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Reader for Advanced Spoken Tamil

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Part II: Grammar and Glossary

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A READER FOR ADVANCED SPOKEN TAMIL

PART II:

**A SYNOPSIS GRAMMAR OF SPOKEN
TAMIL (NON-BRAHMIN DIALECT)**

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INDEX

		<u>Page</u>			<u>Page</u>
1.0	Phonology	2	2.2	Postpositions	14
1.1	Transliteration	2	2.21	Postpositions with the	
1.11	Transliteration symbols	3		nominative	14
1.111	The consonant system	3	2.212	muulam	14
1.112	The nasals	3	2.213	varekkum	14
1.113	The liquids	4	2.22	Postpositions with the	
1.114	The glides	4		oblique	15
1.115	Vowels	4	2.221	kuuTe	15
1.2	Literary conversions	4	2.222	meele	15
1.21	Literary /i/, /u/	4	2.223	pakkam	15
1.22	Literary െ	4	2.224	toNeyle	15
1.23	Literary /ai/	5	2.225	ucciyile	15
1.24	Some other rules	5	2.226	kiiRe	16
1.3	Automatic phonological rules	5	2.227	-Nte, aNTe	16
1.31	Final vowels	5	2.23	Postpositions with the	
1.311	Deletion of final /u/	5		dative	16
1.32	Final nasal segments	5	2.231	aaka	16
1.33	The vowels /i/, /a/ and /u/	5	2.232	aTiyle	16
1.34	Voicing of intervocalic and		2.233	etire	16
	postnasal consonants	6	2.234	meele	16
1.35	Closed initial syllables	6	2.235	pakkattule	16
1.36	Deletion of v	6	2.236	uLLe	16
1.4	Morphophonemic rules	6	2.237	badilaa	17
1.41	Glide insertion	6	2.238	pinnaale	17
1.42	Oblique forms	6	2.239	munnaale	17
1.43	Vowel harmony	7	2.24	Postpositions with the	
1.5	Optional rules	7		accusative	17
1.51	Rounding vowels between labials		2.241	ceettu	17
	and retroflexes	7	2.242	patti	17
1.52	Rounding vowels after labial		2.243	paattu	17
	consonants	7	2.244	tavira	18
1.6	Hesitation forms	7	2.3	NP-ooTa, NP-aa: extended	
				time	18
2.0	Nouns	10	2.32	Accompaniment	18
2.1	The case system	10	2.33	Note	18
2.11	Nominative case	10			
2.12	Genitive case	10	3.0	The verb - verb stem	20
2.13	Accusative case	10	3.1	Imperatives and infinitives	20
2.14	Dative case	11	3.11	The imperative	20
2.141	Dative case markers	11	3.12	Imperative plus -een 'why'	20
2.15	Locative case	12	3.13	Negative imperative	20
2.151	Locative of inanimate nouns	12	3.2	Forms of address	21
2.16	Semantically locative forms	13	3.21	Singular polite	21
2.161	Inanimate nouns	13	3.22	Plural honorific (-(u)nkaL)	21
2.162	Animate nouns	13	3.23	Honorific (u)nka(L)	21
2.163	Already semantically locative	13	3.24	Singular non-polite	21
2.164	Special cases	13	3.25	Hortative -laam	21
2.170	Associative case	13	3.26	Other address forms	22
2.180	Instrumental case	13			

	<u>Page</u>		<u>Page</u>
3.261 a) (a)Taa and (a)Tii	22	3.618 /tole/ 'impatience, disgust'	37
b) (a)Taa with female child		3.619 /vay/ 'future utility'	37
c) (a)Taa and (a)Tii with non-kin		3.62 /poo/ quasi-aspect marker	37
3.262 a) (a)ppaa and (a)mmaa	22	3.7 Negatives	37
b) in imperative		3.8 Defective verb forms	37
3.263 (a)yyaa and (a)mmaa	22	3.81 Syntax	38
3.264 aNNaacci, -aNNa; akkaa; tampi		3.82 Modals	39
3.3 Finite verbs	22	3.83 Purpose: In order to	39
3.310 Strong verbs	23	3.9 Verbalizers	39
3.311 Weak verbs	24	3.91 paNnu 'do, make'	39
3.312 Other weak verbs	24	3.92 aTi 'pejorative'	39
3.313 Still other weak verbs	24	3.93 eTu 'inchoative'	40
3.320 The verb: Person-Number-Gender agreement	24	3.94 paTu 'experience emotions'	40
3.321 /vaa/ 'come'	25	3.941 paTu with nouns	40
3.322 /poo/ 'go'	25	3.942 paTu with verbs	40
3.323 /paaru/ 'see'	26	3.95 piTi 'increase, augment'	40
3.324 /iru/ 'be located'	27	3.96 collu 'performative verbs'	40
3.325 /caapiTu/ 'eat'	27		
3.326 /vaanku/ 'buy'	27	4.1 Pronouns and person-number-gender	43
3.327 /vantiTu/ 'definitely come'	28	4.2 Pronoun deletion	43
3.328 /paTi/ 'study'	28	4.3 Genitive and oblique forms	44
3.329 Neuters	28	4.4 Demonstrative pronouns	44
3.330 Neuter past	28		
3.331 Neuter future	29	5.0 Adjectives	46
3.340 The infinitive	29	5.01 Use in the sentence and with nouns	46
3.341 Of strong verbs	29	5.1 Predicate adjectives	46
3.342 Other verbs	29	5.2 Comparison of adjectives	47
3.343 Exceptions	29	5.21 viTa	47
3.40 Transitive	29	5.22 Superlatives of adjectives	
Intransitive	29		
Causative	31	6.0 Syntax: introduction	49
3.5 Modal auxiliaries	31	6.01 Nouns	49
3.51 Homonymy with lexical verbs	31	6.02 Verbal syntax	49
3.52 Use of aspect marker /aaku/ with modal /Num/	31	6.03 Adjectival syntax	50
3.6 Verbal aspect markers	32	6.04 Adverbs	50
3.610 Inventory of aspect markers	33	6.1 Negative forms	51
3.611 /(v)iTu/	33	6.11 Ordinary negatives	51
3.612 /iru/	33	6.12 Habitual negatives	51
3.613 /ko-/	34	6.121 Past habitual negative	51
3.614 /kiTTiru/	35	6.122 Alternative form of Negative Past Habitual	51
3.615 /aaku/	35	6.13 Future negative	52
3.616 /pooTu/ 'malicious intent'	35	6.14 Negative result clauses	52
3.617 /taLLu/ 'riddance'	36	6.15 Negative simultaneity	52
		6.151 Simultaneous negative plus iru	53

		<u>Page</u>			<u>Page</u>
6.16	Obstinate negative	53	7.0	Complex syntax	67
6.161	Obstinate negative embedded	53	7.1	Syntactic modality	67
6.17	The archaic tenseless negative	53	7.11	40% chance	67
6.2	Interrogatives	54	7.12	60% or more certainty	67
6.21	Question marker suffix	54	7.13	Negative probability	67
6.22	Question marker prefix /e-/	54	7.2	Reduplication	68
6.4	Quotative sentences	55	7.21	Reduplication, positive-negative	68
6.41	Direct and indirect speech	55	7.22	'Echo-word' reduplication	68
6.42	Intent	55	7.23	Emphatic reduplication-- infinitive and finite verb	69
6.51	Adverbial participles (past)	56	7.24	Distributive reduplication	69
6.511	Positive	56	7.25	Reduplicated onomatopoeic expressions	69
6.512	Negative -aame, aama(1)	56	7.3	Quotative verb -NNu in complex sentences	69
6.52	Adjectival participles	56	7.31	-NNu: relative clause/ embedded sentence	69
6.521	Positive adjectival participles	56	7.32	-NNu in intent constructions	70
6.522	Negative adjectival participle	57	7.322	Verbal noun + <u>-aa(y)</u> /iru/ nene/collu	71
6.53	Adjectival relative participles	58	7.323	Noun + dative + aa-NNu: 'intended for'	71
6.6	WH-interrogatives and suffixes	59	7.33	Obstinate negative embedded, -NNu embedded	71
6.61	WH-interrogatives and /-um/	59	7.331	Obstinate negative embedded	71
6.62	WH-interrogatives and /-oo/	60	7.4	Factive	72
6.63	WH-interrogatives and /aavatu/	60	7.41	Factive: -nkra + NP or -nkratu + verb	72
6.64	WH-interrogatives + /um/ + Negative	60	7.42	-nkra varu: someone called 'X'	73
6.7	Conditional	61	7.5	Onomatopoeic words with -NNu	73
6.71	Syntactic Conditional: /-Nu/ + /aa(1)/	62	7.6	poola and maatiri	74
6.72	Negative conditional	62	7.61	Sentence + poola irukku	74
6.721	Negative conditional of /iru/	62	7.62	-ple or -pla, poola contractions	74
6.73	Conditional plus -taanee	63	7.63	Contracted -pla in other expressions	75
6.80	Concessive	63	7.64	maatiri, paTi	75
6.81	Concessive + /e-/ words	63	7.7	Cleft sentences	75
6.82	Syntactic concessive	63	7.8	Clitics oo, ee, aa, um, een	76
6.83	Negative concessive	63	7.81	Doubt markers -oo and -een	76
6.9	Consecutive action	64	7.82	vb ₁ + oo, vb ₂ + oo	77
6.91	Consecutive action with /appa/	64	7.83	e-word Vb + oo, a-word Vb	77
6.92	Immediate consecutive action	64	7.84	-um...-um, -aa...-aa	78
6.93	Consecutive action with /oTane/	64	7.85	Emphatics -ee, taan, taanee	78
6.94	Verbal noun and dative	65	7.9	The verb <u>paar</u>	78
6.95	Infinitive for simultaneity	65	7.91	<u>paar</u> 'try' + verb	78

