CHAPTER 3

SYNTACTIC STUDY
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A syntactic classification of postpositions and different syntactic tests involved in establishing postposition as a distinct grammatical category are dealt with in this chapter.

3.1 Types of postpositions

The postpositions used in modern written Tamil are broadly classified into three types namely, i) primary postpositions, ii) secondary postpositions and iii) structurally overlapping postpositions on the basis of the form of the preceding noun phrase.

3.1.1 Primary postpositions

Primary postpositions are those which follow a noun phrase with no case marker in between. The noun phrase that precedes a primary postposition can be a nominative or oblique form of a noun or pronoun.
3.1.1.1 After nominative noun phrase

There are twenty three forms of primary postpositions ataŋkalaka, alavil, ara, anru, aka, ara, iri, iraka, utpaṭa, ena, kaḷintu, kāṟum, cúla, toṭṭu, toṭarpāka, toṟum, niṅkalaka, pāṭīrku, mukamāka, mutal, varai, valiyē and vakkil, which always follow a nominative noun phrase are given below with examples:

ataŋkalaka 'including'

1) urulaikkilaṅku ataṅkalaka aṇaittuk kāykaṅkalakkum
   Potato including all vegetables-dat-incl
   vaniccalukai venṭum anru vivacāyikal kōriṅarkal
tax exemption must that farmers demand-pst-3hp

   'The farmers demanded for tax exemption of all vegetables including potato.'

alavil 'at about'

2) kāḷai eṭṭu maṇi alavil vimāṇam iraṅkiyatu
   morning eight 0’clock at about plane land-pst-3ns

   'The plane landed at about eight 0’clock in the morning.'
ara  ‘without’

3) ākūmāṇ pīlai(y) ara tamiḻ pēcinār

Lehmann mistake without Tamil speak-pst-3hs

‘Lehmann spoke Tamil without mistake.’

anṟu  ‘on’

4) vivacāyikalukku matiya uṇavut tiṭtam poṅkal

farmers-dat noon meal scheme Pongal Day

anṟu amalpaṭuttappatukiratu

on implement-inf-pass-pr-3ns

‘The noon meal scheme for farmers will be implemented
on the Pongal Day.’

āka  ‘as’

5) kumaraṇ paḷḷiyil āciriyar āka(p) paṇipurikirār

Kumaran school-loc teacher as serve-pr-3hs

‘Kumaran serves as a teacher in a school.’
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āra  ‘to the full of’

6) kannan vayir(u) ārac cāppitān
Kannan stomach to the full of eat-pst-3ms

‘Kannan ate to the full of his stomach.’

inri  ‘without’

7) kapilaraik kavalai(y) inri vālacceytavan
Kapilar-acc worry without make live-pst-rp-pro pari
Pari

‘It is Pari, who made Kapilar to live without worries.’

īrāka  ‘to’

8) katcittalaiwar mutal toṇṭarkal īrāka aṇaivarum inta
party leader from followers to all-incl this
mutivai ātarittanar
decision-acc support-pst-3hp

‘From the leader to the followers of the party, all supported this decision.’
utpāta  ‘including’

9) kāntiji utpāta pala talaivarkal ciraiyil
   Gandhiji including many leaders prison-loc
   ataikkappattārkal
   confine-inf-pass-3hp

   ‘Many leaders including Gandhiji were confined in prison.’

ena  ‘like’

10) avan pēccu tēn ena inittatu
    he speech honey like be sweet-pst-3ns

    ‘His speech was sweet like honey.’

kalintu  ‘after’

11) maruttuvār enṇai oru vāram kalintu pārrkac
    doctor me-acc a week after see-inf

    coṇṇār
    tell-pst-3hs

    ‘The doctor told me to see him after one week.’
kārum 'to'

12) imayam toṭṭuk kumari kārum vālinta arīñarkaḷ
Himalayas from Kumari to live-pst-rp scholars

palarum samaskirutam karravarkaḷ ākavē
many-incl Sanskrit learn-pst-rp-pro as-emp

iruntaṇar
be-pst-eup-3hp

‘From Himalayas to Kanyakumari, most of the scholars were invariably Sanskrit-learned.’

cūḷa 'accompanied by'

13) katcit toṇṭarkaḷ cūḷat talaivar mēṭaikkku
party workers accompanied by leader stage-dat

vantār
come-pst-3hs

‘The leader came to the stage accompanied by the party workers.’
'There used to be a trade link between Europe and India since the ancient period.'

