inanimate nouns.

{-e} -e
-e occurs with all nouns
eg. marom-e (SR 13) maratte ‘tree’ (acc.)
   payyen-e(SR 12) payyane ‘boy’ (Acc.)

Illustrations

/aven enne pa:tta:n/ ‘He saw me’
/na:n maratte veTnen/ ‘I cut the tree’

Accusative is optional with neuter nouns.

marom- ‘tree’ (acc.)

Illustrations

/na:n marom veTnen/ ‘I cut the tree’

/aven mi:nu puTicca:n/ ‘He caught fish’

Accusative case is obligatory when inanimate (neuter) nouns if they are preceded by an adjective or free particle. This is one of the special features of this dialect.

Illustrations

/ni: ante ampa:ve pa:Tu/ ‘You sing that boat song’

/ni: ve:re ampa:ve pa:Tu/ ‘You sing another boat song’

4.9. Instrumental Case

Instrumental is the case of an inanimate object which is used for accomplishing an act. It also occurs with human nouns, where the potentiality of acting is involved by the noun. In this dialect the instrumental case is marked by a suffixal morpheme.

{-a:le} -a:le

-a:le occurs with all nouns.

eg. katti-a:le (SR 1) kattiya:le ‘by the knife’

kallu-a:le (SR 15) kalla:le ‘by the stone’

Illustrations

/na:n kattiya:le maratte veTnen/ ‘I cut the tree with a knife’

/aven ka:la:le oTecca:n/ ‘He kicked with (his) leg’

/na:n kanna:le pa:tten/ ‘I saw with (my) eyes’
4.9.2. Dative case (dat.)

The dative marks the indirect object. The principal meaning of the dative case is that of an oblique object, to which the action is directed (Andronov, 1969:81). The dative shows the person or thing to whom or to which the action reaches.

In this dialect dative is expressed by the morpheme {-kku} and its four variants.

{-kku}

-kki, -ukku, -kk, -e.

-kki occurs with nouns ending in a front vowel /i/ or /-e/.

eg. mani-kki ‘to bell’
    vale-kki (SR 12) valakki ‘to the net’
    kate-kki (SR 12) katakki ‘to the shop’

Illustrations

/na:n kaTaKki po:ren/ ‘I am going to the shop’
/aven valakki po:ra:n/ ‘He is going to the net (For fishing)’
/ni: manikki vale kuTu/ ‘You give to mani the nets’
/kO:lKki ti:nip o:Tu/ ‘(You) feed the chicken’

-ukku occurs with third person pronouns ending in a consonant and nouns ending in a consonant.

eg. aven-ukku (SR 12) avanukku ‘to him’
    avel-ukku (SR 12) avalukku ‘to her’
    ra:men-ukku (SR 12) ra:manukku ‘to rama’

Illustrations

/na:n avanukku mi:nu vikken/ ‘I sell fish to him’
/ni: ra:manukku vale kuTu/  ‘You give net to rama’  
/avalukku co:ru po:Tu/  ‘(You) give rice to her’  

-e is an irregular allomorph which occurs with two nouns as a free varying form to /-kku/.  

eg. ka:Tu-e (SR 14,15) ka:TTe  ‘to the forest’  
  u:Tu-e (SR 14,15) u:TTTe  ‘to the house’  

-kku occurs (with other nouns.) elsewhere.  

eg.  ona-kku  ‘to you’  
  ena-kku  ‘to me’  
  avaru-kku  ‘to him/them’  
  mi:nu-kku  ‘to fish’  
  ya:ru-kku  ‘to whom’  
  pa:lu-kku  ‘to milk’  

Illustrations  

/ni: enakku panom kotutte/  ‘You gave me money’  
/na:n avarukku mi:nu vitten/  ‘I sold fish to him’  
/ya:rukkku ve:len ve:num/  ‘Who wants a job?’  

(who is in need of a job?)  

4.9.3. Sociative Case (sec.)  

Sociative is exposed by the morpheme {-o:Te} in this dialect.  
Sociative morpheme gives the meaning ‘with’, ‘along’ etc.  

{-o:te} -o:te  

-o:te occurs with all nouns.  

eg. ko:li-o:Te (SR 1) ko:liyo:Te  ‘with the hen’
nam-o:Te (SR 4) namo:Te 'with us'
aven-o:Te (SR 12) avano:Te 'with him'

Illustrations
/koliyaTe kuncum po:vtu/ 'The chich goes with the hen'
/nammo:Te ya:rum valle/ 'No one came with us'
/ni: avano:Te po:/ 'You go along with him'

4.9.4. **Genitive Case (gen.)**

The genitive case is the case of possession. The genitive is the only case which co-occurs always with the noun in the surface structure. In this dialect it is expressed by the marker /-o:Te/.

But there are many instances where it is unmarked also. In other words noun-non construction itself shows the genitive relationship in Tamil dialects.

{-o:Te} -o:Te

-o:Te occurs with all nouns.

eg. en-o:Te (SR 4) enno:te 'my'
    marom-o:Te (SR 13) maratto:te 'of the tree'
    aven-o:Te (SR 12) avano:te 'his'

Illustrations
/itu anno:Te to:ni/
'This is my boat'
/itu periye maratto:te ta:vu/
'This oar is of the big kattamaran'
/itu avano:te vale/ 'This is his net'
Genitive is optional in noun construction.

/aven moven/  ‘his son’
/en vale/  ‘my net’
/nuntu tale/  ‘crabs head’

4.9.5. Locative Case (loc.)

Locative case is that which denotes the location of an action or place of occurrence of an event or the spatial orientation of something identified by the verb. So, the noun takes the locative ending if it denotes the place in which something is or occurs (Roberts, 1954:503).

The locative is expressed by the suffixal morpheme {-le}. Some time, post positions too have locative functions. They are free clitics.

/kiTTe/ and /a:nTe/ are the locative post positions.

{-le}  -le

-le occurs with all nouns.

eg. kolom-le (SR 13) kolatle  ‘in the lake’
    kaTal-le  ‘in the sea’
    poTTi-le poTTi  ‘in the box’
    u:Tu-le (SR 4) u:TTule  ‘in the house’

Illustrations

/katalle mi:nu puTippom/  ‘We catch fish in the sea’
/u:TTule karuva:Tu irukku/  ‘Dry-fish is in the house’
/poTTile panom irukku/  ‘The monay is in the box’

The locative post positions occur with human nouns and place names. However, there is a slight change in their meaning such as ‘near’ ‘at’ etc.
Post position \{kiTTe\} ‘with’, ‘near’

eg. en kiTTe ‘with me’

aven kiTTe ‘with him’

Illustrations

/en kiTTe valeyum maramum irukku/

‘I have the nets and boat’ (nets and boat are with me)

/aven kiTTe tolilu irukku/

‘he is a talented person’ (with him skill is)

Post position \{a:nTe\} ‘near’

eg. u:TTu-iTTe (SR 15) u:TTukiTTe ‘Near the house’

ko:yil -ilTe ‘near the temple’

Illustrations

/ni: na:laykki u:TTukku va: /

‘You come to my house tomorrow’

/na:n ko:yil ilTTe kuTiyrukken/

‘I live near the temple’

/ni: kaTekiTTe nillu/

‘You wait for me near the shop’

4.9.6. Ablative Case (abl.)

Ablative of motion is expressed by the form /-rntu/ which occurs with the locative form of the noun. The oblique form contains the locative case marker also. Ablative of motion differs from other cases, by this complex stem.

\{-rntu\} -rntu
-rntu occurs with all nouns.

eg. kolatle-rntu  ‘from the lake’
    u:Tle-rntu  ‘from the house’
    ma:TTu kitte-rntu  ‘from the cattle’

Illustrations

/na: kolatlerntu mi:n puTiccen/
‘I caught fish from the lake’

/aven u:Tlerntu vanta:n/
‘He came from home’

/payyen kaTayilirntu varra:n/
‘The boy is coming from the shop’

/ma:TTu kiTTerntu kannukuTTi o:Tivartu/
‘The calf is running away from its mother’

/aven payylerntu panom eTutta:n/
‘He took money from his pocket’

4.9.7. Vocative Case (voc.)

Vocative case has no suffixal morpheme specifically assigned to it. But the proper nouns are modified in their phonological shape especially at the final syllable. The final vowel gets elongated in vocative. IF the noun ends in a consonant, sometime it gets deleted and the preceding vowel is either modified or changed, or elongated.

i. Vowel in the last syllable is elongated.

eg. kamalom → kamalo:m (voc.) ‘Oh! kamalam’
    na:yakom → nayako:m (voc.) ‘Oh! nayakam’
ii. Final vowel is elongated.

eg.  
ka:li → ka:li: (voc.) ‘Oh! kali’
ra:ru → raju: (voc.) ‘Oh! raju’

iii. Final consonant is dropped and the preceding vowel elongated.

eg.  
ra:men → ra:ma: ‘Oh! rama’
kuppen → kuppa: ‘Oh! kuppan’

4.10. Numerals

Numerals are a sub-class of nouns. They have both nominal and adjectival functions in sentence constructions. Numerals especially cardinals behave like nouns by taking case markers or as subjects in constructions. The numerals are words indicating number or quantity and relationship as to number and quantity.

Cardinals are classified into two groups as integrals and fractions on the basis of their capability of occurring as base for ordinals. Fractions do not occur as base for ordinals, while integrals do.

4.10.1 Cardinals: Integrals

Integrals are further classified as mono-morphemic and poly morphemic forms on the basis of their sequential and semantic relationship in their formation.