	<u>Page</u>
7.9 3 <u>paattu</u> + verb	79
7.94 postpositions + <u>paar</u>	79
3.433 Causatives, continued	80
3.434 Suffixal causatives	80
3.435 Derived causatives	80
English-Tamil Glossary	81
Tamil-English Glossary	119

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 1.0 Introduction to Phonology**
- 1.1 Transliteration**
- 1.2 Literary Conversions**
- 1.3 Phonological Rules**
- 1.4 Morphophonemic Rules (vowel harmony, glide insertion, etc.)**
- 1.5 Optional Rules**
- 1.6 Hesitation Forms**

1.0 Phonology. To be brief about the phonology of Tamil is a difficult task, but in order to concentrate mainly on morphology and syntax, we will assume that the student has been introduced to the phonological system of Tamil, since the level of difficulty of these plays is probably at about the third-year college level. Spoken Tamil, according to our analysis, has five stop consonants /p, t, T, c, k/ with voiced lax variants [b (v), d (d), D, s (j), g (h)] which occur intervocally. (Capital letters refer to retroflex sounds.) A sixth stop, alveolar /t/, is assumed to exist in the underlying systematic phonological inventory, but is written either as /r/ intervocally or as /tt/ when doubled. There are three nasal segments /m, n, N/. There are two laterals, /l, L/ and two r-like sounds, /r, R/. This last sound is the retroflex frictionless continuant symbolized in the Tamil orthography [஠]. Fricatives are /s/ and retroflex /S/. These occur mainly in loan words; some loan words also contain /f/ and /h/, as well as some other voiced consonants (cf. 1.1 for a discussion of transliteration).

Vowels are basically /a, e, i, o, u/ and long, tense vowels /aa, ee, ii, oo, uu/. In loan words the vowels /æ /, /ai/, and /au/ appear.

1.1 Transliteration. The transliteration used in representing the phonological system(s) of the recorded versions of these plays is neither a systematic phonetic or phonemic transcription (in the neo-Bloomfieldian sense) but a kind of morphophonemic transcription. That is, it represents the Tamil corpus at a stage where, by the application of a number of automatic rules, a pure phonetic output can be derived. It is assumed that all native speakers of Tamil have internalized these rules, and that non-native speakers learning Tamil can also internalize them.

Beyond this, however, the transcription used here can also be viewed as a one-to-one transliteration of Tamil script as it is often used to represent spoken Tamil. Since Tamil script cannot, for instance, represent nasalized vowels, or a simple bi-unique contrast between voiced and voiceless consonants, literate native speakers of Tamil know that Tamil script used to represent spoken Tamil assumes that final vowel plus nasal segment actually represents a nasalized vowel. This transcription also assumes this knowledge. Furthermore, Tamil readers know that a single intervocalic voiceless stop is read as a voiced lax stop, while two stop consonants of the same sort represent a voiceless tense stop.

This transcription assumes, therefore, no more than the implicit knowledge every literate Tamilian has about how to pronounce his language when he sees it written with Tamil orthography. The only departure from this system we have adopted is to represent some foreign words with voiced consonants or with vowel symbols that are not possible in the Tamil system. These will be discussed in detail below. For example, voiced initial stops in English loan words like bassu 'bus', Draivar 'driver', waS 'wash', bæ nk 'bank', Dædiy 'Daddy', cannot be unambiguously represented in a convenient adaptation of the Tamil system, as English voiced stops are used here. Similarly, the vowels /æ /, /au/ and /ai/ in English loans like 'bank', 'account' and 'typist' will be represented with digraphs as in /bæ nk/, /akkaunT/ and /TaippisT/, respectively.

Another feature of the transcription which will be noted by a careful comparison of it with the tape-recorded version is that the transcription has been regularized in many instances. That is, although the dominant dialect used by the actors whose voices are heard in the recording is the non-Brahmin dialect of mainland Tamil, occasionally the speakers make 'performance errors' and use a form which was probably not intended, or at least is not consistent with the Standard Colloquial Non-Brahmin dialect. Sometimes what is phonetically perceived and what is represented are also different because representing words the way they appear in the surface phonetics obscures our understanding of some grammatical processes of the language. For example, verb stems ending in the vowels /i, ai and y/ in Literary Tamil exhibit palatalization of the past tense marker(s) /tt/ or /nt/ in ST. Also, in ST /ai/ usually changes to /e/ in this place, and we can describe this palatalization as happening after front vowels and /y/. In some speakers' dialects, however, /ai/ changes to /a/ after palatalization, e.g., /camai-/ 'cook' plus /tt/ 'past' --> /camaitt(een) --> camaicc (een) --> camacc (een)/. Thus the fact that palatalization occurs only after front vowels and /y/ is obscured, since /a/ is not a front vowel in Tamil. We therefore represent this form regularized to /camecc (een)/ '(I) cooked' since this form is more standard and more understandable--anyone who knows the rules of Tamil will understand /camecc(een)/ but will need an explanation for /camacc(een)/.

Performance errors. In the rapid speech of these recordings, the speakers sometimes make 'slips of the tongue' or 'performance errors'. In many cases we have regularized these also, after noting by the diacritic '*' before an item that it is a slip of the tongue, and that the speaker intended to say something else. Often speakers correct themselves after making a performance error, and in these cases we have sometimes deleted the error. Another kind of performance error is unintended deletion of something important, so in certain cases we have added what the speaker probably intended to say, and enclosed such additions in square brackets '[']' in the text. Performance errors are sometimes used for comic or rustic effect in these plays just as spoonerisms or malapropisms might be in an American play of the same genre, so we have been careful not to delete anything unless it is clearly unimportant.

1.11 Transliteration symbols. The text of this reader uses the transliterated forms which appear below. It is assumed that the student is familiar with the sounds of Tamil and is able to produce and perceive the necessary distinctive contrasts.

1.111 The consonant system

p-pp	ப-ப்ப
t-tt	த-த்ட
T-TT	ஈ-ஈஈ
c-cc	ச-ச்ச
k-kk	க-கக

1.112 The nasals

m	ம
n	ந
N	ன

1.113 The liquids

r ர
 R ர்
 l-ll ல - ல்
 L-LL ல - ல்

1.114 The glides

y ய
 w வ
 v வ

1.115 Vowels

i-ii இ - ஈ
 e-ee ஏ - எ
 a-aa அ - ஆ
 o-oo ஓ - ஔ
 u-uu உ - ஁

æ = æ sound in cat, bank, tally

au = sound in account

ai = sound in typist

1.2 Literary Conversions. Literary Tamil forms can be converted into S(poken) T(amil) forms by the application of the following rules:

1.21 Literary

இ i -----> e when followed by an "a" or "ai" (ay) in the next
 உ u -----> o syllable with only one consonant intervening.

i.e.: (C) ⁱ_u C₂ a(i) -----> (C) ^e_o C₂ a

where C is any consonant.

E.g.:

But:

இலை ilai ---> ele "leaf"
 இடம் iTam ---> eTam "place"
 இழை muTai --> moTe "loss"

முட்டை muTTai -/-> *moTTe "egg"
 because 2 consonants
 intervene

இல்லை illai -/-> *ellai
 திட்டம் tiTTam -/-> *teTTam

1.22 Literary

ஈ ---> cc when they follow a) i
 ஐ ---> nc b) ai (ay)
 c) e (which comes from ai)

E.g.

