CHAPTER XV

NEGATIVE VOICE
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15.0. Though Tolkāppiyamār recognizes the existence of negative voice in Tamil and refers to it in several 'śūtras', neither does he discuss the formation of negative verbs nor does he analyze the negative markers. But the references made and the negative forms used by him in Tolkāppiyam enable one to study their formation and analyze the negative markers.

In Tamil, the negative voice is indicated by two devices, i.e. either by certain syntactical device or by morphological devices. These devices are sporadically referred to in Tolkāppiyam.

15.1. Syntactical Device.

The three enclitics -ā, -ē and -ō are classed as interrogatives by Tolkāppiyamār (3.12). He says that the interrogative verbs denoting emphasis may have the capacity to express negation.

E.g., yēn veittēnē? (-ā) "Did I scold you?"
yēn veittēnē? (-ē) "Did I scold you?" (No, I did not)

Here the negative sense is expressed by the interrogative enclitics -ā, -ē, etc. (17.14)

Further, Tolkāppiyamār speaks of the clitics (17.14.6) which are used to express negative sense also, in Ṛṣiyiyiyai. There he says that the particles -um and -ō are also used as negatives.

15.2. Morphological Device.

The morphological device of indicating negation is either by certain negative roots or by negative suffixes. In the following pages, we are confining our attention to the morphological means of expressing negation. The study undertaken here is based on the
slender statements of Tolkāppiyamard about negation and on the basis of the negative forms found used by him.

15.3. Negatives and Tense.

It is evident from a study of the negative verbs in Tolkāppiyam that the negative is tenseless in reference and its relation to the time depends on the context only (14.4). Thus one may rightly conclude that in ancient Tamil the negative verbs were not conjugated for tense.

15.4. Verbs Formed From the Negative Roots.

Dr. Caldwell enunciates "All verbal themes are naturally affirmative, and the negative signification is expressed by means of additions or changes". This statement of Dr. Caldwell does not recognize the existence of the negative roots 'al' and 'il', from which the negative defective verbs like allan, allal, ilan, ilal, etc., are formed. Dr. Caldwell identifies the stems al and il as particles. As far as the language of Tolkāppiyam is concerned they are not at all particles, since they are inflected for person and number-gender, whereas the particles are incapable of being inflected. (17.8)

The roots al- "is not" and il- "is not; do not exist" are of the neutralizer type in Tamil. Tolkāppiyamard considers the verbs formed from these roots as 'kūrippu' (10.3). These verbal forms also do not take tense markers. They are classified under the defective verbs (10.8).

Tolkāppiyamard includes the verbs denoting negation in the list of common verbs. They are il and illal. These verbs are respectively formed of and formed from the stem il- (12.4).
15.6. Non-finite Verbs Formed From 'al' and 'ill'.

Tolkāppiyāṉṟ refers to the non-finite verbs formed from these roots in ṇuttaṭiṟṟaṁ. He says that in poetry anṟi changes into anṟu (13.3). He enumerates the non-finite verb 'ill' and its variants 'illē' and 'illai' in ṇuttaṭiṟṟaṁ (13.9)

E.g., il porul, illē-porul, illai porul, etc.

15.6. Other References to Negative Verbs.

While discussing the functional syncretism of cases, Tolkāppiyāṉṟ says that the case markers will have the same meaning (i.e., they will not deviate from their usual sense), even if they are followed by the negative verbs.

E.g., yaḻ-oṭ-um kollē (PN, 92) "They cannot be in harmony with the sound produced by yaḻ."

Here Tolkāppiyāṉṟ makes it evident that the negative verbs may also follow the case markers like the affirmative verbs.

Tolkāppiyāṉṟ refers to the negative non-finite verbs in a ēṭṭē and says that they do not lose the characteristics of other non-finite verbs (13.20).

15.7. Is There Zero Negative in Tamil?

Many scholars consider that the mere absence of tense is enough to show the negative sense. Jules Bloch in conclusion of his discussion on negatives remarks that in the personal verb, -a- in contact with the terminational vowel, has disappeared; the result is that the negative verb is characterized only in relation to the positive by the absence of the temporal suffix. Alfred Master says, "The zero negative is a morpheme of the verb finite with no tense infix, a
zero-tense morphemes. The old Tamil tense system admits only three tenses. No tense infix is mentioned, but the terminations of the 3rd. pl.n. are said to be a, ā and va, of which ā is understood to denote the negative (Col. 216)⁴. Further, regarding the Dravidian verbs, he says "the positive and the negative forms of the incomplete aspect of the Dravidian verb are often indistinguishable in their recorded form, and there must have been some non-grammatical means of distinction⁵.

If one posits a zero, as suggested by Alfred Master in all the verbs having personal terminations, it becomes unnecessary and uneconomical.

158. Overt Negative Suffix.

The pronominal terminations that occur in all the negative finite verbs do contain long vowels. Thus negative finite verbs are differentiated from the affirmatives by the absence of tense markers and by the consistent lengthening of personal markers. Of course, there are affirmative verbs also with long vowels as person markers. It must be remembered here that the person markers long or short, are not in contrast in the affirmative and negative, for in the affirmative they occur after tense markers and in the negative after the verbal stems.