The basic mono-morphemic integrals are the numbers denoting one to ten, hundred, thousand, lakh and crore. The forms of Fishermen dialect are listed below:

/ onnu/  ‘one’
/ rentu/  ‘two’
/ mu:nu/  ‘three’
/ na:lu/  ‘four’
4.10.2. Integrals

Poly-morphemic forms.

The higher numerals are formed by the basic numerals by the process of addition, and multiplication, wither individual process or in combination of these processes. For example, the multiples of ten, hundred, thousand, lakh and crore are expressed by multiplying /pattu/, /nu:ru/, /a:yirom/, /laccom/ and /ko:ti/ by the cardinals denoting two to nine.

eg. na:x-patu (SR 5) na:ppatu ‘forty’
am-patu ‘fifty’
na:-nu:ru ‘four hundred’
na:lu-a:yirom (SR 15) na:la:yirom ‘four thousand’

The addition are expressed when the base numerals take one to nine as a second sufixal morpheme. The numbers indicated by the morphemes which are added to denote the number.

eg. patin-onnu ‘eleven’
4.10.2. Substraction

Substraction is expressed by the morpheme \{tol-\} which denotes ‘one tenth less of the following numbers value’. There are two forms /tonnu:ru/ and /tolla:yirom/ in this dialect denoting ninety’ and ‘nine hundred’ respectively. In these forms the substractive morpheme \{tol-\} is present.

\{tol-\}

\{tol-\}, \{ton-\}.

\{ton-\} occurs before \{nu:ru\} ‘hundred’

ton-nu:ru (SR 3) tonnu:ru ‘ninety’

to- occurs before \{a:yirom\} ‘thousand’

\{tol-a:yirom\} tolla:yirom ‘nine hundred’

tolla:yirom freely varies with tol:yirom.

In this analysis /tol-/ is treated as substractive morpheme keeping the integrals with uniform shape and meaning. There is an alternative analysis to this where /nu:ru/ is treated as an allomorph of \{pattu\} ‘ten’ and /a:yirom/ as an allomorph of \{nu:ru\} ‘hundred’. By this procedure these two numerals come under the category of multiples and not substractives. /ton-/ and /tol-/ will be allomorphs of the morpheme \{ompotu\} ‘nine’ and /nu:ru/ will be an allomorph of morphemes \{nu:ru\} ‘hundred’ and \{pattu\} ‘ten. Similarly /a:yirom/ will be allomorph of morphemes a:yirom ‘thousand’ and also \{nu:ru\} ‘hundred’. This analysis brings one phonemic shape into two different morphemes which will not be valid theoretically. But, the system works out as follows.

\(\text{ton-nu:ru} \quad (9*10=90) \quad \text{‘ninety’}\)

\(\text{tol-a:yirom} \quad (9*100=900) \quad \text{‘nine hundred’}\)
Because of this defect in this analysis, the first analysis is preferable than the latter one.

4.10.2.0. Integrals

4.10.2.1. One

{ommu}

oru, or, ov-, onnu.

or occurs before the numeral /a:yirom/;

ov- occurs before /onnu/ as distributive.

ov-onnu (SR 4) ovvonnu ‘one each’

oru occurs as adjective before other nouns.

oru marom ‘one tree’

oru vi:tu ‘one house’

onnu occurs elsewhere.

onnu ‘one’

patin-onnu ‘eleven’

4.10.2.1.1. Two

{rentu}

iru-, rentu, era-, rev-

rev- occurs as distributive before /rentu/

rev-rentu revventu ‘two each’

era- occurs before /nu:ru/

era-nu:ru ‘two hundred’

iru- occurs before /-patu/ and /nu:ru/

iru-patu(SR 16) iruvatu ‘twenty’

iru-nu:ru ‘two hundered’
rentru occurs elsewhere
rentu ‘two’

4.10.2.3. Three

{\mu:nu}
mun-, mup-, oomum, mu:-, mu:nu.
mun- occurs before /nu:ru/
m:n-nu:ru ‘three hundred’

mu:- occurs before /a:yirom/

mu:a:yirom (SR 1) mu:va:yirom ‘three thousand’
mum- occurs as distributive before /mu:nu/
mum-mu:nu ‘three each’
mup-patu ‘thirty’

mu:nu occurs elsewhere.

mu:nu ‘three’

4.10.2.4. Four

{na:lu}
na:lu, na:p, na:-, nav-

na:p- occurs before /-patu/

na:p-patu ‘forty’

na:- occurs before /nu:ru/

na:-nu:ru ‘four hundred’

nav- occurs as distributive before /na:lu/

nav-ni:lu navva:lu ‘four each’

na:lu occurs elsewhere.

na:lu ‘four’
4.10.2.5. Five

\{anci\}

am-, ay-, anci

am- occurs before /-patu/

ampatu ‘fifty’

ay- occurs before /nu:ru/

ay-nu:ru ‘five hundred’

anci occurs elsewhere

anci ‘five’

anci marom ‘five trees’

4.10.2.1.6. Six

\{a:ru\}

aru-, a:ru

aru- occurs before /-vatu/ and /nu:ru/

aru-patu (SR 16) aruvatu ‘sixty’

a:ru ‘six’

4.10.2.1.7. Seven

\{e:lu\}

e:lu/e:lu, elu-

elu- occurs before /-patu/ and /nu:ru/

elu-patu (SR 16) eluvatu ‘seventy’

elu: occurs elsewhere

e:lu-a:yirom (SR 15) e:la:yirom ‘seven thousand’

patin-e:lu ‘seventeen’

e:lu laccom ‘seven lakh’
4.10.2.1.8. Eight

{ettu}

em-, en-, ettu

em- occurs before /-patu/

em-patu ‘eighty’

en- occurs before /nu:ru/

en-nu:ru (SR 3) ennu:ru ‘eight hundred’

ettu occurs elsewhere

ettu-a:yirom (SR 15) etta:yirom ‘eight thousand’

ettu vi:tu ‘eight house’

4.10.2.1.9. Nine

{ompotu}

ompotu/ompo:tu

ompotu ‘nine’. It is in free variation with

ompo:tu while counting

patt-ompotu ‘nineteen’

4.10.2.1.10. Ten

{pattu}

patin-, pati-, pan-, patu-

patin occurs as adjectival base before numerals denoting one, five, six, seven, and eight.

patin-onnu ‘eleven’

patin-anci ‘fifteen’

patin-a:ru ‘sixteen’
patin-e:lu ‘seventeen’
patin-etu ‘eighteen’
pati- occurs before /mu:nu/ and /na:lu/.
pati-mu:nu ‘thirteen’
pati-na:lu ‘fourteen’
pan- occurs before /rentu/
pan-rentu pannentu ‘twelve’
-patu occurs elsewhere.
ira-patu (SR 16) iravatu ‘twenty’
aru-patu ‘sixty’ aru-patu (SR 16) aravatu
elu-pa:tu (SR 16) elavatu ‘seventy’
am-patu ‘fifty’
na:p-patu ‘forty’
em-patu ‘eighty’

4.10.2.11. Hundred
{nu:ru}

nu:ru occurs as a free form and also in constructions with other numerals.

nu:ru ‘hundred’
mun-nu:ru ‘three hundred’

4.10.2.12. Thousand
{a:yirom}

a:yirom occurs as a free form and also in combination with other numberals,
a:riyom  ‘thousand’

pattu-a:yirom (SR 15) patta:yirom ‘ten thousand’

4.10.2.13. Lakh

{laccom}

laccom occurs as a free form and also in combination with other forms in constructions.

laccom  ‘lakh’

oru laccom  ‘one lakh’

pattu laccom  ‘ten lakh’

4.10.2.14. Crore

{ko:ti}

ko:ti

ko:ti occurs as a free form.

ko:ti  ‘crore’

na:lu ko:ti canom  ‘four crore people’

4.11. Fractions

Fractions in fishermen dialect of Tamil are very few in use, even though standard Tamil recognizes many forms. The fractions do not function as base for ordinals whereas integrals do. The following forms are in use in this dialect.

vi:com1/16  ‘one sixteenth’

ka:l  1/4  ‘one fourth’

are  1/2  ‘one half’

All these fractions occur as free forms and take a suffix denoting ‘that much portion’ in a whole
{/-va:ci} ‘that much portion’
are-va:ci ‘half portion’
la:l-va:ci ‘one fourth portion’
vi:com-va:ci (SR 12) vicamva:ci ‘one sixteenth portion’

These fractions have allomorphs which are given below

4.11.1. One sixteenth

{vicom}

vicom

vicom occurs as a free form.

vi:com1/16
mu:nu vi:com3/16

4.11.2. Quarter

{ka:l}

ka:l, ka:-

ka:l is in freevariation with ka:- when it occurs before /-va:ci/. In other places it occurs as /ka:l/.

ka:l ru:va: ‘one foruth or quarter rupee’
ka:l panku ‘quarter share’
mux-ka:l (SR 5) mukka:l ¾

4.11.3. Half

{are}

ari-, are.

ari- occurs before /ka:l/

ari-ka:l 1/8
are occurs elsewhere.

are 'half'
are panku ‘half share’
are ve:le ‘half work’

4.12. Stem Alternants

4.12.1. North

{vatakku}

vate-, vatakku

vate-occurs as an adjectival base. In this dialect all the nouns denoting directions have such an adjectival alternants.

vate- ko:te ‘north-east wind’

vate-me:kku ‘north-west’

vatakku occurs elsewhere

vatakku ‘north’