'All necessary security arrangements were made relating to the Prime Minister's visit to Chennai.'
tōrum 'on' (with the sense of 'every')

16) kamalā nāl tōrum kōvilukkuc celvā!
    Kamala day on(every) temple-dat go-fut-3fs

    ‘Kamala used to go to the temple every day.’

nīṅkalāka ‘except’

17) jammukāSmīr mānilam nīṅkalāka intiyā
    Jammu-Kashmir state except India

    muluvatarkum potuvāṇa tanṭaṇaic caṭṭam
    entire-dat-incl common-adj punishment act

    koṭuvarappāṭṭatu
    bring-inf-pass-pst-3ns

    ‘The punishment act was brought to the entire India except in the state of Jammu-Kashmir.’

pāṭṭirku ‘unmindful of (external circumstances)’

18) nāṅ pāṭṭirku en vēlaiyait toṭamteṅ
    I unmindful of my work- acc continue-pst-1s

    ‘I continued my work unmindful of the external circumstances.’
mukamāka  ‘towards’

19) kāviri kilakku mukamāka ōtukiratu
    Cauvery east towards flow-pr-3ns

‘Cauvery river flows towards the east.’

mutal  ‘from’

20) 1919 ām āṇṭu mutal 1935 ām āṇṭu varai intiyāvil
    1919-ord year from 1935-ord year to India-loc
    17 putiya palkalaikkalakaṅkal niṟuvappattana
    17 new universities establish-inf-pass-pst-3np

‘17 universities were established in India during the period from 1919 to 1935.’

varai  ‘until’

21) civājī pala āṇṭukaḻ varai tam tantaiyaip
    Shivaji several years until his father-acc
    pārkka muṭiyāmal iruntār
    see-inf be able-neg.vp be-pst-3hs

‘Shivaji was not able to see his father until several years.’
valiyē 'via'

22) maićūr mayilāṭuturai totarvanti tirucci valiyē

Mysore Mayiladuthurai train trichy via
celkiratu
go-pst-3ns

‘Mysore - Mayiladuthurai train goes via Trichy.’

vākkil 'at about'

23) kapilaŋ murpakal pattu maṇi vākkil ennaiŋ

Kapilan forenoon ten 0’clock at about me-acc
pārkka vantān
see-inf come-pst-3ms

‘Kapilan came to see me at about ten 0’clock in the forenoon.’

3.1.1.2 After oblique noun phrase

There are twenty five forms of primary postpositions atippaṭaiyil, atiṭa, alavil, alavirku, itam, utaṇ, utaiya, ūṭē, kaṇ, kāraṇamāka, kūṭa, cāṛil, niṇṭu, netuka, pakkam, paṭi, pāl, poruṭṭu, pērīl, pōtu, mīṭu, mūlam, mēl, valiyē and vāyilaka, which occurs
after an oblique base or a potentially oblique base with no case marker in between, are given below with examples:

**atippaṭaiyil**  ‘on the basis of’

24) intiāvil molika(-iṇ) atippaṭaiyil mānīlāṅka! India-loc languages(-eup) on the basis of states 

\[ \text{divide-inf-pass-pst-vp-perf-3np} \]

‘The states of India have been divided on the basis of languages.’

**atiyāka**  ‘out of’

25) jeyakāntaṇ utaiya nāvalin atiyākat tōṇiya Jayakanthan of novel-eup out of emerge-pst-rp 

\[ \text{karuttukkaḷai iṅku etuttuccolkiṅēṇ} \]

ideas-acc here state-pr-1s

‘I state here the ideas that emerged out of the novels of Jayakanthan.’
\( \text{\textit{alavil}} \) ‘as far as’

26) \( \text{\textit{en alavil avan nallavan}} \)

\( \text{me as far as he good-adj-pro} \)

‘He is good as far as I am concerned.’

\( \text{\textit{alavirku}} \) ‘to the extent of’

27) \( \text{\textit{un alavirkup porumai enakku illai}} \)

\( \text{you to the extent of patience me-dat no} \)

‘I don’t have patience to the extent you have.’

\( \text{\textit{itam}} \) ‘with’

28) \( \text{\textit{unkal itam painam irukkirata?}} \)

\( \text{you with money be-pr-3ns-q} \)

‘Do you have money with you?’

\( \text{\textit{utan}} \) ‘with’

29) \( \text{\textit{avar nam(m) utan varamattar}} \)

\( \text{he us with come-inf-fut.neg-3hs} \)

‘He will not come with us.’
utaiya 'of'

30) aracaŋ araŋmənaiyiŋ utaiya antappurattukkc
king palace(-eup) of backyard-dat
cenrəŋ
go-pst-3ms
'The king went to the backyard of his palace.'