குடித்தேன் kuTittēen ---> kuTicceen

ஐந்து aintu ---> ancu

[Note: Some spoken /nc/'s do not have underlying /nt/'s in written, e.g. /cenceen/ 'I did' (<*centeen, but from ceyteen).]

1.23 Literary /ai/ (ay) ---> e in all cases except initially, where /ai/ ---> /a/.

E.g.

இலை ilai ---> ele

மாலை maRai ---> maRe

அவனை avanai ---> avane

வைக்கை vaikka ---> vekka

ஐந்து aintu ---> ancu

Applying the above 3 rules in order to forms like the following, we get:

Lit: utaitteen 'I kicked' uTaintatu 'it broke' ninaitteen 'I thought'

- | | | |
|---|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. <u>otaitteen</u> (by Rule 1) | <u>oTaintatu</u> | <u>nenaitteen</u> |
| 2. <u>otaicceen</u> (Rule 2) | <u>oTaincatu</u> | <u>nenaicceen</u> |
| 3. <u>otecceen</u> (Rule 3) | <u>oTencatu</u> | <u>nenecceen</u> |

1.24 Some other rules: rr --> tt, unless it follows i, ai, y, in which case it changes to /cc/.

Examples: போயிருந்த pooyirru --> pooccu
 அயிருந்த aayirru --> aaccu

There is no way to know for sure whether a spoken /cc/ comes from written /cc/, /tt/, or /rr/ unless the preceding vowel makes things obvious, in which case you have to guess between /tt/ and /rr/.

1.3 Automatic phonological rules. This section treats the 'automatic' phonological rules which apply everywhere in ST and which every native speaker of Tamil knows implicitly about how to pronounce Tamil when he sees it written.

1.31 Final vowels. Final long vowels in most cases are shortened, so that a form like /pooraan/ 'he goes' will be pronounced /poorā/. That these vowels are actually systematically long is evidenced by the fact that if the question marker /aa/ is added to them, they are kept long. pooraan + aa --> pooraanaa? 'will he go?'

1.311 Deletion of final /u/. Final /u/ is deleted from most nouns when suffixes are added. Exceptions are: pacu, 'cow' + acc.-- pacuve.

1.32 Final nasal segments. Final /m/ and /n/ cause the preceding vowel to be nasalized and the nasal segment to be omitted. /varum/ 'it will come' is pronounced

[varũ]; /pooraan/ 'he goes' [poorã]. Furthermore, /m/ following /a/ causes rounding of /a/ to /o/ as well as nasalization: /maram/ 'tree' [marõ]. However, /m/ following /aa/ does not cause rounding, only nasalization: /pookalaam/ 'one may go' [pookalã]. (Shortening has taken place by the above Rule 1.31 after rounding and nasalization.)

1.33 The vowels /i/ and /a/ and /u/ when they occur in closed syllables other than initial syllables are often reduced to [ɨ] or [ə] or [ʊ], rather than pronounced [i], [a] or [u]. Thus /irukkatu/ 'it is' is phonetically [irɨkəɖɨ]. Since Tamil speakers know that this process is automatic, we will write all /i/'s /a/'s and /u/'s as such, and assume that readers of this transcription can also learn to apply this rule.



1.34 Voicing of intervocalic consonants and post-nasal consonants. Intervocalically, single consonants are lax and voiced as are post-nasal single consonants. Thus, /viiTu/ is [viiɖa] and /tampi/ 'younger brother' is [təmbi]. In English loan words, of course, some post-nasal stops are voiced, so we represent them with double consonants, e.g. 'account' /akkauNTTu/.

1.35 Closed initial syllables. /a/ in closed initial syllables is usually pronounced [ə] as in /tampi/: [təmbi], and /u/ in closed initial syllables is [ʊ] as in /puttu/: [pʊttu].

1.36 Deletion of v. /v/ in non-initial syllables is deleted; thus the /v/ in /viiTu/ 'completive aspect' is always deleted, as is often the /v/ in /koNTuvaa/ 'bring' --> /koNTaa/, and the /v/ of the causative marker /vi/, e.g. 'amuppi+vi+cc+iTa+Num' --> /amuppicciTaNum/ 'one must definitely cause to send'.

1.4 Morphophonemic rules.

1.41 Glide insertion. When two vowels come together as a result of combining words and affixes, glides are inserted. For example, between final vowels and affixes such as case markers beginning with vowels, the [v] and [y] glides are inserted: /nari/ 'fox' plus 'ooTe' 'with' --> /nari-y-ooTe/ 'with the fox'. /ameerikaa/ 'America' plus /-ukku/ 'dative' --> /ameerikkaa-v-ukku/ 'to America'. The determining factor is whether the first vowel is /i,e/ or /o,u,a/. After i and e, /y/ is inserted; after u, o, and a, /v/ is inserted.

1.42 Oblique forms. Not all nouns add case markers without change. Many nouns undergo morphophonemic alternation (sandhi) when case markers are added. Most are predictable. For instance, all nouns ending in /-am/ change the /m/ to /tt/ before the addition of case markers. Thus /maram/ 'tree' becomes, with the addition of /-ukku/ 'dative marker', /maratt-ukku/ 'to the tree'. Nouns ending in /-Tu/ such as /viiTu/ 'house' change this to /-TTu/ before the addition of case markers. E.g. /viiTu/ + /le/ 'locative' --> /viiTTu-le/ 'in the house'. Many nouns ending in /-ru/ do the same thing: /r/ is replaced by /tt/ before case. For instance, /aaru/ 'river' + /-ukku/ 'dative' --> /aatt-ukku/ 'to the river'. There is no way to determine from the spoken form which nouns in /-ru/ do this, but in written Tamil they all are spelled [-,] rather than [-,]. For a complete discussion of noun case morphophonemics, cf. 2.2.

1.43 Vowel harmony. Another possible change that takes place when a suffix is added to a noun is that the vowels of some of the case markers change if the final vowel of the noun is /i/ or /e/. For example, /-ukku/ 'dative' becomes /ykki/ after /mature/ 'the city of Maturai': /matureykki/ 'to Maturai'. This is an automatic process which happens irrespective of whether the noun is 'native' or 'borrowed' so that /laybreeri/ + /-ukku/ becomes /laybreerikki/ 'to the library'. Also after /i/ and /e/, the suffix /-le/ 'locative' becomes /-yle/. E.g. /vaRi/ 'way' + /-le/ --> /vaRiyle/ 'on the way'.

1.5 Optional rules. In rapid speech in some dialects, and consistently in some other dialects, a number of other rules apply which are not automatic.

1.51 Rounding of vowels between labials and retroflexes. Between initial labial consonants and retroflex consonants, front vowels /i/ and /e/ are rounded to /u/ and /o/ respectively when they occur between a labial consonant /m,p,v/ and a retroflex consonant /T,N,R,L/. For example, /piTi/ 'like' --> /puTi/, /peTTi/ 'box' --> /poTTi/, /peNNu/ 'girl' --> /poNNu/, /veeNum/ 'want, must, need' --> /vooNum/, /viiTu/ 'house' --> /vuTu/, /viRu/ 'fall' --> /vuRu/, /peRappu/ 'life, livelihood' --> /poRappu/, /meLaka(ay)/ 'pepper' --> /moLaka/. Note that in the last two examples, the vowels which are undergoing rounding have first undergone lowering from /i/, cf. 1.21.

1.52 Rounding of vowels after labial consonants. In some dialects the process in 1.51 is carried further and vowels are rounded after an initial labial consonant even if no retroflex consonant follows. Examples, /min/ 'before' --> /mun/, /metakkum/ 'it will float/ (from LT mita-) --> /motakkum/, /perantaan/ 'he was born' (from LT pira-) --> /porantaan/.

1.6 Hesitation forms.

aa: [ãã]

ataavatu = atu + aavatu

vantu: (Y) (NP) vantu (X)

Hesitation forms occur in speech when a speaker is unable to produce an utterance and wants to 'fill the gap' until he is able to think of what he wants to say. English speakers generally use words like 'well', 'why', 'I mean', 'you know', 'sort of', 'kind of' and also non-words like 'hm', 'uh', 'er', etc. as hesitation forms. In Tamil, there are both kinds of forms, ranging from /ataavatu/ 'that is to say', /cari-i/ 'okay', /appa-a/ 'then', /vantu/ (literally: 'having come') 'well'; and simply /aa/, /ee/, /ēē/ and /um/. Note that the form /vantu/ is never used sentence-initially.

naaLekki	vantu	avaru	pooraar	poola	irukku
1	2	3	4	5	6

Well, it seems he'll be going tomorrow.

