INTRODUCTION
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The social fabrics of the society, the economic, scientific and technological advancements, are some of the important reasons to accelerate the growth of a language and its literary development.

As far as Tamil is concerned, it is the official language of not only Tamilnadu and Pondicherry but also of Singapore and Sri Lanka. As such, the growth of Tamil literature in all those places deserve to be studied and examined.

Among the regions mentioned above, Pondicherry is one where the growth and development of Tamil literary activities during both pre-and post-independent eras are unique and praiseworthy. However, the reasons and factors for such activities during the above mentioned two periods are different. The main purpose of the present study is to investigate how Tamil literature has developed in Pondicherry after its independence from French rule.

The present region of Pondicherry is a part of ancient Tondaimandalam. In the 14th century AD, the French conquered it along with some adjoining area and ruled. Though India attained its freedom in 1947, Pondicherry was relieved from the French only in the year 1956. After its independence, it has become a union territory of Indian Government.

Since then many a scholars in Pondicherry region have contributed their might for the improvement of Tamil literature that can very well be compared with that of any other Tamil speaking area.

PREVIOUS STUDIES

A few scholars have already made a critical study on literary development in Pondicherry. The important ones among them are “Putuvai ilakkiya vaLarcciyum Putuvai varalaarRum” by Thillaivanam and “Putuvai ilakkiya amaippukaLii vaLarccii” by Vasuki. Thillaivanam, in his work, classifies the Tamil poets on chronological order like
those who belong to before and during 20th century. His classification further goes on the basis of spirituality, politics, traditionalism, modernism, etc. His work also analyses the Tamil journals of Pondicherry, Tamil translations from French language and the contributions of French scholars to the development of Tamil literature. Thillaivanam's another work by name "Putuceeri maanila varalaaRu" speaks, though mostly about the history of Pondicherry, to some extent its Tamil literary activities also.

Vasuki, in her work mentioned above, deals more on literary organisations of Pondicherry and their subscription to Tamil literature. Her work, however, remains incomplete.

Keeping the above-mentioned works in mind, the present thesis attempts to make a detailed study and give a critical analysis on the subject.

AIM OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT
The present research work centers around the following two aims:
To introduce in general the literary activities in Pondicherry after its independence and present the same in its totality.

To evaluate Tamil literature, especially its poetic literature, in the post independent era of Pondicherry.

LIMITATIONS OF THE RESEARCH
Tamil literary activity in Pondicherry region during the past forty years is vast and exhaustive. It includes prose, poetry, drama, novel, short story, etc., and thereby it is an impossible task to encompass all of them in a single research work. The present study, therefore, restricts itself only with the publication of poetic literature of this region giving more importance to those published after 1956, the year of independence of Pondicherry.
BASIC SOURCES
While the primary source of this research study is mostly the poetic compilations of various authors, the critical and research works on the same serve as secondary source.

CONTENT OF THE PROPOSED RESEARCH
The present study has totally eight chapters including the Introduction and Summary of the project. After the Introduction, the second chapter, namely "Pondicherry – An Introduction" speaks about the location of the place, its nominal root, geographical description, climatic condition, popular details, etc. The next chapter "Social Movements and the Literary Trends of Pondicherry" explains about Dravidian Organisation, National Freedom Struggle, Tamil Movement, Religious Revivalism and Communist Ideology in the neighbouring Tamilnadu during the 20th century and their impact on Pondicherry Tamil literature.

The fourth chapter "Literature of Pre-independent Pondicherry" analyses the literary works that have been written after the arrival of the French and before their exit. The literary personalities, their famous works, literary organisations, the important journals, magazines and periodicals of this region during 15th – 19th centuries are discussed in this part of the thesis. The next chapter, "Post-independent Tamil Literature" deals with mainly three important aspects viz. literary works, literary organisations and literary journals. On literary works, poetry, prose and modern literature are critically analysed. The role of literary organisations and their contribution to the development of Tamil literature are discussed in the next part. The final aspect considers about the important periodicals that were and are published and their service to Tamil literary activities.

The sixth chapter entitled "The Famous Poets of Pondicherry" concentrates on the two famous poets of the region Bharatidasan and Vanidasan and their poetic compilations.

The seventh chapter "Contents of Literature" analyses the subject matters with special reference to nature and its beauty, eradication of castism and untouchability,
improvement of women folk and manual labourers, love for the mother tongue, Tamil etc. The research findings are summarised in the conclusion after which the bibliography is enlisted.

THE MODE OF RESEARCH
1. The data for the chapters “Literature of Pre-independent Pondicherry” have been collected from literary criticisms and history of Tamil literature. The authors of various literary works are given primary importance. The reference works are listed in the Bibliography.

2. The primary data for “Post-independent Tamil Literature” has been gathered from authentic literary source.

3. Though there are several poets in Pondicherry, the most important are Bharatidasan and Vanidasan. Their works are given maximum importance in the chapter “The Famous Poets of Pondicherry.”

4. In the Chapter “Content of Literature”, considerable weightage is given to the study of the improvement of womenfolk, labourers and Tamil language and eradication of Casteism and untouchability.

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