ūtē 'through'

31) marakkilaikalilŋ ūtē cūrinya əī pəyntatu
tree branches-eup through sun light pass-pst-3ns
'The sun light passed through the branches of the tree.'

kaŋ 'in'

32) ulakiŋ kaŋ vàlum makkaŋ anəiwarum
world-eup in live-fut.rp people all
camam
equal
'All the people living in this world are equal.'
kāraṇamāka  ‘due to’

33) kavaṇākkuraiv(u)(iṅ) kāraṇamāka pala vipattuka! lack of attention(-eup) due to many accidents

nikālkīṅgana happen-pr-3np

‘Many accidents happen due to lack of attention.’

kūṭa  ‘with’

34) kaṭaitteruvirku en kūṭa en manaiviyum market-dat me with my wife-addit

vantār come-pst-3hs

‘My wife also came with me to the market.’

cāṟpil  ‘on behalf of’

35) en cāṟpil pūṅkulaliyai pattamaṭhippu vilavirku me on behalf of Poonguzhali-acc convocation-eup-dat

aṇuppukīrēṇ send-pr-1s

‘I am sending Poonguzhali to convocation on my behalf.’
ninru 'from'

36) atan ninru itu vērupatētu
that-eup from this be different-pst-rp-pro
'This is a different one from that.'

netuka 'all along'

37) cālai(y)(in) netuka maraṅkal ullaṇa
road(-eup) all along trees be.pr-3np
'There are trees all along the road.'

pakkam 'towards'

38) avan utaiya kavaṇam en pakkam tirumpiru
his of attention me towards turn-pst-3ns
'His attention turned towards me.'

paṭi 'as per'

39) aracu āñai(y)(in) paṭi ularyarkalukku utiya
government order(-eup) as per employees-dat pay
uyarvu valaṅkappatētu
increase grant-inf-pass-pst-3ns
'Increase in pay was granted to the employees as per the government order.'
pāl  ‘to’

40) kannatācan iraivan(īn) pāl parru utaiyavar
Kannadasan god(-eup) to devotion possess-adj-pro

‘Kannadasan is one who possesses devotion to god.’

poruṭṭu  ‘for the sake of’

41) avar taṇ nanpar(īn) poruṭṭu ettakaiya
he his friend(-eup) for the sake of any kind of

tiyākattaiyum ceyvār
sacrifice-acc-incl do-fut-3hs

‘He will do any kind of sacrifice for the sake of his friend.’

pērīl  ‘on’

42) ivar ammaṇ(īn) pērīl patikam
he female deity(-eup) on ten verses

iyarriyullār
compose-pst.vp-perf-3hs

‘He has composed ten verses on Amman, the female deity.’
During the Thyagaraja festival, free meal is served for two days.

Alexander waged a war on India.

We take photograph of the natural resources through satellite.
The book is on the table.'

'We may analyse each Sangam poem through modern theories.'

'Mother Teresa did many services through her religious movement.'
3.1.2 Secondary Postpositions

Secondary postpositions are those which follow noun phrase with a case marker in between. They fall under two subclasses namely, (i) those occurring after accusative case marker and (ii) those occurring after dative case marker. The case marker that precedes the postposition is devoid of its function.

3.1.2.1 After accusative noun phrase

The occurrence of accusative case marker is obligatory before certain postpositions and optional before certain others. Such postpositions are illustrated below with examples:

A) Accusative case marker is obligatory

There are nine forms of postpositions *atiyorri*, *otti*, *ottu*, *kattilum*, *curri*, *poruttu*, *poruttavarai*, *munnittu*, and *vita* occurring after accusative case marker (obligatory) and they are presented below in their order with examples:
atiyōrri  ‘following’

49) mēṇāṭṭuk kaviṅarkalai atiyōrri tamilil kavitaikal
Western poets'acc following Tamil-loc poems

eḷutappatuṅkaraṇa
write-inf-pass-pr-3np

‘Poems are written in Tamil following the Western poets.’

ōṭṭi  ‘near’

50) veḷḷi aruviyai oṭṭi kampi vēli
Silver falls-acc near wired fence

amaikkappatuṅkiratu
construct-inf-pass-pr-3ns

‘A wire fence is being constructed near the Silver falls.’

ōṭṭu  ‘in line with’

51) tamil nāṭakankaḻ ankila nāṭakap pōkkai
Tamil dramas English dramatic trends-acc

ottuk kāṇappatukaraṇa
in line with appear-pr-3np

‘Tamil dramas appear in line with the dramatic trends of English.’
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*kāṭṭilum*  ‘than’

52) *pāṇṭiya aṭciyaik kāṭṭilum cōla aṭciyē*

Pandya rule-acc than chola rule-emp

*cirantatu*

good-adj-pro

‘Chola rule was certainly a better one than Pandya rule.’

*curri*  ‘around’

53) *kōyilaic currip pala kāṭaikaḷ irukkiṇṇaṇa*

temple-acc around many shops be-pr-3ns

‘There are many shops around the temple.’