2	5/6	3	4	1
---	-----	---	---	---

Very often hesitation forms are utterance final, since the speaker may not get a chance to finish his sentence:

atu vantu ... That is, well ...

2.0 The Noun: Introduction

2.1 The Case System

2.2 Postpositions

2.3 Compound Nouns

2.4 Predicate Nouns (Adjective Nouns)

2.5 Verbal Nouns

2.0 Nouns. Noun morphology in Tamil is not very complex, since there are few "irregularities" and no grammatical gender. Nouns can be divided into two semantic classes: animate and inanimate. Within the animate class, nouns may be further subdivided into masculine and feminine classes, which are similar to the subdivisions of the English noun. Within the inanimate class there are only neuter items such as trees, children and animals. Separate words may be used to denote male and female animals, but the animal is still considered to be a neuter inanimate noun. The "class" of a noun can be determined by noting which PNG marker a native speaker uses when that noun is subject of a verb. Within the noun phrase, there is no agreement between adjectives and nouns. In fact, even if the noun is marked for case, the adjective remains undeclined.

2.1 The case system. The case system of Tamil is similar to those of many European languages, where various endings are suffixed to the Noun to indicate various relationships between the Noun and other constituents of the sentence, e.g., if the Noun is the 'object' of a verb, it is marked for 'accusative' case; if it is the 'goal' of a verb of motion, it is marked for 'dative'.

The addition of suffixes in Tamil requires certain phonological changes. The automatic changes that apply to the addition of case markers to the noun can be found in section 1.4 of this grammar.

2.11 Nominative Case. The form of the noun as it is listed in the dictionary is identical to the nominative form of the noun. Subjects of sentences are usually in the nominative. (For exceptions see Defective Verbs, section 3.8.)

2.12 Genitive Case. There is no genitive case marker, but those nouns which undergo morphophonemic alternation before case markers do so in the genitive. We can thus say that the genitive case marker is 'zero'. Other nouns which do not change morphophonemically have, of course, genitive forms which are identical to their nominatives. Note that the same is true with pronouns (cf. section 4.2 on pronouns). The genitive of pronouns consists of the 'oblique' form of the pronoun (in the 1st and 2nd persons) plus zero ending.

Examples of genitives (for nouns which differ from the nominative) are:

- a. /aaru/ 'river' + /ankare/ 'bank' --> /aattu ankare/ or /aatt-ankare/ 'riverbank'
- b. /viiTu/ 'house' + /-kaarar/ 'agent' --> /viiTTukkaarar/ 'man of the house, husband'
- c. /ceelam/ 'city of Salem' + /kaarar/ 'agent' --> /ceelattukkaarar/ 'man from, of Salem'

2.13 Accusative Case. The accusative case marker is [-e]. This case is used when the noun is the object of a verb. Animate nouns, those which refer to animate beings, are always marked for accusative when they are the object of verbs, whereas inanimate nouns are only optionally marked for accusative when the object of verbs. However, all nouns when so marked have a redundant semantic nuance, namely, they are particularized. This means that the accusative marker also indicates that a particular thing is referred to, not a general one. When "particularizers" like /inta/ 'this' and /anta/ 'that' appear before a noun in the accusative, however, the noun is always marked for accusative, even if inanimate.

Examples of the accusative:

- a. /maram/ 'tree' + /-e/ --> /maratte/ as in /maratte paatteen/ 'I saw the tree'
- b. /viiTu/ 'house' + /-e/ --> /viiTTe/ as in /viiTTe paatteen/ 'I saw the house'
- c. /avar/ 'he' + /-e/ --> /avare/ 'him' as in /avare paatteen/ 'I saw him'
- d. /aaru/ 'river' + /-e/ --> /aatte/ as in /aatte paatteen/ 'I saw the river'

Often mass nouns are not marked for the accusative because the accusative makes these nouns particular. Thus, we get sentences like: /taNNi/ 'water' + /paatteen/ 'I saw' --> /taNNi paatteen/ 'I saw (some) water.'

However, mass nouns may be used with the accusative marker to indicate particulars:

/taNNi-y-e paatteen/ would mean 'I saw the water.'

2.14 Dative Case. This case marker is used when a verb has a noun toward which motion is expressed. It is also used to indicate possession, which we express in English with the verb 'have'. Tamil says for 'I have money' something like 'to me there is money'. The dative is also used with certain stative and/or defective verbs, i.e., verbs which cannot be marked for PNG except 3rd person neuter (cf. 3.80). Thus, instead of 'I know him' we get /avar-e en-akku teriyum/ 'to-me him known'. There is no nominative noun in such a sentence, but it is still perfectly grammatical in Tamil.

2.141 The dative case marker is /-ukku/ (or /-ykki/ after front vowels). (Note in section 4.2 on pronouns that a different form occurs there after 1st and 2nd singular pronoun stems.)

Examples of nouns with dative:

- a. /maram/ 'tree' + /-ukku/ --> /maratt-ukku/ 'to the tree'
- b. /aaru/ 'river' + /-ukku/ --> /aatt-ukku/ 'to the river'
- c. /viiTu/ 'house' + /-ukku/ --> /viiTT-ukku/ 'to the house'
- d. /kooyil/ 'temple' + /-ukku/ --> /kooyil-ukku/ 'to the temple'
- e. /mature/ 'Maturai' + /-ukku/ --> /mature-ykki/ 'to Maturai'
- f. /nari/ 'fox' + /-ukku/ --> /narikki/ 'to the fox'
- g. /naan/ 'I' + /-ukku/ --> /en-akku/ 'to me'

As mentioned above, certain postpositions such as /pakkattle/ 'near' follow the dative case only. See section 2.3 on postpositions for a complete list.

2.15 Locative Case. The locative case marker is used to express 'location', 'lack of motion', 'containment in', and sometimes 'means by which', e.g. /bas-le/ 'by bus'. The locative marker is /-le/ with inanimate nouns and /-kiTTe/ with animates. With animate nouns it means 'in the possession of, on the person of'. Examples:

Inanimate: /le/

- a. /maram/ 'tree' + /-le/ --> /marattu-le/ 'in the tree'
- b. /aaru/ 'river' + /-le/ --> /aattu-le/ 'in the river'
- c. /viiTu/ 'house' + /-le/ --> /viiTT(u)le/ 'in the house'
- d. /kooyil/ 'temple' + /-le/ --> /kooyil-le/ 'in the temple'
- e. /mature/ 'Maturai' + /-le/ --> /mature-y-le/ 'in Maturai'

Animate: /kiTTe/

- f. /nari/ 'fox' + /kiTTe/ --> /nari-kiTTe/ 'in the possession of the fox'
- g. /naan/ 'I' + /kiTTe/ --> /en-kiTTe/ 'I have' (on my person)

2.151 Locative of Animate Nouns: /-kiTTe/ or, in some dialects, /-TTe/. When the animate locative marker /kiTTe/ is attached to a noun in a sentence with certain kinds of verbs or copula, there is a semantic contrast of the following sort:

/kiTTe/ 'anim. loc.'	/-ukku/ 'dative'
1. /en-kiTTe paNam irukku/. 1 2 3 4	/en-akku paNam irukku/. 1 2 3 4
'I have money (on my person).' 1 2/4 3	'I have money (I am rich).' 1 2/4 3

With the verb /kuTu/ 'give' the use of /kiTTe/ or the dative /-ukku/ distinguishes between giving something back to a person who originally owned it (/kiTTe/), or giving them something irrevocably, i.e., changing ownership (/ukku/).

/avar-kiTTe maale kuTutteen/ 1 2 3 4	/avar-ukku maale kuTutteen/ 1 2 3 4
'I gave him back the necklace' 4 1 2 3	'I gave the necklace to him' 4 3 2 1

With other verbs, either /kiTTe/ or /-ukku/ can be used, with no difference of meaning, while with still other verbs, only one of the two can be used grammatically.

Both: /en-kiTTe collunka; en-akku collunka/ 'Tell me.'

But: /naan avan-kiTTe atep-patti keeTTeen/ 'I asked him about it.'

2.160 Semantically locative forms. Adverbs like /anke/ 'there', /meele/ 'above, on top of' are never marked for locative, since they are already semantically locative, so the ablative is affixed directly to them. Examples:

2.161 Inanimate Nouns

/mature/ + /le/ + /runtu/
'Maturai' 'loc.' 'ablative'

= /matureyleruntu/
'from Maturai'

/laybreeriyleruntu/
'from the library'

2.162 Animate Nouns

/raajaa/ + /kiTTe/ + /runtu/
'Raja' 'loc.' 'ablative'

= /raajaakkiTteyruntu/
'from Raja'

/baabkiTteyruntu/
'from Bob'

2.163 Already Semantically Locative

/anke/ + /runtu/
'there' 'abl.'

