CHAPTER XX

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* REPEETITIVE EXPRESSIONS *
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XX. REPETITIVE EXPRESSIONS

20.0. Tolkien argues that three kinds of repetitive expressions in his work, namely 'irattaikatli', 'atukkuttoar' and 'oruporutpanoli'. In 'irattaikatli' the root is reduplicated in 'atukku-t-tofer', the word is repeated and in 'oruporutpanoli', the synonyms are employed in pairs. These may be identified as iterative words, repeated words and reduplicative expressions.

20.1. Iterative Words.

'Irattaikatli' or the iterative words (reduplicative words) are expressed by the device of doubling the roots. Tolkien says that there are certain reduplicated words whose roots are always doubled. The roots of these reduplicated words do not bring out the desired sense, when they occur in isolation, i.e., the roots in them do not form themselves into words, unless they are reduplicated.

E.g., cala-cala
kila-kila

All the commentators except Teyvaccilaiyar cite the iterative verbs as examples for 'irattaikatli'. According to them, the iterative verbs are used to express noise, suggestion or quality.

E.g., Cunuku eru-eru-ttatu (noise)
"Dried leaves produced a hissing sound"

Pahaivar koru-koru-tt-aa-r (suggestion)
"I mimes bubbled with anger"

Ati palapelattatu (quality) "The mirror shone"

Teyvaccilaiyar cites the iterative numerals like
onereka, irantirantha, etc., as examples for 'irattaikatli'.
It seems that Neyvaccilaiyar is not correct in his interpretation since single words like onru, irantu, etc., can occur in isolation too.

20.2. Repetitive Words.

In 'atukku-t-to'par', the words are repeated two to four times. According to Tolkappiyar, the repetition of words is of three kinds: - 'icainilai' - that used for euphony, 'acainilai' - that used to make up the syllables and 'porulotu punartal' - that used with some significance.

20.2.1. 'Icainilai'

Tolkappiyar prescribes the maximum limit for the repetition of words for euphonic harmony to four times.

E.g., okkume okkume okkume okkume

20.2.2. 'Acainilai'

Tolkappiyar does not prescribe any limit for 'acainilai', but since he prescribes the limit for the other two kinds of repetitive words, all the commentators boldly assert that the upper limit of repeating words for acainilai is twice.

E.g., anre anre
okte okte

20.2.3. Porulotu Punartal

Tolkappiyar prescribes the maximum limit for the repetition of a word for expressing earnestness to thrice.

E.g., ti-ti-ti-ti "fire fire fire"

pampu pampu pampu

Usually the repetition of words in Tamil is a device for indicating emphasis on a thing. According to the commentators the
repetitive words used with some significance, may be of different kinds: one denoting quickness, one denoting certainty, one denoting determination, etc.

20.2. Reduplicative Expressions.

Tolkāppiyar says that the use of synonyms in pairs is not objected to in Tamil. The use of redundant expressions made up of two synonyms is identified as reduplicative expression by Pei and Gaynor in their dictionary.

\[ \text{e.g., nivantu-ōhku perumalai } \text{"High-high big mountain"} \]

(very high big mountain)

\[ \text{eul-munnu (SN, 7) "strength-strength" (great strength)} \]

In example one nivantu and ōhku both mean "high" and in example two eul and munnu both mean strength. It is a practice among Tamils to use compounds of words having the same meaning to denote large quantity.

--- Vocab: ---

Notes on Chapter X:

1. TC, 48.

2. Ila., A Commentary on TC, 48.


7. TC, 411.

8. TC, 423.

9. TC, 424. (Commentaries).

10. TC, 424.

CONCLUSION

Attention is solicited to the following important and noteworthy treatments and descriptions found in the treatise of Tolkāppiyam. As they are quite revealing and interesting to the scholars who approach Tolkāppiyam from the modern linguistic point of view, they are collected and set up here. A number of them are traced and arrived at through independent study and investigation. It is believed that they will further testify to the fact that Tolkāppiyam is the best descriptive grammatical work extant in Tamil.

1. The three central sub-systems and the two peripheral sub-systems of the language are treated in Tolkāppiyam. The first three chapters of Ḫuttatikāram are concerned with the phonological system, while the later chapters are concerned with the morphophonemic system and Collatikāram deals mainly with the grammatical system. Chapter III of Ḫuttatikāram (Piyappiyal) is concerned with the phonetic system also and a number of sūtras in Collatikāram deal with the semantic system of the Tamil language.

2. The literary as well as the spoken language is described in Tolkāppiyam. Whenever some usage is peculiar to either of them, it is specifically indicated.

3. The definition of nouns and verbs cited in Tolkāppiyam is quite appealing to the modern linguists. They are defined purely from the structural point of view (2.1; 8.1). Their functional characteristics at the syntactical level is also described.
4. The free and inflected forms are divided into nouns and verbs and are respectively treated in Payariyal and Vipaiyiyal. The bound morphemes (i.e., affixes or dependent morphemes) and particles or uninflected words are sub-divided into seven sub-categories and are enumerated in Itaiiyial.