*poruttu*  ‘depending upon’

54) *kōli tīṇi utkollum alavaip*

hen fodder consume-fut.rp quantity-acc

*poruttu muṭṭaiyin ēṭai māṟupatum*

depending upon egg-gen weight change-fut.3ns

‘The weight of the egg changes depending upon the quantity of the fodder that the hen consumes.’
poṟuttavarai ‘as far as’

55) tamiḻakattaip poṟuttavarai cilampam oru
Tamilnadu-acc as far as a kind of martial art a
viraviḻaiyāṭṭakak karutappatuṟukṟatu
heroic sport-adv consider-inf-pass-pr-3ns

‘Silambam is considered as a martial art as far as Tamilnadu is concerned.’

muṇṇittu ‘on account of’

56) avarkalīṇ tirumanaṭṭaip muṇṇittu viruntu
their-gen wedding-acc on account of party
ēṟpāṭuceyyappaṭṭatu
arrange-inf-pass-pst-3ns

‘A dinner was arranged on account of their wedding.’

viṭa ‘than’

57) akpar kālattīl airoppāvai viṭa intiyā
Akbar period-loc Europe-acc than India

tōḷḷi tūraiyyil muṇnēṟiyiruntatu
industry-loc progress-pst-vp-perf-pst-3ns

‘India had progressed in industry than Europe during Akbar’s period.’
B) Accusative case marker is optional,

There are eight forms of postpositions *ullıṭṭa*, *kurıttu*, *kọntu*, *tavrıa*, *nōkkı*, *parı*, *pöl* and *vıṭṭu* representing accusative case marker optional and their presented below in their order with examples.

**ullıṭṭa** ‘including’

58) *vēlu tamıl(ai) ullıṭṭa pala molikaḷil*

Velu Tamil(-acc) including many languages-loc

*ullıa kataikaḷai ārāyıkirăr*

be.pr-adj stories-acc analyse-pr-3hs

‘Velu analyses the stories found in many languages including Tamil.’

**kurıttu** ‘about’

59) *vivacāyiikaḷıṇ piraccınaī(y)(ai)(k) kurıttu talaivarkaḷ*

farmers-gen problems(-acc) about leaders

*ālōcaṇiṇaiṭṭiṇārkaḷ*

discuss-pst-3hp

‘The leaders discussed about the problems of the farmers.’
koṇṭu 'with'

60) rāmaṇ marattai vāl(ai)(k) koṇṭu aruttān
raman tree-acc saw-acc with cut-pst-3hs

'Raman cut the tree with the saw.'

tavira 'except'

61) kulantaikkukku mutal āṟu mālāṅkaḷukkut tāyppāl
baby-dat first six months-dat mother’s milk
tavira vēṟu enta ākāramum taravēṇṭiyatu illai
except any other food give-inf-need-ger-neg

'No other food except mother’s milk needs to be given to the child during the first six months.'

nōkki 'towards'

62) ārkkāṭṭup patai ceṇjici(y)(ai) nōkkip
Arcot battalion Gingee(-acc) towards

purappāṭṭatu
start-pst-3ns

'The battalion of Arcot started towards Gingee.'
63)  மாரியப்பான் மகாத்மா காந்திய்(ai)(-p) பாற்றி நூல்
Mariyappan Mahatma Gandhi (-acc) about book

மூழ்த்திரார்
write-pr-3hs

‘Mariyappan writes a book about Mahatma Gandhi.’

64)  புலித்தேவன் வேங்காய்(ai)(p) பொல் பாய்து
Pulittevan tiger(-acc) like jump-pst-vp

கானா சாகிப்பை விராத்தின்
Kana Sahib-acc drive away-pst-3ms

‘Pulittevan jumping like a tiger drove Kana Sahib away.’

65)  கும்பகோணம் தியிப்பது மாகால் மாநாடு(ai) விட்டு
Kumbakonam fire accident people mind(-acc) from

ஏகலவில்லை
disappear-inf-neg

‘The fire accident that took place in Kumbakonam has not disappeared from the minds of the people.’
3. 1. 2. 2 After dative noun phrase

The occurrence of dative case marker is obligatory before certain postpositions and optional before certain others. Such postpositions are illustrated below with examples:

(A) Dative case marker is obligatory

There are twenty seven forms of postpositions anmaiyil, appāl, appuram, āka, āṇa, inaiyāka, īṭāka, ukanta, uriya, ul, ullā, etirāka, enru, ena, ērpa, ērra, oppa, kīl, takka, nikarāka, nērē, patil, piraku, purampāka, mārrāka, mārāka and veliyē occurring after dative case marker (obligatory) and they are presented below in their order with examples:

anmaiyil ‘near’

66) marutu pāntiyar pataika kalaiyārkōvilukku anmaiyil
Marudupandiyaar troops Kalaiyarkovil-dat near

ninraṇā stop-pst-3np

'The troops of Marudupandiyaar stood near Kalaiyarkovil.'
appāl  ‘away’

67) mekkāvil iruntu 520 kilōmittarukku appāl metiṇā
Mecca-loc from 520 kilometers-dat away Medina
ullatu
be.pr-3ns

‘Medina is situated 520 kilometers away from Mecca.’

appuram  ‘after’

68) inta nāvalukku appuram enakkut taṇippaṭṭa aṅkikāram
this novel-dat after me-dat unique recognition
kitaiṭṭatu
be available-pst-3ns

‘I got a unique recognition after this novel of mine.’