= /ankeyruntu/
'from there'

/meeleyruntu/
'from above'

There is a morphophonemic /-y-/ following /-e/ in most of these forms; in rapid speech it may not be phonetically obvious. In rapid speech or some dialects, /le + runtu/ may become /lerntu/ or /lentu/.

2.164 In some cases, both /leruntu/ and /kiTteruntu/ can be used with animate nouns in contrast, with special meaning, as is shown by the following (Annamalai and Ramanujan MS):

/mantiri-leruntu ellaarum lancam vaankraanka/
minister from everyone bribe take
'Everyone takes bribes, from the minister on down.'

/mantiri-kiTteruntu ellaarum lancam vaankraanka/
minister from everyone bribe take
'Everyone takes bribes from the minister.'

2.170 Associative Case. This case expresses social accompaniment. This is comparable to English 'with' or 'along with' in the sense 'I went with him' but not in the sense 'I cut it with a knife', where the latter use is instrumental. The form of this case marker is /-ooTe/. With animate nouns this always means 'associative', but with inanimate nouns /-ooTe/ can be instrumental, e.g. /rikSaavooTe/ 'by rikshaw' instead of /riksaavle/ ibid. in other dialects.

a. /sneytar/ + /ooTe/ --> /sneytarooTe/ 'with (x's) friend'

b. /enka(L)/ + /ooTe/ --> /enkaLoote/ 'with us'

c. /nari/ + /ooTe/ --> /nari-y-ooTe/ 'with the fox'

2.180 Instrumental Case: means by which. This case corresponds least to any one set of prepositions or other constructions in English, and also varies widely dialectally in Tamil. Basically the form of the instrumental case marker is /-aale/ but some dialects use this only with pronouns, e.g. /avan-aale/ 'because of him'. Other dialects use /-ooTe/, the associative case marker, with inanimate nouns to express instrumentality, as in /rikSaavooTe/ 'by rikshaw'. Most dialects use the locative /-le/ to express 'by means of' with modes of transportation, e.g. /bas-le/ 'by bus'. In some dialects no genuine instrumental case marker is found, and post-

positions such as /muulam/ 'by means of' or /otavi / 'help' are used instead. Sometimes both are used, as in /DepTi rejiSTraar otavi muulam .../ 'under the auspices of (with the help of) the deputy registrar' In still other cases, verbal constructions substitute for a true instrumental case construction, e.g. /soop eTuttu tovekkalaam/ '(one) may wash (it) with soap' ('taking soap, one may wash'). Since recent research on English causatives and instrumental constructions has shown this semantic area to be rather complex, further statements about Tamil constructions of this sort would be highly tentative. (Cf. section 2.3 on postpositions for the equivalents of other English prepositions.)

Note that /-aale/ alternates with the dative with /muTiyum/ 'be able'.

en-aale	pooka-	muTiyum	
en-akku	pooka-	muTiyum	'I can go.' (By/to me go(ing) possible.)
1	2	3	4

2.2 Postpositions. For certain notions expressed in English by prepositions, Tamil case endings are not sufficient. Instead, additional 'postpositions' are added after the case marker. For all practical purposes, these are not suffixes, but separate free forms. Example: /kooyil/ + /-ukku/ 'dative case marker' + /pakkattle/ 'near' --> /kooyilukku pakkattle/ 'near the temple'. Different postpositions take different case markers and do not seem to be predictable -- some even follow the nominative. The reason for this may be that many postpositions seem to be derived historically from verbs, so that the case marker which occurs with them is governed by some semantic or syntactic properties of the original verb.

2.21. Postpositions occurring with the nominative:

2.211 ceentu 'together'. ceentu is derived from the past participle of the verb ceer meaning 'join (intransitive)' or 'come together'. It is used when the main verb of the sentence is intransitive. (For usage with transitive verbs, cf. ceettu 'together', section 2. 41.)

e.g. avanka reNTu peerum ceentu vantaanka.
The two of them came together, i.e..
arrived simultaneously.

2.212 muulam 'with, by means of, through (the agency of), under the auspices of.'

e.g. depTi rejiSTraar otavi muulam
Under the auspices of the deputy registrar,
with the help of the deputy registrar.

2.213 varekkum (also vare, vareyle) 'up to, until'

1. following nominative case:

eeRu maNi varekkum 'up to, until 7:00'

2. following adjectival participle:

campalam vaankra varekkum 'until (one) draws (one's) pay'

avaru varra varekkum 'until he comes; up to the point when he comes'

2.22 Postpositions occurring with the oblique (genitive): Note that nouns which do not have an oblique form distinct from the nominative form appear to have the postpositions in this section attached to the nominative.

2.221 kuuTe 'along with'. This postposition has the same meaning and operates the same way syntactically as /-ooTe/.

en kuuTe 'with me'

attan kuuTe 'with brother-in-law'

Note that kuuTe or kuuTa also means 'also, too' as in

avaru kuuTe (avar-um) pooraaru 'he's going too'

2.222 meele 'above, on top of, after (with time expressions)

1. with genitive/oblique: on top of the upper surface of, in contact with the upper surface of

marattu meele 'on top of the tree'

meece meele 'on the table'

2. with dative, cf. section 2.234

2.223 pakkam 'near, in the vicinity of, by'

en pakkam 'near me, in my vicinity'

namna jannal pakkam 'near the window'

meTraas pakkam 'near Madras, in the Madras
area, Madras side (Indian English)'

2.224 toNeyle 'in the company of, with'

enka toNeyle 'with us'

This form is rare in metropolitan dialects, and perhaps occurs only in dialects influenced by Kannada.

2.225 ucciyle 'top, at, on the top of'

marattu ucciyle 'at, on the top of the tree'

2.226 kiiRe 'below, under' (in some dialects, kiile)

1. with genitive/oblique: underneath and in contact with the underside of a thing.

viittu kiiRe 'under the house'

2. with dative: cf. section 2.23

2.227 -Nte, aNte 'near' (Brahmin dialect)

avar-aNte 'near him'

cuvar-aNte 'near the wall'

2.23 Postpositions occurring with the dative.

2.231 aaka 'for the sake of, on behalf of'

onkaLukk-aaka 'for you, for your benefit'

carkaarukk-aaka 'for the government'

2.232 aTiyle 'at the base, foot of'

marattukku aTiyle 'at the foot, base of the tree'

2.233 etire 'opposite, across from; contrary to, against'

viittukku etire 'across from, opposite the house'

2.234 meele 'above, on top of, after (with time expressions)'

1. with dative: above but not touching

marattukku meele 'above the tree'

2. after (with time expressions)

aaru maNikki meele 'after 6:00'

3. with oblique: cf. 2.222

2.235 pakkattule 'near, in the vicinity of'

viittukku pakkattule 'near the house'

2.236 uLLe 'by, within (with time expressions), into the inside of' (with locative expressions)

1. time expressions (txp)

aaru maNikk-uLLe 'by 6:00, within the period ending 6:00'

atukk-uLLe 'by then, already then'

itukku-uLLe 'by now, already'

2. locative expressions (1xp)

kooyilukk-uLLe 'into the interior of the temple'

2.237 badilaa 'instead of'

itukku badilaa 'instead of this'

2.238 pinnaale 'after'

itukku pinnaale 'after this'

2.239 munnaale 'before'

caappiTatukku munnaale 'before eating'

2.24 Postpositions occurring with the accusative.

2.241 ceettu 'together'. Historically, ceettu is the past participle of the transitive verb ceer 'join, cause to come together, bring together'.

This post-position occurs only with transitive verbs.

pustakankaLe ceettu kuTutteen 'I gave the books together'

reNTu kaTitankaLe ceettu anuppineen 'I sent the two letters together'

cf. ceentu 'together' with intransitive verbs 2.211.