4.12.2. South

{tekku}

ten-, tekku

ten- occurs as an adjective base.

ten- me:lu temme:lu ‘north-west’

tekku occurs elsewhere.

tekku ‘south’

tekku pakkom ‘southern side’

4.12.3. East

{kelakku}
ki:l-, kelakku

ki:l- occurs as an adjective base.

ki:l0ka:ttu  ‘eastern wind’

kelakku occurs elsewhere

kelakku  ‘east’

4.12.4. West

{me:rk u}

me:l-, me:rk u/me:kku

me:l- occurs as an adjective base.

me:l0epa:  ‘towards west’

me:l-ka:ttu  ‘western wind’

me:rk u occurs elsewhere.

me:rk u  ‘west’

Illustrations

/ni: me:lepa: to:niye ta:vu/

‘You row the boat towards west’

you westernside boat row

/me:lkattu vi:cutu/

‘Western wind is blowing’

westwind blows

/enaku tekku me:rk u teriyale/

‘I don’t know the directions’

to me south wst don’t know
4.12.5. **Coconut tree**

{tenne}

\textit{ten-}, \textit{tennam-}, \textit{tenne}

te:n occurs with the morpheme /-ka:y/.

te:n-ka:y ‘coconut’

tennam- occurs before the morphemes /ki:ttu/ /ka:ttu/ and /o:le/

tennam-o:le ‘palm leaf’

tennam-ki:ttu ‘plaited palm leaf’

tenne- occurs elsewhere.

tenne-marom ‘coconut tee’

Illustrations

/kuticaykki tennamki:ttu po:tuvom/

to the hut plait place

‘We use plaited leaves of palm for the but’

/te:nka:y na:ru matte ella:m ve:num/

coconut fibre husk all need

‘We need all the nuts fibres and huskes’

4.12.6. **Palyrah tree**

{pane}

panam-, pane

panam- occurs as an adjective

panam-palom ‘palm fruit’

pane occurs elsewhere.
pane-o:le(SR 1) paneyo:le ‘palmyrah lead’

pane marom ‘palm tree’

Illustrations

/enakku panankelanku pitikkum/
‘I like the tuber of palm’

/pane wellom otampukku nallatu/
‘palm sugar is good for health’

palm sugar body good

4.12.7. Yellow

{mancal}

mancal-, mance

mancal- occurs before case markers

mancal-e ‘yellow’/turmeric’(acc.)

mance occurs elsewhere.

mance ‘turmeric/yellow’

Illustrations

/itu mance potave/
‘This is an yellow saree’

/ni: manacle etu/
‘you take the turmeric’

/na:nke mance nu:lu vanknom/
‘We bought yellow thread’

‘We yellow thread bought’
4.12.8. Red

{cevappu}

cem-, cevappu

cem- occurs before /mannu/

cem-mannu ‘red earth’

cevappu occurs elsewhere

cevappu ‘red’

Illustrations

/cemmunnule okka:ra:te/

‘Don’t sit on red earth’

/itu cevappu nu:lu/

‘this is red yarn’

4.12.9 Mango

{ma:n-}

ma:-, ma:n-

ma:- occurs before the morpheme /marom/.

ma:-marom ‘mango tree’

ma:n- occurs before other nouns as adjectival base.

ma:n-ka: ‘unripped fruit’

ma:n-to:ppu ‘mango grove’

Illustrations

/itu ma:nto:ni/

‘This boat is made of mango wood’

/na:lu ma:mpalom va:nku/
'You buy four mango fruit'

four mango fruit

4.12.10. Grand son/ daughter

pe:-

pe:-, pe:-

pe:- occurs before masculine /-en/.

pe:-en ‘grand son’

pe:- occurs before feminine /-tti/

pe:-tti ‘grand daughter’

Illustrations

/enakku na:lu pe:renum pe:ttiyum irukka:nke/

‘I have four grand sons and grand daughters’

/itu en pe:ren/

‘He isn my grand son’

4.12.11. Potter

{kocav-}

kocav-, koca-

kocav- occurs before masculine /-en/

kocav-en ‘potter’

koca- occurs elsewhere

koca-tti ‘potter woman’

koca-ve:le ‘potters work’

Illustrations

/kocaven pa:ne catti ceyva:n/

‘potter makes earther vessals’
potter pot pot do
/kocatti ate vippa:/
‘potter woman sells them’
potter (fem.) it will sell


{paray-}
paray- occurs before masculine suffix /-en/
paray-en ‘harijan’
para- occurs elsewhere
para-cci ‘harijan woman’

Illustrations
/paryen pare atippa:n/
‘harijan boats or plays the drum’
harijan drum play

4.12.13. Korava

{korav-}
korav-, kora-
korav- occurs before masculine suffix /-en/.
korav-en ‘korava man’
kora- occurs elsewhere
kora-tti ‘korava woman’

Illustrations
/koraven koratti ku:te morom kattuva:nke/
‘koravas make baskets and windows’

{etay-}

etay-, eta-

etay- occurs before the masculine suffix /-en/
etay-en ‘shepherd’
eta- occurs elsewhere’
eta-cci ‘shepherd woman’

Illustrations

/etacci pa:lu mo:ru vippa:/
‘Shepherd woman sells milk and butter milk’

/etayen ma:tu valappa:n/
‘Shepherd raise cattle’

4.12.15. White

{vell}

vem-, vel-, velle

vem- occurs before /panna/

eg. vem-panne: ‘a kind a fish’

vel- occurs before /-ra: /

eg. vel-ra: ‘white prawn’

velle occurs elsewhere.

eg. velle ‘white’

velle pora: ‘white dove’
Illustrations

/innekki valeyle vampanna:pattutu/
‘(Today panna fish in the net, got’)
‘We netted panna fish today’

/velle tuni etutten/
white cloth took
‘I bought white cloth’

4.12.16. Black

{karuppu}
karun-, karunt-, karte-
karuppu

karun- occurs before the morphemes
ka:li and kalutti
eg. karun-ka:li ‘black legged’
karun-kalutti ‘black necked fish’

karunt- occurs before ra:lu
eg. karunt-ra:lu ‘black prawn’
karte- occurs before kattale
eg. karte- kattale ‘a kind a fish’

karuppu occurs elsewhere.
eg. karuppu ‘black’
karuppu tuni ‘black cloth’

Illustrations

/karuppu potave va:nku/
black saree buy
‘You buy a black saree’
/karte kattale ruciya: irukkum/
black fish taste is
‘black fish tastes good’

4.12.17. Strength

{palom}
pale-, palom
pale- occurs as derivative base.
pale-ca:li ‘strong person’
palom occurs elsewhere.
palom ‘strength’

Illustrations
/aven rompe paleca:li/
‘he is very strong’
/kattumarom ta:ve nalle palom ve:num/
‘One should have good strength to row a boat’

4.12.18. Brave

{takiriyom}
takiriye-, takiriyom
takiriye- occurs before /-ca:li/
takiriye-ca:li ‘brave person’
takiriyom occurs elsewhere.
takiriyom ‘braveness’
Illustrations

/ mi:n pitikke takiriyama: po:vunum/

‘One should go with courage to catch fish’

4.12.19.Woman

{ponnu}

pont-, ponnu

pont- occurs before /a:tti/

pont-a:tti ‘wife’

ponnu occurs elsewhere

‘ponnu ‘girls’/‘woman’

Illustrations

/en ponta:tti mi:n vikke po:yirukka:/

‘My wife has gone to sell fish’

/itu en ponnu/

‘she is my daughter’

4.12.20.Lazyness

{co:mpal-}

co:mp-, co:mpal

co:mp- occurs before /-e:ri/

co:mp-e:ri ‘lazy person’

co:mpal occurs elsewhere.

co:mpal ‘lazyness’

Illustrations

/aven co:mp:e:ri/
‘He is a lazyfellow’
/enakku ore: co:mpala: irukku/
‘I feel lazy’

4.13. Verbs

Verbs are those which can take or are capable of taking tense markers. Verbal nouns derived from verb stems, participial nouns take case markers also. Since, they are derived from the verb stems, they are treated under verb morphology. Defective verbs do not take these markers but they behave like finite verbs syntactically. Therefore those defective verbs are included in this chapter.

4.13.1. Classification of verb stems

Verbs are conjugated in the Fishermen dialect of Tamil in three simple tenses, viz. past, present and future. Progressive tenses are complex, in the sense that the stems have auxiliaries to indicate the progress of the action.

These simple tenses are expressed by adding various tense markers to the verbal stems. The various verbal stems of the Fishermen dialect are mainly classified on the basis of the past tense markers they take. Present and future tenses have fewer markers than the past tense. Moreover, they differ in their shape depending on the following pronominal terminations. They are not consistent as the past tense markers. The verb stems are classified into four groups on the basis of the past tense markers. They are:

(1) -in-, (2) -nt-, (3) -t-, and (4) -n-

Each of these four groups are further sub-divided into two groups viz. inherent transitives and inherent intransitives, on the basis of syntactical behaviour. Transitives are capable of taking objects, while intransitives are not. The inherent intransitives are further sub-divided into two as (i)
intransitive1 (INTR.1), and (ii) intransitive2 (INTR.2). Intransitive1 do not take transitive markers. In other words these stems do not function for derived transitives. On the other hand, intransitives2 are capable of taking transitive markers. It means they can function as bases for derived transitives.