āka  ‘for’

69) javaharlāḷ nēru intiya nāṭṭiṇ
Jawahararlal Nehru Indian nation-gen
vitutalaikk(u) āka arumpāṭupattār
freedom-dat for toil-pst-3hs

‘Jawarhalal Nehru toiled for the freedom of Indian nation.’
āṇa  'meant for'

70) 1979ām āṇṭu ulaka amaṭṭikk(u) āṇa
1979-ard year world peace-dat meant for

nōpal paricu anṇai terēśāvukku
Nobel Prize Mother Teresa-dat

ālikkappattatu
present-inf-pass-pst-3ns

'The Nobel prize for world peace was presented to
Mother Teresa in 1979.'

iṇaiyāka  'equal to'

71) nalla puttakaṅkalait tēṭip patippatil
good books-acc search-pst.vp read-fut-ger-loc

anṇāvukku iṇaiyaka anṇātaṅ eŋru colla vēṇṭum
Anna-dat equal to Anna-emp that say-inf should

'In searching for and reading good books, one should
say that Anna only is equal to Anna.'
\[\text{\textit{Itäka}}\] 'as a substitute for'

72) \text{viyapāri kutiraikkuttu Itäka irattinaikalaip}

Merchant horse-dat as a substitute for gems-acc

\textit{perukkoṇṭān}

receive-pst-vp-refl-pst-3ms

'The merchant received gems as a substitute for horses.'

\[\text{\textit{Ukanta}}\] 'suitable to'

73) \text{arccunane aciriyar turōnarip anpukku ukanta}

Arjun-emp guru Drona-gen affection-dat suitable to

\textit{mānavan āka vilaikkinnān}

disciple as remain-pst-3ms

'It is only Arjun, who remained a disciple suitable to the affection of the guru Drona.'
uriya 'meant for'

74) kumutavalli valamtu tirumaṇatt(ิน)(कु) uriya
  Kumudavalli grew-pp marriage(-eup)(-dat) meant for

  paruvattai aṭaikirā!
  stage-acc attain-pr-3fs

  'Kumudavalli grows and attains the stage meant for
  marriage.'

ul 'within'

75) pālu oru māṭattir(क) ul conta ūrukkup
  Balu one month-eup-dat within native place-dat

  pūkiraṇ
go-pr-3ms

  'Balu will go to his native place within a month.'
ulla 'meant for'

76) enakkku ulla paṅkai koṭuṅkuṃpaṭi
   me-dat meant for share-acc give-fut.rp-adv.man

en tantai(y) iṭam kēṭēn
   my father to ask-pst-1s

'I asked my father to give the share meant for me.'

etirāka 'against'

77) alurikatcikku etirāka etirkkaṭcit talaivar
   ruling party-dat against opposition leader

pēcīnār
   speak-pst-3hs

'The opposition leader spoke against the ruling party.'

enru 'exclusively for'

78) namakkku enru oru viṭu vēṭum
   us-dat exclusively for a house must

'We must have a house exclusively for us.'
ena  ‘exclusively for’

79) vanikarkal tamakku ena caṅkaṅkaḷai
merchants them-dat exclusively for associations-acc

amaittukkoṇṭanar
establish-pst-vp-refl-pst-3hp

‘The merchants established different associations exclusively for themselves.’

ērpa  ‘in accordance with’

80) putiya tojil nutpattirku ērpa
new technology-eup-dat in accordance with

payīrī peruvatu avaciyan
get training-fut.ger necessary

‘It is necessary to get training in accordance with the new technology.’

ērra  ‘suitable to’

81) avaṅukku ērra vēlai
him-dat suitable to job

kitaittuvittatu
be available-pst-vp-def-pst-3ns

‘He got a job suitable to him.’
oppa  ‘as’

82) nān  connantarku  oppa
I  say-pst-rp-pro-eup-dat  as

naṭantirukkiṟatu
happen-pst-vp-perf-pr-3ns

'It has happened as I said.'

kīl  ‘under’

83) miṅvicirikkuk  kīl  kulantai  tūrkkukiratu
fan-dat  under  child  sleep-pr-3ns

'The child sleeps under the fan.'

takka  ‘suitable to’

84) kulantaikalukku  avarkaḷiṅ  vayatukkut  takka
children-dat  their-gen  age-dat  suitable to

visayaṅkalaiyē  pōlikka  vēṇjum
themes-emp  teach-inf  should

'One should teach children only the themes suitable to their age.'
nikarākā ‘equal to’

85) uvamai colvatil curatavukku nikarāka
    simile coin-fut.ger-loc Surada-dat equal to
    yārum illai
    any one neg

‘There is no one equal to Surada in coining similes.’

nērē ‘in front of’

86) avar aluvalakattirku nērē maruttuvamaṇai
    his office-eup-dat in front of hospital
    irukkiratu
    be-pr-3ns

‘The hospital is in front of his office.’

patil ‘instead of’

87) turiyōtaṇaṇaṇukkup patil cakuṇi cūṭāṭiṇāṇ
    Duryodana-dat instead of Saguni gamble-pst-3ms