2.242 patti 'about, concerning the topic of, regarding' (Not 'about' in the sense 'approximately' or 'around'.)

ate patti kavale paTaate 'Don't worry about that'

ite pattiyum peecinaaraa? 'Did he talk about this too?'

avarukku paNam ille-nkrate patti marantiTTeen 'I forgot about the fact that he doesn't have any money'

2.243 paattu 'at, to, towards'. paattu is derived from the past participle of the verb paar 'see' and literally means 'having seen' but used with certain verbs, notably verbs such as ciri 'laugh', keel 'ask', kole 'bark' and other words involving the senses and perception, it means 'direct the attention toward'.

avane paattu keeTTaala? 'Did she listen to him?'

naayi kaakkaaye paattu koleccatu 'the dog barked at the crow'

It is clear, however, that paattu does not mean 'see' literally in such examples since the subject of the verb can even be kuruTan 'blind man' which semantically cannot occur with paar 'see'.

kuruTan tiruTane paattu ciriccaan 'The blind man laughed at the thief' (rather than 'The blind man looked at the thief and laughed')

2.244 tavira 'besides, except (for)'

enne tavira 'besides me'

aracaankattu otaviye tavira 'besides the government assistance'

2.3 NP-ooTa NP-aa: 'extended time or accompaniment'

2.31 The construction NP-ooTa NP-aa is basically a temporal construction. That is, if the NP is a 'time expression', the meaning indicates extended time as in:

raattri-ooTa raattri-aa: all through the night
night after night
night in and night out

naaL-ooTa naaL-aa: all day long
day after day
day in and day out

2.32 However, with non-time expressions the meaning 'along with X' or 'accompanying X' is expressed.

kuuTTattooTa kuuTTamaa 'along with the crowd'

caamaan-ooTa caamaan-aa 'along with the baggage'

kaSTattooTa kaSTamaa 'along with these troubles'

2.33 Note that only mass nouns can be used in this non-temporal type of construction. When the noun denotes a single unit, accompaniment is expressed with -ooTa only, as in

pustakatt-ooTa 'with the book, along with the book'

3.0 The Verb: Introduction

3.1 Imperative; Infinitive

3.2 Forms of Address

3.3 Finite Verbs - Tense

3.4 Infinitive/Transitive/Intransitive - Causative

3.5 Modals

3.6 Aspect Markers

3.7 Negative (cf. section 6.1)

3.8 Defective Forms

3.9 Verbalizers

3.0 The Verb - Verb Stem. In a simple sentence, Tamil verbs are usually found in one of two forms--finite or non-finite. Finite verbs are complete as they stand; non-finite forms require some additional suffix, another clause, or another syntactic construction to make the sentence they occur in complete and grammatical. Finite verbs usually end a sentence; non-finite verbs never do.

The simplest form of the verb is called the stem, and verbs are listed in most dictionaries in the stem form. It is identical to the simple imperative in most cases.

3.1 Imperatives and Infinitives

3.11 The Imperative. Tamil verbs exhibit a number of forms which express commands or exhortations. These are the imperative singular non-polite, the imperative singular polite, and the imperative plural polite. There is also the 'hortative' form which is actually the modal 'may', but which can also be interpreted as a 1st person plural imperative 'let's (do something)'.

Verbs are ordinarily listed in the dictionary in the stem form which is identical to the imperative singular non-polite form. Suffixes are then added directly to this stem. This is the formally least complex of all verb forms.

<u>sg. non-polite</u>	<u>sg. polite*</u>	<u>plural, polite</u>
Ø	-um, -rum	-nka(L)
vaa 'come'	vaarum	vaa-nka
poo 'go'	poo-rum	poo-nka
paTi 'read'	paTiyum	paTi(yu)nka

* This form is rare in most dialects.

3.12 Imperative plus een 'why'. When een 'why' is affixed to the imperative, the meaning is 'why don't (you) (verb)' or 'why not (verb)'.

marupaTiyum paar-een 'why don't you see/look again'
 taa-yeen 'why don't you give'
 poonkaL-een 'why don't you go'

3.13 Negative Imperative. The Negative Imperative, expressing 'do not do such-and-such', is formed by adding the suffix -aate or -aate-nka (polite) to the infinitive of the verb.

var-aate 'don't come'
 pook-aate-nka 'please don't go'
 kavale paT-aate 'please don't worry'
 tuunk-aate-nka 'please don't sleep'

Occasionally, the prohibitive kuuTaatu 'one must not, should not' (which is the negative of the modals -laam and (vee)Num is used to express the same notion as the negative imperative:

tuppa-kuuTaatu! 'Do not spit!'

3.2 Forms of address. In Tamil there are a number of suffixes found in a sentence which indicate the amount of respect the speaker accords the addressee (or some other person). In Indian society the choice is determined by the relative social status of the interlocutors. Westerners are generally accorded high status in India, and addressed with high-status respect suffixes.

3.21 Singular Polite. This form is rarely used, except in somewhat ambiguous social relationships, such as with tradesmen of low status, fairly good friends of equal status, and in general where one would not want to be either particularly respectful or disrespectful. Westerners may find it more comfortable to use this form where Tamilians would use the non-polite form. Formally, this category is realized as a suffix /-um/ added to the verb-stem (sg. non-pol. form). Examples: /pooTum/ 'give, serve'; /vaankikkoorum/ 'take along'. If the verb-stem ends in a vowel, as in the previous form, a morphophonemic /-r-/ is inserted between the vowel and the /-um/ suffix.

3.22 Plural (honorific) Polite -(u)nka(L).

Polite (honorific) plural. This form is used when addressing people of equal or higher status, older relatives (such as older brothers), and one's husband. Westerners will probably almost always be safe using this form, except to children or servants. The form of this suffix is /-(u)nka(L)/. This is added to the verb-stem or to any other sentence final word. Examples: /poonka/ 'please go'; /ceyyunka/ 'please do'; /vaa-nka/ 'please come'.

3.23 Honorific -(u)nka(L).

Other uses. The honorific suffix /-(u)nka(L)/ is often added to non-verbs in sentence-final position: /illenka/ 'no, Sir'; /aamaanka/ 'yes, Sir'; /pattu maNiyunka/ 'It's 10:00, Sir.' This happens especially often in western dialects. The morphophonemic /-u-/ may be deleted after a vowel. The morphophonemic /L/ is present if a question marker /-aa?/ or other clitic is present: /ancu maNiyunkaLaa?/ 'Is it 5:00, Sir?'

3.24 Singular Non-Polite.

Singular non-polite. The form is the same as that listed for verb stem in most dictionaries. Examples: /kuTu/ 'give', /paaru/ 'see', /vaankikko/ 'take along'. This form is used with one's younger relatives, small children, servants, good friends, and one's wife. Used with other people it implies disrespect.

3.25 Hortative -laam.

Hortative. The suffix /-laam/ is added to the infinitive of the verb. Examples: /poo-ka-laam/ 'let's go', /paa-kka-laam/ 'let's see'. Of course this form is homophonous with the modal 'one may (do something)'. The semantic difference becomes obvious when an answer is given--the affirmative answer to the hortative is /cari/ 'all right, okay', while the affirmative answer to the modal is /aamaam/ 'yes'. For example, Q: /pookalaamaa?/ A: /cari/. 'Shall we go?' 'Okay, let's.' Q: /pookalaamaa?/ A: /aamaam, pookalaam/ 'May (I) go?' 'Yes, you may.' In the

hortative, the addressee is included in the exhortation. Therefore, if used without deleted pronoun, the inclusive 1st person plural /naama/ must be chosen. If used with the exclusive /naanka/ it cannot mean 'let's' but only 'modal'. Thus: /naama pookalaamaa?/ 'Shall we go?', /naanka pookalaamaa?/ 'Is it all right for us to go?'

3.26 Other address forms. The forms discussed below are used differently from situation to situation, family to family, dialect area to dialect area. The categories discussed below are to give the student some insight into the general use of these suffixes, rather than to legislate usage.

3.261 a) (a)Taa and (a)Tii (non-polite). -Taa is usually used in addressing small male children and close male friends that are younger than the speaker. (Remember that these are non-polite forms.) For addressing female children and close female friends, -Tii may be used.

b) (a)Taa with female child. -Taa may also be used to address a female child, usually affectionately. Use of this form assumes great familiarity with the child; usually only parents or relatives use this form of address.

c) Use of (a)Taa and (a)Tii with non-kin. These forms are generally used when addressing non-kin of much lower social status than the speaker, often pejoratively and/or in anger.

3.262 (a)ppaa and (a)mmaa (polite).

a) Both (a)ppaa and (a)mmaa (feminine); when addressing persons younger than the speaker or persons of lower professional or social status or between friends.

inke vaappaa or inke vaankappaa

b) Both (a)ppaa and (a)mmaa are also used in the imperative when addressing mother and father; when used in this way, (a)ppaa and (a)mmaa is honorific.