Cēnēvasiayar points out the occurrence of the negative markers -ā-, and -e- in the personal verbs like unñāy and unñēn. Dr. Caldwell states that the negative -ā-, being succeeded in Tamil and Canarese by the initial vowel of the pronominal suffix, appears gradually to have got incorporated with it; and an evidence of this incorporation survives in the euphonic lengthening of the pronominal vowel in Tamil⁶. Jules Bloch, in his earlier discussion on negatives, points
out that Dravidian has at its disposal a purely morphological means of expressing the negation; it is the intercalation of a vowel, generally -a- (sometimes reduced to zero) between radical and termination.

Dr. P.S. Sastri also considers that the negative marker -ā- occurs in the negative verbs.

Dr. V.I. Subramaniam states in an article, "the negative suffix -a- occurs between verb stem and person marker. It has three allophones ̃-a- -a- -i- . Of which ̃-a- occurs between verb stem and first person marker -a-, -a- -i- occurs between verb stem and third person marker -a- and -i- occurs between verb stem and second person marker -i-. In short, the shape of the succeeding personal marker determines the shape of the preceding negative marker."

Thus it is evidently proper to identify an overt negative marker in the negative verbs. In Tolkīppiyam only the negatives of the third person finite verbs, a few verbal nouns and of the non-finite verbs are found to occur. In the third person finite verbs where there is an elongated vowel, two kinds of analyses are possible.

1. To take -̃- as a negative marker and -a- as a person marker,

\[ \bar{V} + V = \bar{V} \]

2. To take both the negative marker and the person marker as short vowels, i.e., -a- + -a- \( \Rightarrow -\bar{a}- \)

\[ V + V = \bar{V} \]

Whichever might be the original suffix of negation the former way of analysis is preferred in this study, since -̃- is found to occur as a negative marker in some of the actual instances, such as in cay-̃-mai.: ceyyāmai and in 'ceyyaṭu' pattern of adverbial

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'caytu' pattern:21

\[\begin{align*}
\text{arpētu} & \quad \text{arpē-tu} \quad (\text{TP}, \ 666) \\
\text{nilaiarpētu} & \quad \text{nilaiarpē-tu} \quad (\text{TC}, \ 419) \\
\text{muṭiarpētu} & \quad \text{muṭiarpē-tu} \quad (\text{TC}, \ 233)
\end{align*}\]

The identification suggested above is in accordance with the general pattern found in other similar instances of Tamil language. It may be pointed out here that the non-finite forms anru, inru also may be segmented as to have the allomorph of -tu, namely -ru as participle marker occurring after negative roots 'al' and 'il' (13.5).

\[\begin{align*}
anru \quad (\text{al-tu}) & \quad \text{anru} \\
inru \quad (\text{il-tu}) & \quad \text{inru}
\end{align*}\]

16.10. Negative Adjective Participles.

The negative adjective participles of 'ceyyā' pattern is found to occur in Tolkāppiyam. It is evident that the 'ceyyāta' pattern of the negative adjective participles, which might have been formed on the analogy of the 'cayta' pattern of adjectival participles and the 'cayyātu' pattern of negative adverbial participles may be of later development in Tamil, as it is not found to occur in Tolkāppiyam.

The 'ceyyā' pattern non-finite verbs may be segmented as cey-ā-a

\[\begin{align*}
\text{arpē} & \quad \text{arpē-ā-a} \quad (\text{TC}, \ 31) \\
\text{pūnārē} & \quad \text{pūnārē-ā-ā} \quad (\text{TC}, \ 27) \\
\text{tiriarpē} & \quad \text{tiriarpē-ā-ā} \quad (\text{TC}, \ 46)
\end{align*}\]

A zero may be posited at the end to represent the plural marks.

16.11. Negative Verbal Nouns.

There are a few forms of negative verbal nouns in the 'ceyyāms pattern also found to occur in Tolkāppiyam. This pattern of verbal noun may be segmented as cey-ā-mai; -mai is a noun-forming suffix.22
ariyamai  ari-ā-mai (TC, 342)
cyamai  cy-ā-mai (TC, 342)
valamai  val-ā-mai (TC, 396)

A few forms of 'cyyamai' pattern occur as adverbial participles also.

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Notes on Chapter XV.

1. It, 237, 275, 290, 372.
   TC, 107, 214, 222, 236, 244, 255, 256, 435.
2. TE, 42.
3. TC, 244, 435.
4. TC, 2565, 256.
6. Ibid., p. 475.
7. According to modern linguistics, particles are a part of speech
   established by syntactical criteria. They are usually uninflected
   and hence exhibit no formal categories.
   Hida, Eugene, Morphology, p. 149.
   Hockett, C.F., A Course in Modern Linguistics, p. 222.
8. It, 237, 372.
10. TC, 236.
12. Koster, Alfred, "The Zero Negative in Dravidian", TFG, 1946,
    pp.142, 150.
13. Cāma, A Commentary on TC, 450.
18. The negative verbs like unnēn, uppīr, etc., may be segmented as
   un-ā-ṇ, up-ā-ṛ, etc., and -ā-, -ā- may be treated as allomorph
   of the negative marker -ā-
19. The vowels -ā- + -ā- or -a- + -a- become coalesced into one long -ā-.
21. According to Dr. Caldwell, the suffix -tu in the formative of
   neuter nouns of quality. Therefore one can infer that according
   to him, the neuter nouns have given rise to the verbal participles
   (Caldwell, op. cit., p. 472). But it is not the actual case.

Dr. V.I. Subramonian segments -āmā as the suffix of
'ceyyēmā' pattern of form.