‘Instead of Duryodana Saguni gambled.’
piraku 'after'

88) nām eṭṭu manikkup piraku purappāṭalām
we eight 0’ clock-dat after start-inf-prob

'We may start after eight 0’ clock.’

purampāka 'against'

89) āḻuṅkaṭcikkārarkal caṭṭattirkup purampākac
ruling party members law-eup-dat against

cayalpaṭukirārkal
act-pr-3hp

'The members of the ruling party are acting against the law.’

māṟṟāka 'as a substitute for'

90) kañṭikkārar muntirikkottaiṅku māṟṟāka
shop keeper cashew nut-dat as a substitute for

arici koṭuttār
rice give-pst-3hs

'The shop keeper gave rice as a substitute for cashew nut.’
maraka  ‘against’

91) tamiḻaka makkaiṉ viruppattirku maraka hinti
Tamilnadu people-gen desire-eup-dat against Hindi
moli tiṇikkappatukiratu
language impose-inf-pass-pr-3ns

‘Hindi is imposed against the desire of the people of Tamilnadu.’

vēliyē  ‘outside’

92) niṭimāṇrattirku vēliyē potumakkal
court-eup-dat outside common public

kattirukkirāka!
wait-pst-vp-perf-pr-3hp

‘The common public have been waiting outside the court’.
Dative case marker is optional,

There are nine forms of postpositions atiyil, arukē, itaiyē, etirē, kurukkē, nātuve, pakkattii, piṇ and mun occurring after dative case marker (optional) and they are presented below in their order with examples:

atiyil  'below'

93) mantapat(ṅ)(ku) atiyil curaṅkappātai
    hall(-eup)(-dat) below underground passage
    ullatu
    be.pr-3ns

‘There is an underground passage below the hall.’

arukē  'near'

94) kōpālan patṭaṅatt(ṅ)(ku) arukē vacikkirān
    Gopal city(-eup)(-dat) near reside-pr-3ms

‘Gopal resides near the city.’

itaiyē  ‘amidst’

95) nāṅkaḷ turpaṅatt(ṅ)(ku) itaiyē vālkkai nāṭattiṅōm
    we misery(-eup)(-dat) amidst manage life-pst-1p

‘We managed life amidst miseries.’
etirē

‘opposite to’

96) viṭṭ(i)(k)u etirē maram irukkiratu
house(-eup)(-dat) opposite to tree be-pr-3ns

‘There is a tree opposite to the house.’

kurukkē

‘across’

97) kutirai ārīn veḷḷatt(i)(k)u kurukkē pōka
horse river-eup flood(-eup)(-dat) across go-inf
mutiyāmal tinariyatu
be able-neg.pp struggle-pst-3ns

‘The horse struggled to move cross the flood of the river.’

naṭuvē

‘in the middle of’

98) eṛkal viṭṭut toṭṭatt(i)(k)u naṭuvē
our house garden(-eup)(-dat) in the middle of
māmaram irukkiratu
mango tree be-pr-3ns

‘There is a mango tree in the middle of the garden of our house.’
pakkattil 'near'

99) marutamuttuvin vītu pēruntu nilaiyat(īn)(ku)(p)
Marudamuthu-gen house bus station(-eup)(-dat)

pakkattil irukkiratu
near be situated-pr-3ns

'Marudamuthu's house is situated near the bus station.'

pin 'behind'

100) murukan maratt(īn)(ku)(-p) pin
Murugan tree(-eup)(-dat) behind

maraintirukkirān
hide-pst-vp-perf-pr-3ms

'Murugan has hidden himself behind the tree.'

mun 'before'

101) krishnan vīṭ(īn)(ku) mun nirān
Krishnan house(-eup)(-dat) before stand-pst-1s

'Krishnan stood in front of the house.'
3.1.3. Structurally overlapping postpositions

There are certain postpositions, such as atuttu ‘next to’, anri ‘except’ and iruntu ‘from’, which are found to structurally overlap without any change of meaning. Consider the following examples:

atuttu  ‘next to’

a) After accusative

102) aranmaṇaïyai atuttu mutalamaïccar
    palace-acc next to Chief Minister

mālikai iruntatu
    bungalow be-pst-3ns

‘There was the Chief Minister’s bungalow next to the palace.’

b) After dative

103) cinarkaḷukku atuttu rākkeṭṭaip
    Chinese-dat next to rocket-acc

payaṇpaṭuttiyavarkal iyarkaḷtān
    use-pst-rp-pro Indians-emp

‘It is only Indians who used rockets next to Chinese.’
*anṭri*  ‘except’

a) After nominative

104)  *kēralattil tamill malaiyālac cuvaṭikaṭ*

Kerala-loc Tamil Malayalam manuscripts

*anṭri piramoḷi cuvaṭikaṭ illai*

except other language manuscripts no

‘In Kerala, there are no manuscripts of other languages except Tamil and Malayalam.’