3.263 (a)yyaa and (a)mmaa (polite).

a) (a)yyaa (masculine) and (a)mmaa (feminine). These forms differ from those in 3.262 since they may be added to both the polite and non-polite imperatives. They are usually used to address elders or another person considered to be the speaker's equal. When used with forms other than imperative, the polite distinctions are not apparent.

inke vaayyaa 'come here, man'

3.264 -aNNaacci, -aNNaa; akkaa; tampi. The address forms, (a)NNaa(cci), (a)kkaa, and tampi are essentially kinship terms: elder brother, elder sister, younger brother, respectively. When used with non-kin, they combine politeness and familiarity, for example, when exaggerated politeness (-nka), etc. would be inappropriate because of age similarities (as with (a)NNaa(cci) and (a)kkaa), or when a low status older speaker addresses a higher status younger speaker (tampi). In the play singil Tii, Sundaram addresses the robbers with -(a)NNaa(cci) for 'solidarity with politeness' while in aaru maNikkuL, the various delivery men address kaNNan with tampi because they are older but of lower status.

3.3 Finite Verbs. One of the commonest types of finite verbs is the verb which is marked for tense and for person, number and gender (PNG). Verbs which are marked for PNG are always marked for tense, although some tense-marked verbs are not marked for PNG. Such PNG-less, tense-marked verbs are called 'non-finite verbs'.

Verbs marked for tense and PNG have the following structure: They consist of the verb stem, usually identical with the non-polite imperative stem, plus a tense marker and finally a PNG marker.

Example: /iru/ + /kk/ + /een/ -- 'I am'
 'stem' 'present' '1st person sg.'
 ('be') tense' PNG

 /var/ + /r/ + /aaru/ -- 'He comes'
 'stem' 'pres.' '3rd person pl.'
 ('come') PNG

As is obvious from these examples, not all verbs have the same present tense marker. In fact, Tamil verbs must be divided into several classes, depending on which tense-markers they require.

Depending on one's linguistic bias, Tamil verbs can be arranged into as few as three or as many as thirteen classes, according to the consonantal alternations which occur when tense markers are added to the stem. For pedagogical purposes, it is probably best to set up about five classes and handle exceptional verbs by applying certain rules to them. Verbs are listed below by stems (identical in most cases to the imperative) followed by the English gloss, then the infinitive, the present, the past, and the future.

3.310 I. 'Strong verbs' characterized by tense markers kk/nt/pp. Verbs with final /i, e/ and /y/ in the stem, change /tt/ to /cc/ and /nt/ to /nc/ automatically (Dr. Graul's Class VI).

/eTu/ 'take'; eTukka, eTukkr-, eTutt-, eTupp-
 /paTu/ 'lie'; paTukka, paTukkr-, paTutt-, paTupp-
 /kuTu/ 'give'; kuTukka, kuTukkr-, kuTutt-, kuTupp-
 /vay/ 'put, keep'; vekka, vekkr-, vecc-, vepp-
 /paTi/ 'study, read'; paTikka paTikkr-, paTicc-, paTipp-
 /came/ 'cook'; camekka, camekkr-, camecc-, camepp-

II. Tense markers kk/nt/pp (Dr. Graul's Class VII).

/iru/ 'be'; irukka, irukkr-, irunt-, irupp-
 /naTa/ 'walk'; naTakka naTakkr-, naTant-, naTapp-

3.311 'Weak' verbs, with tense markers r/in/v- (Dr. Graul's Classes I and III).

/collu/ 'say'; colla, col(lu)r-, conn-, colluv- (This verb is exceptional in that the /l/ assimilates in the past.)

/koNTuppoo/ 'take (a thing) cf. /poo/ 'go'

/kuuTTikTuppoo/ 'take (someone)' cf. /poo/ 'go'

/peecu/ 'speak'; peeca, peecur-, peecin-, peecuv-

/poo/ 'go'; pooka, poor-, poon-, poov- (also exceptional in the past)

/vaanka/ 'buy, acquire, get, fetch'; vaanka, vaankur, vaankin-, vaankuv-

3.312 Similar to 3.311 but with different past marker (not classified by Dr. Graul).

/vaa/ 'come'; vara, varr-, vant-, varuv-

/koNTuvaa, koNTaa/ 'bring (a thing)' cf. /vaa/ 'come'

/kuuTTikTuvaa/ 'bring (someone)' cf. /vaa/ 'come'

3.313 Verbs with present and future like 3.311 but past with double retroflex consonant (Dr. Graul's Class V). Stems usually have /T/ as last consonant, but not all verbs with /T/ belong to this class, e.g., /paaTu/ 'sing' belongs to Class 3.311 (III).

/caappiTu/ 'eat'; caappiTa, caappiTr-, caappiTT-, caappiTuv-

/pooTu/ 'put, serve'; pooTa, pooTr-, pooTT-, pooTuv-

/pooTukkoo/ 'put on'; pooTukka, pooTukkr-, pooTukkiTT-, pooTukkuv-

Almost all other verbs in colloquial Tamil can be assigned to one of the above classes or sub-classes.

3.320. The Verb: Person-Number-Gender Agreement. Most Tamil finite verbs are marked for "agreement" in person, number and gender (PNG) with their subjects. ("Finite" verbs are verbs which can stand alone in a sentence without needing another verb, auxiliary verb, or whatever, to make the sentence complete and grammatical.) This means that a suffix, called a PNG marker, is added to the verb; it follows the tense marker and is the same for all tenses, except for the neuter present and future, which does not have the same form as the neuter PNG marker in the past, for example. Furthermore, some verbs have unpredictable neuter PNG forms in the past, as well. Non-neuter PNG markers, however, are regular.

The following are paradigms of the verbs /vaa/ 'come', /poo/ 'go', /paar/ 'see', /iru/ 'be located', /caappiTu/ 'eat', /vaanku/ 'buy, fetch, get, take', /vantiTu/ 'come for sure', /paTi/ 'study'.

3.321 /vaa/ 'come'. Infinitive: /vara-/ 'having come' /vantu/

	<u>Present/Immed. Fut.</u>	<u>Past</u>	<u>Indefinite/Future</u>
1st sg.	naan var-r-een	naan va-nt-een	naan var-u-veen
2nd sg.	nii var-r-ee	nii va-nt-ee	nii var-u-vee
3rd sg. m.	avan var-r-aan	avan va-nt-aan	avan var-u-vaan
f.	ava var-r-aa	ava va-nt-aa	ava var-u-vaa
n.	atu var-r-atu	atu va-nt-atu	atu var-um* N.B.
1st pl.	(excl) naanka } (incl) naama }	naanka } naama }	naanka } naama }
	var-r-oom	va-nt-oom	var-uv-oom
2nd pl. (pol)	niinka var-r-iinka	niinka va-nt-iinka	niinka var-uv-iinka
3rd pl. (pol)	avaru var-r-aaru	avaru-va-nt-aaru	avaru var-uv-aaru

3.322 /poo/ 'go'. Infinitive: /pooka/ 'having gone' /pooyi/

	<u>Present</u>	<u>Past</u>	<u>Future</u>
1st sg.	naan poo-r-een	poo-n-een	poo-v-een
2nd sg.	nii poo-r-ee	poo-n-ee	poo-v-ee
3rd sg. m.	avan poo-r-aan	poo-n-aan	poo-v-aan
f.	ava poo-r-aa	poo-n-aa	poo-v-aa
n.	atu poo-r-atu	(poo-n-atu) pooccu	poo-k-um* N.B.
1st pl.	naanka } naama }	poo-n-oom	poo-v-oom
	poo-r-oom		
2nd pl.	niinka poo-r-iinka	poo-n-iinka	poo-v-iinka
3rd pl.	avaru poo-r-aaru	poo-n-aaru	poo-v-aaru
	avanka poo-r-aanka	poo-n-aanka	poo-v-aanka

Note: /kuuTTikTuvaa/ 'bring someone' and /kuuTTikTuppoo/ 'take someone' and /koNTuvaa/ 'bring something' and /koNTuppoo/ 'take something' are conjugated like /vaa/ and /poo/ respectively. /koNTuvaa/ sometimes has the form /koNTaa/ but it still conjugated like /vaa/.

3.323	<u>/paaru/ 'see'</u>	<u>Infinitive: /paakka/ 'having seen'</u>	<u>/paattu/</u>	
	paa-kkr-een	paa-tt-een	paa-pp-een	
	paa-kkr-ee	paa-tt-ee	paa-pp-ee	
	paa-kkr-aan	paa-tt-aan	paa-pp-aan	
	paa-kkr-atu	paa-tt-atu	paa-kk-um*	N.B.
	paa-kkr-oom	paa-tt-oom	paa-pp-oom	
	paa-kkr-iinka	paa-tt-iinka	paa-pp-iinka	
	paa-kkr-aanka	paa-tt-aanka	paa-pp-aanka	

3.324	<u>/iru/ 'be located'</u>	<u>Infinitive: /irukka/ 'having been'</u>	<u>/iruntu/</u>	
	irukkreen	irunteen	iruppeen	
	irukkree	iruntee	iruppee	
	irukkraan	iruntaan	iruppaan	
	irukkraa	iruntaa	iruppaa	
	irukku (irukkatu)*	iruntatu	irukkum*	N.B.
	irukkroom	iruntoom	iruppoom	
	irukkriinka	iruntiinka	iruppiinka	
	irukkraaru	iruntaaru	iruppaaru	
	irukkraanka	iruntaanka	iruppaanka	

Note: /vantirukkreen/ 'I have come', etc. are conjugated like /iru/.