Intransitives2 stems are further sub-divided into four classes on the basis of the transitive markers they take:

1) Intransitive2 verb stems which take the transitive marker –tt-.
2) Intransitive2 verb stems which can take transitive marker –t-.
3) Intransitive2 verb stems which can take transitive marker –X- which is a morphophoneme, and
4) Intransitive2 which can take or show transitive by internal changes in their phonemic shapes.

4.13.2. Transitives and Intransitives

4.13.2.1. Class-1

All those simple verb stems which take past tense marker /-in/ belong to this class 1.

4.13.2.2. Inherent transitives

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Verb</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>enn-</td>
<td>‘count’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>elut-</td>
<td>‘write’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e:tt-</td>
<td>‘lift’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>anup</td>
<td>‘send’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ant-</td>
<td>‘approach’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>alamp-</td>
<td>‘wash’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>otukk-</td>
<td>‘divide’/’separate’</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
olapp- 'swim'(fish)
uruv- 'strip'
pe:c- 'speak'
pann- 'do'
parapp- 'spread'
ponk- 'cook'
poruk- 'take'
po:TT- 'cover'
puTunk 'pluck'
pu:TT- 'lock'
te:T- 'search'
taTav- 'smear'
taTT- 'knock'
tall- 'push'
ta:nk- 'bear'
torutt- 'chase/push away'
toluv- 'poke'
tu:kk- 'lift'
cimitt- 'winkle'
ci:cc 'search'
ca:tt- 'beat'
corant- 'scratch'
cutt- 'wander'
katt- 'tie'
ka:nt- ‘burn’
kott- ‘pour’
konc- ‘speak(like a child)’
kolutt- ‘burn’
kutt- ‘stab’
ku:v- ‘call’
ma:tt- ‘hook’
moluv- ‘smear’
mulunk- ‘swallow’
mu:t ‘close/cover’
nerukk- ‘press/go near’
nakk- ‘lick’
namp- ‘trust/believe’
na:tt- ‘errect/establish’
no:kk- ‘see/row towards’
vi:e- ‘spread/throw the net’
vett- ‘cut’
velakk- ‘wash/clean’
vela:t- ‘play’

Instranitives2
erank- ‘get down’
atank- ‘obey’
alunt ‘press’
amunk- ‘immerse’
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prefix</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a:t-</td>
<td>'play/shake'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o:t-</td>
<td>'run'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>orank-</td>
<td>'sleep'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>patunk-</td>
<td>'hide'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tilump-</td>
<td>'turn'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>te:nk-</td>
<td>'store/hesitate'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kelamp-</td>
<td>'start'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kacank-</td>
<td>'squeed'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>matank-</td>
<td>'return/fold'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ma:r-</td>
<td>'change'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>natunk-</td>
<td>'shiver'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>norunk-</td>
<td>'crush'</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Illustrations**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prefix</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>irum-</td>
<td>'cough'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ant-</td>
<td>'approach'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>otav-</td>
<td>'help'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>palav-</td>
<td>'move'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>polamp-</td>
<td>'rave/weep'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>te:mp-</td>
<td>'swell'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tank-</td>
<td>'stay'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>talump-</td>
<td>'overflow'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ta:v-</td>
<td>'leap/jump'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cikk-</td>
<td>'entangle'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cutt-</td>
<td>'wind/roll'</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4.13.3. Class 2

All those verb stems which take past tense marker /-nt/ belong to this class 2. These stems also take /-r-/, /-kr-/ as present tense markers and /-v-/, /-p-/ as future tense markers. These stems are divided into two groups viz. stems ending in morphophoneme –x and stems ending non-x.

Non-X ending stems

- **eri-** ‘throw’
- **pili-/puli-** ‘squeese’
- **mol-** ‘fill/scoop’

Stems ending in X

- **ataX-** ‘console’
- **polaX-** ‘split’
- **teraX-** ‘open’
- **kataX-** ‘pass/cross’
kalaX- ‘mix’
me:yX- ‘graze’
marX-/maraX- ‘forget’

Intransitives 2

(These intransitives take transitive marker X)
eri- ‘burn’
avi- ‘boil/put off’
avi- ‘boil’
o-te- ‘break’
uri- ‘peel’
piri- ‘separate’
pene- ‘tie’
te:y- ‘rub’
tole- ‘get lost’
ca:y- ‘bend/lean’
kili- ‘tear’
keya- ‘lie down’
me:y- ‘graze’
muti- ‘finish’
nole- ‘enter’
vale- ‘bend’

Intransitive 2 stems which take transitive marker /-tt-/  
e:ma:r- ‘deceive’
urul- ‘roll’
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stem</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>peral-/poral</td>
<td>‘trun’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ce:r-</td>
<td>‘reach’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>curul-</td>
<td>‘wind’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kalal-</td>
<td>‘unscrew’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mella:r-</td>
<td>‘lie down’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>meral-</td>
<td>‘frighten’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>valar-</td>
<td>‘grow’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kavur-</td>
<td>‘topple’</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Instransitive 1**

**Non-X ending stems**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stem</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ulu-</td>
<td>‘fall’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pe:y-</td>
<td>‘rain’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pu:r-</td>
<td>‘enter’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>puri-</td>
<td>‘understand’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tiri-</td>
<td>‘wander’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cori-</td>
<td>‘itch/scratch’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cel-</td>
<td>‘go’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kuni-</td>
<td>‘bend’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ve:k</td>
<td>‘boil’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>va:-/var-</td>
<td>‘come’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>va:l-</td>
<td>‘live’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ma:l-</td>
<td>‘exhausted’</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Stems ending in-X**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stem</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>irux-</td>
<td>‘wait/be’</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4.13. 2.3. Class-3

All those simple verb stems which take past tense suffix /-t-/ belong to this class -3. These stems also take present tense markers /-kir-/ , /-r-/ and future tense markers /-p-/ and /-v-/ . The stems have been classified accordingly as transitives and intransitives.

Inherent Transitives

Non-X ending stems

it- ‘put/place’
ut- ‘leave’
pat- ‘touch’
po:t ‘put/wear/place’
tot- ‘touch’
cey- ‘do’
cut- ‘roast/cook/fry’
ka:n/kan- ‘see’
kumput- ‘worship’
ku:pput- ‘call/invite’

Stems ending in X

ilux- ‘pull’
etuX- ‘take’
atiX-  ‘beat’
arayX-  ‘grind’
anaX-  ‘ambrace’
aruX-  ‘cut’
pe:rX-  ‘remove’
pateX-  ‘offer’
patiX-  ‘read’
pariX-  ‘pluck’
pa:rX-  ‘see’
puTiX-  ‘catch’
ta:liX-  ‘season by frying mustard’
co:TiX-  ‘decorate’
ke:lX-  ‘hear/ask’
kaTiX-  ‘bite’
kareX-  ‘dissolve’
koTuX-  ‘give’
ko:rX-  ‘string’
kutiX-  ‘drink’
miriX-  ‘tread’
meriX-  ‘trample’
mariX-  ‘stop/ block’
nenaX-  ‘think’
neriX-  ‘crush’
veteX-  ‘sow’
valiX- ‘pull/ pain’

vayX- ‘put/ place’

varaX- ‘fry’

Non X ending stems

alu- ‘weep’

porappat- ‘start’

Intransitives

Stems ending in X

atiX- ‘smell’

paciX- ‘to be hungry’

paluX- ‘to ripe’

polayX- ‘save/live’

ciriX-/citiX- ‘laugh’

kataX- ‘available’

kuliX- ‘bathe’

valiX- ‘pain’

4.13.2.4. Class-4

All those verb stems which take past tense marker /-n-/ belong to this class 4. These stems also take /-r/, as the present tense marker and /-v-/ as the future tense marker.

4.13.2.5. Intransitives

a:-/a:v ‘to become’

po:- ‘go’
4.2.4.1. Transitives

  tun-  ‘eat’
  col-/con-  ‘tell’
  kol-/kon-  ‘kill’
  mol-/mon-  ‘chew’
  vel-/ven-  ‘win’

4.2.4.2. Intransitive 2 which take /-t-/ as the transitive marker

  nil- /niruX-/ nin-  ‘stand’

4.3. Derived transitives

Derived transitives are those verbs which are derived from the corresponding intransitives by the addition of transitive markers or by the process of some phonemic change internally in the stem. Intransitive verbs have been classified into two viz. intransitives1 which cannot be transitivised, and intransitives2 which can be transitivized.

4.3.1. Transitive morpheme

  {-t-}

  -tt-, -t-, -X(morphophoneme)

  and a few internal changes in the stem.

4.3.1.1 -tt- occurs with intransitives 2 of class 1, and class 2 and 3.

eg. urul-tt- (SR 3) urutt- ‘roll’
  curul-tt- (SR 3,10) curutt- ‘wound up’
  ni:l-tt- (SR 3,10) ni:tt- ‘lengthen’
  e:r-tt- (SR 10) e:tt- ‘load’
  pa:y-tt- (SR 3,10) pa:cc- ‘irrigate’
celu-tt- ‘drive’
ma:r-tt- (SR 10) ma:tt- ‘change’

4.3.1.2.
-t- occurs with Intransitives2 of class-2
eg. ketaX-t- (SR 5) ketatt- ‘lie down’
kataX-t- (SR 5) katatt- ‘pass’
nataX-t- (SR 5) natatt- ‘cause to walk’

4.3.1.3.
-X- the morphophoneme occurs as transitive marker with the intransitives2 of class-3
eg. ate-X ‘class’
aru-X ‘cut’
keTu-X- ‘spoil’
maTi-X- ‘fold’

4.3.1.4. Changes in the stem

The following intransitive stems undergo internal changes of x five different kinds when they are derived as transitives. The changes are as follows.