b) After accusative

105)  *uṇatu celvam uṇṇai(y) anṭri yārukkum*

your-gen wealth you-acc except any one

*payaṇpaṭavillai*

be useful-inf-neg

‘Your wealth is not useful to any one except you.’
c) After instrumental

106) ūrppeyar āyvu kaḷappaniyāl āṇi
place name research field work-ins except
niraivuperuvatillai
end-fut-ger-neg

'Place name research does not end except by field
work.'

d) After associative

107) kamalāvōtu āṇi vēru yārōṭum
Kamala-asso except any other person-asso-incl
avalukkut toṭarpu illai
her-dat contact no

'She has no contact with anyone else except
Kamala.'

e) After dative

108) anta vēlai vēlaṇukku āṇi vēru yār ukkum
that job Velan-dat except else anyone
kiḷaikkātu
no

'That job will not be available to anyone except
Velan.'
f) After locative

109) terukkūttu kōyilkalil aŋri pira
street plays temples-loc except other

ثانکالیل nataiperuvatu ilai
places-loc be enacted-fut-ger no

'The street plays are not enacted in other places except in temples.'

iruntu 'from'

a) After nominative

110) īnku iruntu maturai cellum pĕruntu iravu
here from Madurai go-fut.rp bus night

pattu mānikkup purappatum
ten 0’clock leave-fut.3ns

'The bus that goes to Madurai will leave at 10 0’clock in the night.'
b) After locative

i) Locative case marker

111) \( \text{kāntiyāṭikaḷ caparmati āciramattil iruntu} \)

\( \begin{align*}
\text{Gandhiji} & \quad \text{Sabarmati} \\
\text{Ashram-loc} & \quad \text{from}
\end{align*} \)

\( \text{tanṭiyai nōkkip payanam toṭaṅkiṇār} \)

\( \begin{align*}
\text{Dandi-acc} & \quad \text{towards} \\
\text{journey} & \quad \text{begin-pst-3hs}
\end{align*} \)

‘Gandhiji began his journey from Sabarmati Ashram towards Dandi.’

ii) Locative postposition

112) \( \text{avaṇ marattin mēl iruntu ārīl} \)

\( \begin{align*}
\text{he} & \quad \text{tree-eup} \\
\text{on} & \quad \text{from} \\
\text{river-loc}
\end{align*} \)

\( \text{kutittāṇ} \)

\( \begin{align*}
\text{jump-pst-3ms}
\end{align*} \)

‘He jumped into the river from above the tree.’

3.3 Syntactic Tests

There are two syntactic tests quite often used for examining whether the noun and postposition in a postpositional noun phrase are separable or not. They are: 1) Relativizability and 2) Coordination.
3.3.1 Relativizability

A noun phrase with postposition is not normally relativizable (see Annamalai, 1999 and Ramasamy, 1988 for Tamil and Radhakrishan, 1994 for Malayalam). Consider the following examples:

113)

a. tantai tan makanaiš parrik kavalaikonṭar
father his son-acc about get worried-pst-3hs

‘The father got worried about his son.’

b. *tantai kavalaikonta tan makan
father get worried-pst-rp his son

‘His son about whom the father got worried.’

c. *tantai parrik kavalaikonṭa tan makan
father about get worried-pst-rp his son

‘His son who the father got worried about.’

113 (b) and (c) represent the relativized versions of sentence 113 (a). In 113 (b), the postposition parrik has been deleted but retained 113 (c). In both the instances, the resultant structures prove to be grammatically incorrect.
However, as Annalmalai (1999) has pointed out, it is possible to relativize noun phrases with certain postposition consider the following examples:

114)  
   a. nāṅ oru viṭṭukku ullė pōṇaũ  
      I a house-dat inside go-pst-1s  
      ‘I went inside a house.’

   b. nāṅ ullė pōṇa viṭu  
      I inside go-pst-rp house  
      ‘The house I went in.’

115)  
   a. nāṅ oru mēcaikku munḍālė nīṅrēn  
      I a table-dat before stand-pst-1s  
      ‘I stood before a table.’

   b. nāṅ munḍālė nīṅra mēcai  
      I before stand-pst-rp table  
      ‘The table before which I stood.’
In the above instances, if the postpositions *ullē* and *munnālē* are replaced by their respective base forms *ul* and *mun*, relativization seems to be not possible. Annamalai (ibid) has also indicated another possibility of relativizing noun phrases with certain postpositions when the postposition of the matrix sentence is identical to the one in the constituent sentence. Consider the following example:

116)  

a. *nāṅ viṭṭukku ullē pōnēn viṭṭukku*  

I house-dat inside go-pst-1s house-dat  

*ullē oru nāy iruntatu*  

inside a dog be-pst-3ns  

‘I went inside a house- There was a dog in the house.’

b. *nāṅ pōṇa viṭṭukku ullē oru nāy*  

I go-pst-rp house-dat inside a dog  

*iruntatu*  

be-pst-3ns  

‘There was a dog inside the house I went in.’