5. The bound morphemes (the inflectional category) that characterize a particular part of speech are treated in connection with the relevant part of speech. For instance, the case markers and 'cariyals' are enumerated so as to indicate their relationship with nouns and tense is discussed in Vipaiyiyal in order to indicate its relationship with verbs.

Other uninflected words, i.e., particles that are not characterized by any inflexional categories are treated separately in Itaiiyial.

6. Many kinds of words are conveniently classified under several patterns in Tolkappiyam, e.g., 'ceyta' and 'ceyyum' are the patterns of adjectival participles; 'ceyyum' is also a pattern of a type of finite verbs; ceyyay and cey are the patterns of different forms; nine adverbial participle patterns are also enumerated in a sūtra.

Description of words by employing this pattern method has been found useful and adopted by the later-day grammarians also.

7. The historical development of the language is well recognized in Tolkappiyam.

8. The term 'payar' is employed to denote nouns proper, pronouns, numerals, verbal nouns, etc., so that all the sub-classes
of nouns are classified as belonging to one word-class. At the same
time, the different sub-classes of nouns are distinguished by
proposing special terminology to the general term 'payar'.

E.g., iyarpayar, cinaippayar, cuṭṭuppayar,
vinaippayar, annuppayar, vinaippayar, etc.

9. The different sub-classes of nouns themselves or the
terms denoting sub-classes of nouns are enumerated in Payariyal
and thus their forming one word-class is further confirmed.

10. The verbs functioning as nouns are treated along with
the nouns and thus nouns formed of, or from verbs are considered
as a sub-class of nouns.

11. The sub-classes of pronouns are identified with
different terminologies so as to distinguish them as separate
sub-groups, e.g., pandaippayar, munulaippayar, patakkaippayar,
cuṭṭuppayar, vinaippayar, etc.

12. The nominative and the oblique forms of pronouns are
enumerated; and the formation of oblique forms (bound forms) from
the nominative forms (free forms) is also discussed elaborately.

13. The enumeration and description of numerals is almost
exhaustively made, while dealing with the sandhi changes.

14. The existence of gender-number markers not only in verbs
but also in nouns is recognized by Tolkëppiyär. They are not so
much analysed in nouns as they are done in verbs. It must be
pointed out that the number-gender markers enumerated in
Klāviyikkaś are those of the nouns and the verbs.
16. The various significances of the case markers are given with the help of the patterns of phrases in which the declined nouns occur. The post-positions which function as the seventh case markers are listed in Tolkëppiyam.

16. The nouns which do not take the vocative case are accounted.

17. The changes that occur in the nouns while they take the vocative form are elaborately discussed.

18. Specific shapes are posited to 'cëryais' or the flexional increments and the changes required to fit in with the environments of their occurrence are also described.

19. The distinction between the finite verbs and the non-finite verbs is explicitly pointed out. The characteristics of finite verbs taking pronominal termination and of non-finite verbs requiring complements are well recognized in Tolkëppiyam.

20. The verbs are classified according to different genders, numbers, persons, etc., and their different pronominal terminations are listed.

21. The usage of 'ceyyum' pattern finite verbs is well described.

22. The common verbs (belonging to both the classes) are listed and the restriction of their occurrence, if any, is shown.

23. A few qualifiers (i.e., indeclinable adjuncts) are included in Uriyiyal so as to identify them as a separate class of words which is different from nouns, verbs and particles.
24. The particles and the different shades of meaning which they denote are discussed in detail in Itāiyiyal.

25. The definition, classification and description of compounds are exquisitely done. The nominal compounds are identified to be of the same distribution as that of simple nouns.

26. The inclusion of the particles of comparison under 'itaiccol', their exhaustive enumeration and classification in Uvamsaiyiyal testify to the descriptive and analytical acumen of the author.

27. To a small extent, the criterion of meaning is also taken into consideration in a few instances.

... For defining words, 'itaiccol' and 'uriccol' and for the classification of words, the aspect of meaning is taken note of.

28. The device of proceeding from general to particular or from whole to part is mostly employed in Tolkāp. Ayan.

E. e., After the enumeration of all the 'cāriyās' in Puṇeriyiyal, the environments in which they occur and the modifications which they undergo in their form are described in the succeeding chapters. With regard to cases, word-classes, 'itaiccol', etc., also the same procedure is followed, i.e., at first they are enumerated and then each one of them is discussed in detail.

29. Throughout Gollatiṅgam the different forms and their functions are intermixedly treated.

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Notes

1. Hockett, C.F., classifies the system of language into five principal sub-systems, of which three are central and two are peripheral. The three central systems are 1) the grammatical system, 2) the phonological system and 3) the morphophonemic system. The two peripheral systems are 1) the semantic system and 2) the phonetic system.

Hockett, C.F., A Course in Modern Linguistics, pp.137f.

2. For relevant entries, refer to numbers under the terminologies "poetry" and "usage" in the index.

3. Andronov, A., rightly treats the particles as a word-class in Uralic languages.


Kwela, K., See Note 32 on Chapter III.

4. "", 453.

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