1. -mp- > -pp-
2. -nt- > -tt-
3. -nk- > -kk-
4. -t- > -tt-
5. -v- > -kk-
The first three (1,2,3) can be rearranged by a general rule where NP+X > PP.

NP + X > PP (the nasal becomes homorganic voiceless plosive)

eg. mp + X > -pp-
    nk + X > -kk-
    nt + X > -tt-

Similarly t+X should be treated as -tt- and v+x -kk-. But these two are not possible in this dialect. Therefore, in this analysis they are treated as internal changes in the stem.

1. -mp- > -pp-
   tilumpu > tiluppu ‘turn’
   tirumpu > tiruppu ‘turn’
   kolampu > kolappu ‘mix’
   kelampu > kelappu ‘start’
   alampu > alappu ‘distrub/mix’

2. -nt- > -tt-
   aluntu > aluttu ‘press’
   tiruntu > tiruttu ‘correct’

3. -nk- > -kk-
   kacankku kacakku ‘squeeze’
   atanku atakku ‘control’
   otunku otukku ‘separate’
   patunku patukku ‘hide/go underground’
4. -T- > -TT-
   a:Tu          a:TTu      ‘shake’
   o:Tu          o:TTu      ‘drive’

5. -v- > -kk-
   a:vu          a:kku      ‘make’
   palavu        palakku    ‘train’

-/v-/ in the verb /a:vu/ is related to the intervocal /-k-/ in this written Tamil. It becomes /-kk-/ in transitive like /-T/ which becomes /-TT-/ in a:tu > a:ttu, o:tu > o:ttu etc.

But in this dialect the change is phonemic and no specific rule can be posited as single consonant becomes geminate in transitive.

4.4 Caustive

Causative verbs imply that a thing is commanded or instructed by one person to be done by another. By this, it differs from transitive and intransitive, both in signification and in form. The signification of intransitive verb is confined to the person or thing which constitutes the nominative and the signification of the transitive passes outward, to some object which is generally put in the accusative (Caldwell, 1974:455).

The causative forms of the Fishermen dialect are derived by adding the auxiliary verbs like:

   collu  ‘tell’
   vay-   ‘place/do’
   cey-   ‘do’ etc.
Morphologically only a few verbs are derived as causative. Most of the verbs express causal by periphrastic construction where the use of auxiliaries take place. Causative is expressed morphologically by two markers which are restricted in their distribution.

Causative morpheme

{-ppa:ttu}

-ppa:ttu, -kka:ttu, -t-, -ttu.

-ppa:tti occurs with the following morphemes:

kuli ‘bathe’ kuti ‘drink’ nil ‘stand’

eg. kuli-ppa:tti ‘cause to bathe’

nil-ppa:tti (SR 10) nippa:ttu ‘cause to stand’

Illustrations

ni:kolantaye kulippa:TTu
‘you cause the child to bathe’

na:n passé nippa:ttinen
‘I caused the bus to stop’

na: en ponta:TTiye kolantaykki pa:lu kuluppa:TTe connen
‘I caused my wife to feed the child’

-kka:ttu occurs with the verb stem mulu- ‘immerse’

mulu-kka:TTu ‘cause to immerse’

Illustrations

na:n valay mulukkattinen
‘I caused the net to immerse in the water’

-t- occurs with the transitive items ka:n- ‘see’
kaːn-t- (SR 3) kaːTT- ‘cause to see’

Illustration

naːn avunukku patom kaːTTinen

‘I caused him to see the filem’

-ttu occurs with the stem okkaːr- ‘sit’, niru- to ‘stand’.

okkaːf-ttu (SR 10) okkaːttu ‘cause to sit’

Illustrations

/naːn tanniye niruttinen/

‘I caused the water from flowing’

/niː kolantaye okkaːttu/

‘You cause the child to sit’

The stem nil- /niru- takes two different causative suffixes

where the suffix-ppaːTTu gives the meaning of double causal.

niru-ttu ‘stop something by oneself’

nil-ppaːTTu >nippaːTTu cause something to stop by some one’

But the same suffix with the stem kuli-gives only

the simple causal meaning;

kulu-ppaːTTu ‘cause to bathe’

Causative by auxiliary verbs

vay- ‘do’ (causative)

Illustrations

/naːn toːniye taTTavaytteːn/

taTTa-vay – tt-eː - n(SR 8,10) taTTa-vacceːn

/naːn toniye taTTa vacceːn/
‘I caused the boat to reach the shoee’
/ velanku-vay / ‘cause to tie’
/ na:n to:niye velankuvaccen /
‘I caused the boat to be tied’
/ pova-vay- / ‘cause to go’
/ aven enne po:vevaccan/
‘He caused me to go’

4.5. TENSES

There are three simple tenses in this dialect. They are past, present, and future. Progressive tenses are expressed by auxiliaries. The main characteristic feature which distinguishes verb x from other grammatical categories is tense. The category of tense has to be with time-relations in so far as these are expressed by systematic grammatical contrasts. The essential characteristic of the category of tense is that it relates the time of the action, or event or state of affairs referred to in the sentence of the time of utterance. (Luons, 1968:305). Tense is therefore a deictic category, which is simultaneously a property of the sentence and the utterance. So, the main function of tense is to denote the time at which an action takes place. Jesperson remarks that tense is the linguistic expression of time relations, so far as tenses are indicated in the verb forms.

4.5.1 Past tense

The past tense markers are –in-, -nt-, -t-, -T-, and –n-, in the occupational terms of Tamil. These markers are in complementary distribution. The distribution is given below.

Past tense morpheme

{-t-}
-in-, -nt, -t-, -T-, -n-.

-in- occurs with the verb stems of class-1.

eg. o:Tu-in-a:n (SR15) o:Tina:n ‘rank he’
    killu-ina:n (SR15) killina:n ‘pinched, he’
    veTTu-in-a:n (SR15) veTTina:n ‘cut, he’
    murukku-in-a:n (SR15) murukkina:n ‘twisted, he’
    pa:Tu-in-a:n (SR15) pa:Tina:n ‘sang, he’
    tiruppu-in-a:n (SR15) tiruppina:n ‘turned it, he’
    tirumpu-in-a:n (SR15) tirumpina:n ‘turned (himself), he’

Illustrations

    na:n o:Tinen ‘ I ran’
    aven enne killina:n ‘He pinched me’
    ave pa:TTu pa:Tina: ‘She sang a song’
    aven kavutte murukkina:n ‘He twisted the rope’

Illustrations

    aven pullaye kaTTilee okka:ttina:n
    ‘He caused the child to sit on the cot’

-nt- occurs with the stems of class- 2.

eg. va-nt-a:n ‘came, he’
    cey-nt-a:n (SR 9),10) ceoca:n ‘did, he’
    ka:y-nt-a:n (SR 9,10) ka:noa:n ‘dried, he’
    ka:y-nt-utu (SR9,10) ka:neutu ‘ dried, itself’
    ve-nt-utu ‘boiled, itself’
    muTi-nt-utu (SR 9) muTincutu ‘ came to an end, it’
Illustrations

aven u:TTukku vanta:n
‘He came home’

na:n ve:le cencen
‘I did (my) work’

coru ventutu
‘Rice boiled (itself)’

ve:le muTincutu ‘work was over’

aven pu:TTe terenta:n
‘He opened the lock’

vale veyille ka:ncutu
‘The net dried in the sunshine’

-\* -t- * occurs with the stems of class-3.

eg.

parX-t-a:n (SR5),(10) pa:tta:n ‘saw, he’

vayX-t-a:n (SR 5,10) vacca:n ‘placed, he’

ke:lX-t-a:n (SR5, 10) ke:tta:n ‘asked, he’

oTiX-t-a:n (SR5 , 8) oTiccan:n ‘broke, he’

valiX-t-a:n (SR 5,8) valicca:n ‘pulled, he’

vilX-t-a:n (SR 5,10) vitta:n ‘sold, he’

Illustrations

ave mi:nu vitta:

‘She sold the fish’
avunke maratte valicca:nke
‘The pulled the logs’

na:n mi:nu vele ke:tten
‘I asked the price of the fish’

The contrast between the past tense markers –t- and –tt- is nullified by introducing a morpophoneme ‘X’ in the stems as suggested by Leigh Lisker (Lisker, L, “Tamil verb classification” JAOS 71(1951)) which is realized as t before t.

∞  -n- occurs with the stems of class -4.

eg. po:-n-a:n ‘went, he’
    tun-n-a:n (SR3) tuna:n ‘ate, he’
    kon-n-a:n (SR3) konna:n ‘killed, he’
    oon-n-a:n ‘told, he’

Illustrations

ave u:TTukku po:na:
‘She went home’

ne:nke minu putikke ponom
‘We went for fishing’

aven co:ru tuna:n
‘He ate (his meal)’

pa:tti kate oonna:
‘Grand mother narrated story’

aven pa:mpe konna:n
‘He killed a snake’
4.5.2. PRESENT TENSE

The present tense has two sets of markers depending on the following pronominal terminations. One set of tense markers occurs with the stems when followed by human gender number markers while the other set occurs when followed by neuter markers.

Present tense morpheme

{-kr-}

Allomorphs set-1 -kr-, -r-.