Relativization as shown above is not, however, possible for noun phrases with several other postpositions. With the exception of a few instances of secondary postpositions, the primary postpositions as a whole and several secondary postpositions are not relativizable.
3.3.2 Coordination

Kothandaraman (1977) has argued that in coordination of postpositional noun phrases, the conjunctive particle -um can be added only after the postposition and not before the postposition. Consider the following example:

117)  
   a. *murukam unkaalip parriyum ennai*  
      Murugan you-acc about-conj me-acc

      *parriyum peciñān*  
      about-conj speak-pst-3ms

   b. *murukam unkalaiyum ennaiyum parrip*  
      Murugan you-acc-conj me-acc-conj about

      *peciñān*  
      speak-pst-3ms

   ‘Murugan spoke about you and me.’

Kothandaraman (ibid) has tried out this test with other particles such as -ō and - āvatu as well. According to him, the sentence 118 (b) and similar constructions with other particles are ungrammatical. This inference, however, needs to be reexamined in the light of the classification of postpositions into primary and secondary types proposed in
This study. There is a possibility of arriving at a generalization that the above particles can be added only after the postposition in the case of primary postpositions but before or after the postposition in the case of secondary postpositions. Consider the following examples:

118) 

a) kapilaŋ mṛpakaḷ patta maṇi vākkilum
Kapilan forenoon ten 0’ clock at about-conj

pirpakaḷ aintu maṇi vākkilum eṇṇaiḍ
an afternoon five 0’clock at about-conj me-acc

pāṛkka vāntān
see-inf come-pst-3ms

b) *kapilaŋ mṛpakaḷ patta maṇiyum pirpakaḷ
Kapilan forenoon ten 0’clock-conj afternoon

aintu maṇiyum vākkil eṇṇaiḍ pāṛkka
five 0’clock-conj at about me-acc see-inf

vāntān
come-pst-3ms

‘Kapilan came to see me at about ten o’ clock in the forenoon and five 0’clock in the afternoon.’
119)  
   a. alekcāṇṭar intiyā(v)(iṁ) mītum tipett(iṁ)  
      Alexander India(-eup) on-conj Tibet(-eup)  
      mītum paṭaiyeṭuttār  
      on-conj wage war-pst-3hs

   b. *alekcāṇṭar intiyā(v) ṭ(īṁ)um tipett(īṁ)um mītu  
      Alexander India-conj Tibet-conj on  
      paṭaiyeṭuttār  
      wage war-pst-3hs

   ‘Alexander waged a war on India and Tibet.’

120)  
   a. akpar kālattil aiṟoppāvai viṭavum  
      Akbar period-loc Europe-acc than-conj  
      amerikkāvai viṭavum intiyā toḷil turaiyil  
      America-acc than-conj India industry-loc  
      mūṇṇēṇiyiruntatu  
      progress–pst.vp-perf-pst-3ns
b. *akpar kālattil airoppāvaiyum*
   Akbar period-loc Europe-acc-conj
   *amerikkāvaiyum viṭa intiyā tojīl turaiyil*
   America-acc-conj than India industry-loc
   *munṇēṇiyiruntatu*
   progress-pst.vp-perf-pst-3ns
   'India had progressed in industry than Europe and America during Akbar’s period.'

121) a. *avar utaiya viṭṭukku etirēyum*
   him of house-dat opposite to-conj
   *aluvalakattukku etirēyum ōr*
   office-dat opposite to-conj a
   *āla maram irukkiratu*
   banyan tree be-pr-3ns
   'There is a banyan tree opposite to his house and office.'

b. *avar utaiya viṭṭukkum aluvalakattukkum*
   him of house-dat-conj office-dat-conj
   *etirē ōr āla maram irukkiratu*
   opposite to a banyan tree be-pr-3ns
The primary postpositions *vākkil* 'at about' and *mītu* 'on' have been used with conjunctive particle *-um...-um* in sentences 118 (a) and 119 (a) respectively. The corresponding sentences 118 (b) and 119 (b), where the particle *-um...um* has been used after the nouns separating the postposition, prove to be ungrammatical. The secondary postpositions *vīta* 'than' and *etirē* 'opposite to' are used with coordination in sentences 120 (a) and 121 (a) respectively. Separation of postposition and addition of conjunctive particle to the nouns in these cases result in grammatically correct sentences as exemplified in 120 (b) and 121 (b).

According to the relativizability test, the postpositions in general cannot be separated from the preceding noun phrase with the exception of a few instances of secondary postpositions. As far as the coordination test is concerned, the primary postpositions in general are not separable while the secondary postpositions are separable. However, a few primary postpositions such as *aṭaṅkalāka* 'including', *nīṅkalāka* 'except', *inṛi* 'without', *kalintu* 'after' and *cūla* 'accompanied by' are separable by coordination.

Whether the postposition is separable from the preceding noun phrase or not, the postpositional phrase as a whole remains a single unit as a part of a larger noun phrase, adjective phrase, or adverb phrase.