Allomorphs set-2 –k-  

-kr- / -k- occurs with the stem of classes 2, 3, 4 as shown below:

Class-1 (4.2.2.2, 4.2.3, 4.2.2.6)
Class-3 (4.2.3.2) and
Class-4 (4.2.4.3)

eg. pa:rX-kr-a:n (SR 5, 10) pa:kkra:n ‘sees, he’  
    ke:lX-kr-om (SR 5, 10) ke:kkrom ‘hear, we’  
    naTaX-kr-om (SR 5,10) naTakkrom ‘walk, we’

-k- occurs before neuter suffix.

eg. pa:rX-k-utu (SR 5,10) pa:kkutu ‘sees, it’  
    ke:lX-k-utu (SR 5, 10) ke:kkutu ‘asks, it / hears, it’  
    naaX-k-utu (SR 5, 10) natakkutu ‘walks, it’

Illustrations

aven pa:TTu ke:kkra:n

‘He listens to songs’

ave naTakkra:
'She walks'

ni:nke cinema: pa:kkri:nke

‘You see acinema’

‘ma:Tu nantu ella:m naTakkutu. parave parakkutu
cow and crab walk. But birds fly.’

mi:nu veliccatte pa:kkutu

‘Fish sees the light’

na:mpe ve:kama: natakkrom

‘We walk quickly’

pa:mpu tavalaye pitikkutu

‘Snake caught the frog’

\(\infty \) -r- / occurs with stems of classes -1,2,3,4 as shown below:

- Class-1(4.2.1.)
- Class 2(4.2.2.1)
- Class 3(4.2.3.1) and
- Class 4(4.2.4.1,4.2.3.2)

eg. -r-

o:T-r-a:n ‘runs, he’

pa:T-r-a:n ‘sings, he’

po:-r-a:nke ‘go, they’

var-r-a:nke ‘x come, they’

\(\infty \) -0-

o:T-utu o:Tutu ‘runs, it’

pa:T-utu pa:Tutu ‘sings, it’
4.5.3. FUTURE TENSE

Future tense also like present tense has two sets of markers. One set occurs with stems when followed by the pronomial terminations denoting human beings while the other set occurs when followed by the neuter markers.

Future tense morpheme

{-p-}

Allomorphs set 1: -p-, -kum.

Allomorphs set-2: -v-, -um.

The distribution of these allomorphs is given in the following page.
Distribution of future tense allomorphs with examples:

\(\infty\) -p- / -kum occurs with the stems of classes

4.2.2.2, 4.2.2.3, 4.2.2.6; 4.2.3.2, 4.2.3.4;

and 4.2.4.3.

eg. -p-

naTaX-p-a:n (SR 5,) naTappa:n ‘will, walk, he’

pa:rX-p-a:n (SR 5,10) pa:ppa:n ‘will see, he’

ke:lX-p-om (SR 5,10) ke:ppom ‘will ask, we’

\(\infty\) -kum

nataX-kum (SR 5) natakkum ‘will walk, it’

pa:rX-kum (SR 5,10) pa:kkum ‘will see, it’

ke:lX-kum (SR 5,10) ke:kkum ‘will ask, it’

Illustrations

a:luvo ve:kame: natappa:nke
‘Men walk in/with speed’

pompleynke oinima: pa:ppa:nke
‘Ladies will see films (more often).’

aven nalla: natappa:n
‘He will walk nicely’

\(\infty\) -v- / -um occurs with the stems of classes

4.5.4.

eg. -v-

po:-v-a:n ‘will go, he’

varu-v-a:n ‘will come, he’
kelampu-v-a:n ‘will start, he’

∞ -um

eg. po:-um (SR 1) po:vum ‘will go, it’
   varu-um (SR 15) varum ‘will come, it’
   kelampu-um (SR15) kelampum ‘will start, it’

Illustrations

na:nke kaTalukku po:vom
‘We will go to the sea’

ni:nkalum kaTalukku varuvi:nke
‘You too will come to the sea’

atunke tanniki po:vum
‘It will go for water’

‘ka:layle polutu kelampum
‘Sun will ride in the morning’

4.6. PRONOMINAL TERMINATION

(Person, gender and number markers)

The occupational terms of Tamil distinguishes all the three persons, three genders in the third person and two numbers in all the three persons. But there is a deviation from the standard spoken Tamil or written Tamil in the shape and function of gender markers. This phenomenon is unique to this sociolect. Usually the neuter gender markers are used when the subject is in the neuter gender. But in this dialect if the neuter terminations are used, the subject may be neuter or human beings who are their close kin or family members. The pronomial termination denotes more proviminity in
their kinship relation and more intimacy. Therefore, descriptively one has
to analyse two different morphemes having same phonemic shape.

i. morpheme denoting the PT. as concord to human subject and
ii. morpheme denoting PT. as concord to neuter subject.

In the number system also apart from the epicene plural in the
human pronouns, there is plural marker which occurs after gender and
singular number markers. This system is structurally a deviant one, where
normally one expects the stem followed by number and gender marker
represented by a single morpheme. The structure has normally two
morphemes. But the occupational dialect has three morphemes where the
stem is followed by gender and singular marker to which plural marker is
added again.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>occupational dialect</th>
<th>Standard Tamil</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>av-en</td>
<td>‘he’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>av-e</td>
<td>‘she’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>av-aru</td>
<td>‘he(Hon.)’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>av-unke</td>
<td>‘they’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>av-en-uvo</td>
<td>‘they mas;pl’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>av-el-uvo</td>
<td>‘they, fem.pl.’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a-tu</td>
<td>‘it’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a-tu-vo</td>
<td>‘they neut.’</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4.6.0. Person markers

4.6.1. First person

{-e-}

-e-, -o-

∞ -e- occurs when followed by the singular marker / -n/.
eg. va-nt-e-n ‘came, I’
    pa:rX-t-e-n (SR 5,10) pa:ttten ‘saw, I’
∞ -o- occurs when followed by the plural marker -/-m/.

eg. va-nt-o-m ‘came, we’
    pa:rX-t-o-m (SR 5,10) pa:ttom ‘saw, we’

Illustrations
    na:n ne:ttu vanten
    ‘I came yesterday’
    na:ke ne:ttu vantom
    ‘We came yesterday’

4.6.2 Second person

{-i-}

∞ -i-, -e-
∞ -e- occurs when followed by the morpheme which has allpmorph denoting the singular.

In otherwords -e- represents both second person and singular.

eg. va-nt-e ‘You (Sg.) came’
    pa:rX-t-e (SR 5,10) pa:tte ‘You (sg.) saw’
∞ -i- occurs when followed by the plural /-nke/.

eg. va-nt-i-nke ‘You came’
    pa:rX-t-i-nke (SR, 5, 10) pa:ttinke ‘You saw’
-i- at times freevaries with –i:- in very slow speech.

Illustrations
    ni: ne:ttu vante ‘You came yesterday’ (sh.)
ni:nke nne:yyu vantinke ‘You came yesterday’ (pl.)

4.6.3 Third Person

{-a:-}

-a:-, -u-

∞ -a:- occurs when followed by masculine and feminine gender marker denoting human beings in general except human beings belonging to the close kin or members of the same family.

eg. va-nt-a:-n ‘came, he’

va-nt-a:-l (SR 11) vanta: ‘She came’

∞ -u- occurs when followed by the morphemes –tu, -cci.

eg. va-nt- u-tu ‘came, it’

va-nt-u- tu/ -cci ‘came, he/ she/ it’

Illustrations

annen vantucci ‘Elder brother came’

akka: vantucci ‘Elder sister came’

pa:ppa: vantucci ‘Younger sister came’

It is to be noted that the neuter PT carries the meaning of politeness within their community.

eg. ave vanta: ‘She came’ (Impolite)

atu vantucci ‘She came’ (Polite)

4.6.4. Honorific singular

{-ru-}

∞ -ru
- ru occurs after third person markers usually denoting honorific singular.

eg. 

pa:rX-t-a:-ru (SR 5,10) pa:tta:ru ‘He saw’ (Hon.)

cey-nt-a:ru (SR 9,10) cenca:ru ‘He did’ (Hon.)

Illustrations

avuru cinema: pa:tta:ru ‘He saw a film’

taccaru patavu cenca:ru ‘Carpenter made a boat’

4.7. GENDER

There are three genders vis. masculine, feminine, and neuter. These markers occur only after third person both proximate and remote stems. In the singular, gender and number are shown by one and the same form, while in the plural, there is separate plural marker which follows the gender marker. This has been already explained under the section pronominal terminations (PT.).

4.7.1. Masculine

Masculine is expressed by two markers /-n/, and / -ru / where the latter is also used as honorific singular, and epicene plural.

Masculine singular

{-n}

- n

- n occurs after the third person and at times before the plural marker /auvo /.

eg. 

vant-a:-n ‘he came’

vant-a:n-uvo ‘they came’ (mas.)
4.7.2. **Feminine**

Feminine is shown by only one marker /-l/. But in the intimate register when the subject is a close kin, the neuter marker is used more often than the feminine. This is one of the distinct dialectal features of the occupational terms of Tamil.

Feminine morpheme

\{-l\}

- \(-l\)
  - \(-l\) occurs after third person marker.

eg. vant-a:-l (SR 11) vanta: ‘She came’
    pa:rX-t-a:l (SR 5,10,11) pa:tta: ‘saw, she’
    natant-a:l (SR 11) natanta: ‘walked, she’

Illustrations

ave mi:nu vittuttu vanta:
‘She came after selling the fish’

ave mi:nu vikke pona:la:
‘Didmshe go to sell fish:’

ave enne patti ke:ppa:la:
‘Will she ask about me?’

4.7.3. **Neuter**

Neuter is expressed by the markers/ -tu/, and / -cci/. The same markers are also used to denote humanbeings in a limited way. This phenomenon can be analysed in two different methods: (i) semantic difference or change in the content of these forms and (ii) social concept and use of PT within their sociolect. However they are homophonous forms in this dialect.
Neuter morpheme

\{-tu\}

\$\infty\$ -tu / -cci (free variation)

\$\infty\$ -tu / -cci free varies without any change in their distribution except when it denotes human beings.

e.g. vant-utu ‘it came’

vant-icci ‘it came’

Illustrations

marom me:lapa: vantutu

‘The catamaran came toward the shore’

annen u:ttukku vantutu

‘Elder brother came home’

akka: vantutu/ vanticci

‘Elder sister came’

pa:ppa: vanticci

‘Younger sister came’

ka:ttu varutu

‘Wind starts blowing’

pa:tten varutu

‘Eastern wind starts blowing’

4.8. NUMBER MARKERS

Singular is expressed in the first person and second person by the markers / -n / and /. The plural is expressed similarly by /-m / and /-nke/. In the third person, singular is expressed by the gender markers. There is no separate markers for number. But in the plural, there are two
types. One in the human pronouns and nouns there are epicene plural whereas in the neuter there is a separate plural marker which occurs after the genders. Therefore in the occupational dialect there is an instance of deviation by the process of anological extension in the plural number system.

4.8.1. First person singular

\{-n\}

\[\infty\] -n

\[\infty\] -n occurs after first person marker.

eg. vant-e-n ‘came, I’

pa:vn-e-n ‘spread, I’

Illustrations

na:n valaye pe:vnen ‘I spread the net’

4.8.2. FIRST PERSON PLURAL

Plural is expressed by the marker / -m/.  

\{-m\}

\[\infty\] -m occurs after the first person marker / -o-/ 

eg. vant-o-m ‘came, we’

pa:pp-o-m ‘will see, we’

na:ttin-o-m ‘errected it, we’

Illustrations

na:nke ne:ttu vantom  
‘We came yesterday’

na:nke pa:ye na:ttinom  
‘We erected the sail on the mast’
na:nke na:lekki cinema:pa:ppom

‘We will see a movie tomorrow’

4.8.3 SECOND PERSON SINGULAR

In the second person there is no separate marker in the Fisher speech due to the loss of final consonant. However structurally one has to analyse that there is a zero marker in that position. In this dialect the final *y becomes zero in the monosyllabic and disyllabic words. Here the marker /-o/ is analysed as second person to which is added as singular marker.

\[
\text{Stem} + e + \\
\{ -e \}
\]

\[\infty -e\]

\[\infty -e \text{ occurs after the tense marker.}\]

eg. vant-e- vante ‘came, you’

po:n-e- po:ne ‘went, you’

pa:rX-tt-e- (SR 5, 10) pa:tte ‘saw, you’

Illustrations

ni:ne:ttu vante

‘You came yesterday’

ni: eppo po:ne

‘When did you go’

4.8.4. Second person plural

Second person plural is expressed by the marker /-nke/ which is also homorganic x in shape with the third person plural marker.

\[
\{ -nke \}
\]

\[\infty -nke\]
-nke occurs after second person marker /-i-/.

eg. va-nt-i-nke ‘came you’ (pl.)
    po:-n-i-nke ‘went, you’
    pa:rX-p-i-nke (SR 5, 10) pa:ppinke ‘Will see, you’
    var-r-i-nke ‘come, you’

Illustrations

ni:nke ne:ttu u:rukku po:ninke
‘You went to the village yesterday’

ni:nke na:lekki kaTale pa:ppinke
‘You will see the sea tomorrow’

ni:nke ippo varrinke
‘You come now’

4.8.5. Third person singular

Gender markers and singular number markers are one and the same
in the third person. Only the plural has separate marker.

/-n/ third person masculine singular.

/-l/ third person feminine singular.

/-tu/ third person neuter singular.

Illustrations

Vanta:n ‘he came’, vanta:l* ‘She came’

vantu ‘it came’
4.8.6. EPICENE PLURAL

{-ru}

∞ -nke / -ru

∞ -ru / -nke occurs after third person

eg. av-e-ru ‘they’(rem.)

av-u-nke ‘they’ (rem.)

iv-e-ru ‘they’ (prox.)

iv-u-nke ‘they’ (prox.)

ev-u-nke ‘Who?’

4.8.7. Common plural

Common plural marker /-nke/ has variants which occur only after gender markers while /-nke/ occurs after person markers.

{-uvo}

∞ -uvo, -vo

∞-uvo occurs after human i.e; masculine or feminine.

eg. va-nt-a:-n-uvo ‘came, they(mas.)

va-nt-a:-l-uvo ‘came, they(fem.)

∞ -vo occurs after neuter marker.

eg. va-nt-utu-vo ‘they came(neut.)

Illustrations

valekka:ranuvo vanta:nuvo ‘Fishermen came’

avuluvo mi:nu vikko pona:luvo

‘The Fisherwomen have gone to sell fish’

atuvo velaya:te po:vutuvo
‘they go for playing’

vele ennennu keTTa:luvo

‘They asked the price’

4.9. NEGATIVES

“A negative changes a term into the contradictory term”. (Jesperson, 1974:300). All verbal themes are naturally affirmative and the negative significant is expressed by addition or changes. All negative verba lack tense-markers, i.e., they are tenseless and the time relation is expressed by the context. In Fishermen dialect, the notion of negation is expressed morphologically and syntactically. The morphological negative forms are bound forms while the syntactic negative form is a free form. The free form or the syntactic negative form in the Tamil is / ille / and it is used to negate the existence of an object either concrete or abstract.

Syntactical negative

/ avenkTTe vale ille / ‘He has no net’
   with him ne no

/ a:mple u:Tle ille / ‘There is no male member in the house’
   men in the house no

/atu nanTu ille/ ‘It is not a crab’
   it crab no

/aven anke ille/ ‘He is not there’
   he there no

4.9.1. Bound negatives-Morphological negatives

The bound negatives are classified into past negatives and non-past negatives on the basis of their meaning and construction.
4.9.1.1. PAST NEGATIVES

Past negative is expressed by the marker / -le / which is added to a verb stem. It is to be noted that in standard Tamil the corresponding negative marker is added to an infinitive form of the verb. But in the spoken language the shape and distribution of the negative marker have undergone some change.

Negative morpheme

{-le}

∞ -le

∞ -le occurs with the verbal stems denoting past negative. The marker is the same for all number, gender and person.

eg. var-le ‘didn’t come’

piTik-le ‘didn’t catch’

po:-le / po:v-le ‘didn’t go’

Illustrations

/ na:npo:le / ‘I didn’t go’

/ na:nke po:le/ ‘We didn’t go’

/ ni: po:le / ‘You didn’t go’

/ ni:nke po:le/ ‘You didn’t go’

/ aven po:le/ ‘He didn’t go’

/ avunke po:le/ ‘They didn’t go’

/ atu po:le/ ‘It didn’t go’

4.9.1.2 Non-past negatives

Non-past negatives are shown by three markers. They are /-a:/, /-a:t-/ , and /-ma:TT-/ . Among these three forms /-ma:tt- / alone takes
gender and number markers obligatorily which the other forms do not take such gender number markers.

{-a:}

-a:,-a:i,-ma:TT-

-a: occurs with the verb /ve:nT-m/ and before the conditional /viTTa:l/.

eg. ve:nTum ‘want’ (affirmative)
    ve:nT-a:m ‘don’t want’ (neg.)

Negative Conditional

/-a:-/ negative occurs with the infinitive form of the verb and after tense markers.

po:ke-a: viTTa:l(SR 17) po:ka: vitta:l ‘if some one doesn’t go’
    po:-n-a:l ‘if someone goes’

-a:t- occurs with the infinitive form of the verb and followed by either imperative singular or plural. It also takes neuter marker /-u/ third person impersonal marker.

eg. po:ke-a:t-e (SR 17) po:va:te ‘don’t go’
    po:ke-a:t-inke (SR 17) po:va:tinke ‘don’t go’ (pl.)
    vare-a:t-e (SR 17) vara:te ‘don’t come’
    ku:t-a:T-u ku:ta:Tu ‘not able’
    ku:Tum ‘able’
    po:ke ku:ta:tu/ po: ve ku:ta:tu ‘one should not go’

This type of construction is extended syntactically where the subject can be any person or number or gender. But the termination is -a:t-u → a:tu, alone can occur.
eg. /na:n anke varakku:Ta:tu/  
‘I should not come there’

/na:nke anke po:vakku:Ta:tu/  
‘We should not go there’

/ni: inke varakku:Ta:tu/  
‘You should not come here’

/aven kuTTikkakku:Ta:tu/  
‘He should not drink’

/atu po:vakku:Ta:tu/  
‘It should not go’

4.9.1.3 Future negative

Future negative marker /am:TT-/ alone takes gender and number markers including person markers except neuter gender. Neuter is denoted by /-a:t-/ , therefore /-ma:TT-/ is bound such as an infix.

{-ma:TT-}

-ma:TT-

-ma:TT- occurs with all the infinitive forms except the defective verbs.

eg.  vare-ma:TT-e-n (SR 12) varama:TTen ‘I will not come’
    vare-ma:TT-o-m (SR 12) varama:TTom ‘We will not come’
    vare-ma:TT-e (SR 12) varama:TTe ‘You will not come’
    vare-ma:TT-i-nke (SR 12) varama:TTinke ‘You will not come(pl.)’
    vare-ma:TT-a:-n (SR 12) varama:TTa:n ‘He will not come’
    vare-ma:TT-a:-nke (SR 12) varama:TTa:nke ‘They will not come’
4.10 Hortative

Hortative expresses the meaning of let something (action, state or process) happen. In this dialect, it is added to the verbal stem and it is used only in the third person without any distinction in number or gender.

The hortative is shown by the form /-aTTum/.

{-aTTum}

-aTTum

-aTTum occurs with all the stems.

eg. var-aTTum ‘let (Someone) come’

tall-aTTum ‘let(Someone) push’

Illustrations

/aven varaTTum/ ‘let him come’

/ave varaTTum/ ‘let her come’

/atu varaTTum/ ‘let it come’

In quotative constructions in this dialect, this construction is used to denote first and second persons also.

/na: varaTTum unnu aven ka:ttirunta:n/

‘He was waiting for me to come’

/ni: varaTTum unnu na:n connen/

‘I told me that you should come’

/ella:rum po:vuttum unnu ka:ttirunta:nke/

‘They were waiting for all of them to go’
4.10.1. Permissive

Permissive expresses the meaning of ‘may do something’. The permissive in this dialect is denoted by /-la:m/. This marker is added to the infinitive form of the verb.

But in fast speech the infinitive marker is dropped more often and the form resembles the verb base.

{-la:m}

-la:m

-la:m occurs with all the regular verb stems with their infinitive form.

eg. vara-la:m ‘one may come’
    po:ve-la:m (SR 12) po:vala:m ‘one may go’
    ce:re-la:m(SR 12) ce:rala:m ‘one may fold it’

Illustrations

/marattle pa: ce:rala:m/

‘(you) can roll-up the sail of the fishing catamaran’

/vale tallala:m/

‘you may spread the net’

/ni: u:TTukku po:vala:m/

‘you can go home’

4.10.2. Conditional

‘Conditional is a verb form implying a condition or hypothesis’ (Hartmann, 1976:47). The conditional states the dependence of one circumstances or set of circumstances or another (Quirk, et al). The
conditional lacks gender, number and person. In other words, it is common for all. The conditional marker is /-a:l/ in this dialect.

Usually this marker occurs after the past tense marker in the morpho-logical construction.

{-a:l}

-a:l

-a:l occurs after the past tense marker but the meaning is not in the past tense. Syntactically it denotes future sense.

eg. vant-a:l ‘if some one comes’ (SR 11)vanta:

va-nt-a:l (SR 11) vanta: ‘if comes’

pa:rx-t-a:l (SR 5,10,11) pa:tta: ‘if you see’

vara:viT-T-a:l (SR 3,11) vara:viTTa: ‘if you don’t come’

Illustration

/ni: vanta:mi:nu puTikkala:m/

‘If you come we can catch fish’

Illustrations

/ni:vanta:lum vara:viTTa:lum na:n po:ven/

‘Even if you come or not I will go’

/ni: kaTayki po:na:l enne ku:ppuTu/

‘If you go to the market call me’

/avunke vanta:l na:mpe po:vala:m/

‘If they come we can go’

4.13. Relative Participle

Relative participle has the same form whatever be the nature of the noun it qualifies, i.e., it is the same for all gender and number. The relative participle marker is : /-e/ in this dialect.
[-e]

-e

e occurs after all the tense markers (except future)

eg. va-nt-e ‘one who came’
var-r-e ‘one who comes’
pa:rx-t-e (SR 5,10) pa:tte ‘one who saw’

Illustrations

/ne:ttu vante a:lu ya:ru/
‘Who is that person who came yesterday’

/ni: pa:tte marom etu/
‘Which is the tree you saw’

/anke varre payyen ya:ru/

4.14. Verbal Participle

The verbal participle forms are basically verbs. They are derivable from various finite verbs and as participles they retain most of the syntactic behaviour of the items from which they are derived (Agesthialingom 1971:1). Verbal participles denote the relation that existed between one action and another whether one happened before or after or in contemporariness with another, whether one stood with another in relation of cause, effect reason, condition or content. So, the chief use of the verbal participle is to express the action performed by the subject preceding or forming part of, or leading up to, the action of the principal verb. Finally it may be stated that if the verbal participle is stated to be in the past tense form, it means that the action denoted in past only in relation to the action of the finite verb in the sentence. When it is followed by a present tense or
future tense finite verbs, it only means that the action of the participle takes place before the occurrence of the action of the finite verb.

Agesthialingom S., 1971 “Verbal participles in Tamil”


The verbal participle markers in the occupational dialect of Tamil are /-i/ and /-u/.

{-i}
- i, -u.

-i occurs after the past tense marker ending in -c and with the verb stems which take /-in-/ , /-n-/ as the past tense markers.

eg.  cey-nt-i (SR 9,10) cenci  ‘having done’
    pati-t-i (SR 5,8) paticci  ‘having read’
    vi:c-i  ‘having blown’
    katt-i  ‘having tied’
    po:-i (SR 1) po:yi  ‘having gone’

-u occurs elsewhere.

eg.  pa:rx-t-u (SR 5,10) pa:ttu ‘having seen’
    va-nt-u  ‘having come’
    pa:ttuviT-T-u (SR 3) pa:ttuviTTu ‘having seen’

Illustrations

/ na:nke ampa: pa:Ti talluvom /

‘We shell row the boat having a sing’

4.15 Verbal Noun

Derived nouns from verbs are different from verbal nouns. These nouns belong to a separate category by themselves. Verbal noun expresses
The act, not the abstract idea of the verb to which they belong to and they name the action of the verb. In other words they denote the noun of the actions. Verbal nouns also are capable of being declined and being used as subject, objects, attributes etc.

In the occupational terms of Tamil the neuter marker is /-at/ which occurs with the tense markers denoting verbal noun.

{-atu}

-atu

-atu occurs after tense markers.

eg. paTix-t-atu(SR 5,8) paTiccatu ‘the act of reading(past)’
paTix-r-atu(SR 5) paTikkratu ‘the act of reading(present)’
paTix-p-atu(SR 5) paTippatu ‘the act of reading(fut.)’
puTix-t-atu(SR 5,8) puTiccatu ‘the act of catching’

Illustrations

/ni: paTikkratu nallatu/
‘The act of your reading is good’

/ni:paTiccatu nallatu/
‘The act of your reading was good’

/ni: paTippatu nallatu/
‘The act of your reading will be good’

4.16 Participial Noun

Participial noun denotes somebody or something who/which does the action of the verb. The declension of participial nouns through cases is the same like that of personal pronouns. Participial nouns may be qualified by verbal participle, infinitives or adverb (Andronov, 1969:194). So, they
retain the qualities of the verb from which they are derived, through they function like the nouns.

{-a-}

-a--a- occurs after tense markers when followed by the third person gender-number markers.

eg.

o:T-in-a-en (SR 1) o:Tinaven ‘one who ran’ (mas)

o:T-r-a-en (SR 1) o:Traven ‘one who is running’ (mas.)

pa:rx-t-a-en (SR 10,1) pa:ttaven ‘one who saw’ (mas)

pa:rx-kr-a-en (SR 5,1,10) pa:kkraven ‘one who sees’ (mas.)

va-nt-a-en (SR 1) vantaven ‘one who came’ (mas.)

va-r-a-en (SR 1) varraven ‘one who comes’ (mas)

o:T-in-a-el (SR 1,11) o:Tinave ‘one who ran’ (fem.)

o:T-r-a-el (SR 1,11) o:Trave ‘one who runs’ (Fem.)

po:-n-a-tu ‘that which has gone’ (neut.)

po:-r-tu ‘that which is going’ (neut.)

vali-t-au-nke (SR 1,5,8 valiccvunke ‘those who pulled’

pa:rx-t-a-unke (SR 5,10) pa:ttavunke ‘those who have seen’

Illustrationsu

/anke o:tnaven ya:ru/

‘Who is that person who ran there?’

/ne:ttu valekki po:naven ya:ru/

‘Who is that person who went yesterday?’

/kaliya:nattukku vantavanke cappTTa:nke/

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‘Those who came to the marriage ate’
/vayale pa:kraven va:lva:n/
‘One who looks after the field can live’

4.17 Infinitive

Infinitive is a non-finite verbal form and it occurs before other verbs. It denotes the purpose of the action signified by the following verb. This is represented by two markers in this dialect.

{-ke}

-ke, -e.

-ke occurs with the stems ending in X

eg. pa:tx-ke (SR 5,10) pa:kke ‘to see’
ke:lx-ke (SR 10) ke:kke ‘to ask /head’
vilx-ke (SR 10) vikke ‘to sell’

-e occurs elsewhere.

eg. coll-e ‘to tell/say’
po:-e (SR 1) po:ve ‘to go’
vi:c-e ‘to blow’
ta:v-e ‘to ear’
katt-e ‘to tie’

Illustrations

/pa:TTi kate colle po:ra:nke/
‘Grand mother is going to tell a story’

/na:n pomma ve:le ceiyappo:ren/
‘I am going to toies making work’
/to:niye ta:ve collu/
‘You ask them to row the boat’

/avunke u:rukku po:ve po:ra:nke/
‘They are going to go their place’

/ippo ka:ttu vi:ce po:vutu/
‘Now the wind is going to blow’

/ni: avane vare collu/