/veeleppaaru/ 'to work' is conjugated like /paaru/.

3.325 /caappiTu/ 'eat' Infinitive: /caappiTa/ 'having eaten' /caappiTtu/

<u>Present</u>	<u>PastPast</u>	<u>Future</u>	
caappiT-r-eeen	caappiT-T-eeen	caappiT-uv-eeen	
caappiT-r-ee	caappiT-T-ee	caappiT-uv-ee	
caappiT-r-aan	caappiT-T-aan	caappiT-uv-aan	
caappiT-r-aa	caappiT-T-aa	caappiT-uv-aa	
caappiT-r-atu*	caappiT-T-atu*	caappiT-um*	N.B.

*(usually, a different verb, /tinnu/, is used with neuters)

caappiT-r-oom	caappiT-T-oom	caappiT-uv-oom
caappiTtriinka	caappiTtiinka	caappiTuviinka
caappiTraaru	caappiTtaaru	caappiTuvaaru
caappiTraanka	caappiTtaanka	caappiTuvaanka

3.326 /vaanku/ 'buy' Infinitive: /vaanka/ 'having bought' /vaanki/

vaankureen	vaankineen	vaankuveen
vaankuree	vaankinee	vaankuvee
vaankuraan	vaankinaan	vaankuvaan
vaankuraa	vaankinaa	vaankuvaa
vaankuratu	vaankinatu	vaankum
vaankuroom	vaankinoom	vaankuvoom
vaankuriinka	vaankiniinka	vaankuviinka
vaankuraaru	vaankinaaru	vaankuvaaru
vaankuraanka	vaankinaanka	vaankuvaanka

3.327 /vantiTu/ 'definitely come' Infinitive: /vantiTa/ 'having definitely come' /vantiTtu/

This verb is conjugated like /caappiTu/, e.g.:

vantiT-r-eeen	vantiT-T-eeen	vantiT-uv-eeen
vantiT-r-ee	vantiT-T-ee	vantiT-uv-ee
etc.		

Note that in some dialects, the present and future forms sometimes have /-r-/ instead of /-T-/, e.g. they have forms like the following:

vantir-r-eeen

vantir-uv-eeen

but all dialects have the past with /-TT/, as above.

3.328 /paTi/ 'study' Infinitive: /paTikka/ 'having studied' /paTiccu/

paTi-kkr-eeen

paTi-cc-eeen

pati-pp-eeen

(etc., like
/paaru/ 'see')

paTi-cc-ee

(etc., like /paaru/)

paTi-cc-aan

paTi-cc-aa

paTi-cc-atu

paTi-cc-oom

paTi-cc-iinka

paTi-cc-aaru

paTi-cc-aanka

Note: All verbs with stems that end in /-e-/, /-i-/, or /y/ of the strong type (with /kk-/ present and /pp/ future) will have the past in /-cc-/. Otherwise, they are just like verbs with /tt/ pasts.

3.329 Neuters

3.330 Neuter Past. Some verbs also have an irregular neuter past, i.e., PNG marker or verb stem different from that of other verbs is used for the neuter past of these verbs.

The verbs /poo/ 'go' and /aaku/ 'become' have the past neuter forms /poo-ccu/ and /aa-ccu/, respectively. The expected forms /*poo-n-atu/ and /*aa-n-atu/ do not occur.

In some dialects, the neuter past marker /ccu/ or /-cci/ is beginning to be used with verbs other than /poo/ and /aaku/, i.e., one also encounters forms like /aayTucci/ or /aayrucci/, /pooyTuccu/ or /pooyrucci/, etc. For some speakers, the /-cci/ form is used only with the verbs /poo/ and /aaku/ even if aspectually marked, i.e., as in these examples where the completive aspect marker /(vi)Tu/ is present.

For still other speakers, however, the /-ccu/-cci/ past neuter is used with many other verbs as well, so that one encounters forms like /colli-cci/ 'it said' instead of the expected /conn-atu/, /vant-icci/ instead of /vant-atu/, etc. We will consider the use of /-ccu/-cci/ to be "standard" only with /poo/ and /aaku/, although its use with other verbs is not wrong. It is helpful, however, to remember that in Literary Tamil, the literary equivalent of /-ccu/ occurs usually only with /poo/ and /aaku/, and all other verbs have the "regular" neuter past. A minor exception to this statement is that the use of /-ccu/ as a neuter past is optional with the so-called Class

III verbs (those in 3.326) in LT, but not required. Thus, LT Class III verbs like vaanku may have neuter past வாங்கிற்று . Thus, the spoken equivalent vaankicci is not as unusual as is the occurrence of /cci/ with, e.g., iru 'be' as in irunticci (LT இருந்திது).

3.331 Neuter Future. The neuter future is exceptional also in that the regular future tense markers /-pp, p-/ or /-v-/ do not occur. Instead, the neuter future is formed by the addition of the suffix -um to the infinitive of the verb (cf. 3.340).

3.340 The Infinitive

3.341 Of strong verbs. The suffix /-kka/ is affixed to strong verb stems to form the infinitive. If the root of the strong verb ends in /-ru, -lu, -llu/ or /-Lu/, these endings are dropped before /-kka/.

e.g. naTa: naTakka 'to walk'; keeLu: keekka 'to ask, hear'

3.342 Other verbs. Most other verbs use -a as the infinitive morpheme; this ending is added directly to the verb stem. The final vowel of the root is always deleted.

e.g. collu: colla 'to tell'; caappiTu: caappiTa 'to eat'

3.343 Exceptions. The infinitives of the following verbs are irregular:

poo: pooka 'to go'

koNTaa: koNTaara 'to bring'

vaa: vara 'to come'

taa: tara 'to serve, give, bring'

3.4 Transitivity, causation and verb classes. In Tamil there is a syntactic (and semantic) distinction between verbs which corresponds in most languages to what is called intransitive/transitive, or causative/non-causative. This has to do with whether an action has an object (either animate or inanimate) or whether it takes place without affecting some other person or thing.

Many native speakers of Tamil intuitively feel that the distinction in their language is not one of cause and effect but one of volition. That is, the important thing is whether an action is performed with the free will of the agent or whether his will is controverted or somehow impeded in its function.

3.41 Phonological correlates of transitive/intransitive distinction. Whatever this distinction is in Tamil, it is not only a semantic/syntactic one, but also in some cases a phonological one, i.e., a transitive verb is distinguishable from an intransitive one, in some cases, by its phonological characteristics.

In English we also have pairs like 'sit' and 'set' ('cause to sit'), 'fall' and 'fell' ('cause to fall'), 'lie' and 'lay' ('cause to lie'), 'drink' and 'drench' ('cause to drink'), but aside from this small list, there are few others. Many English verbs can be either transitive or intransitive, e.g., 'hang' ('be suspended') and 'hang' ('suspend (something)').

In Tamil there are many more sets like these English pairs, and it appears that historically this distinction may have been pervasive and all-inclusive, at least

from the evidence in Proto-Dravidian. However, in the development of the language some of the phonological characteristics have become lost or obliterated. Some, nevertheless, do remain and still function.

3.42 Strong/weak versus transitive/intransitive. The most obvious phonological characteristic which distinguishes trans(itive) from intrans(itive) verbs is that which has been called the distinction between strong verbs (those with present tense marker -kkr, past marker tt/cc, and future marker pp) and weak verbs (present tense marker -r, past in, etc., and future v). Strong verbs are usually transitive/causative and weak verbs are usually intransitive/non-causative.

Examples of strong intransitive verbs are numerous, and need not be listed, as is also the case for weak intransitive verbs.

3.421 Exceptions. The exceptions to the statement in 3.42, however, are more interesting:

<u>Strong intransitive:</u>	iru 'be' (iru <u>kk</u> reen, iru <u>n</u> teen, iru <u>p</u> peen) naTa 'walk' (na <u>Ta</u> kkreen, na <u>Ta</u> n <u>t</u> een, na <u>Ta</u> p <u>pe</u> en)
<u>Weak transitive:</u>	cey 'do' (cey <u>r</u> een, ce <u>n</u> ceen, ce <u>y</u> veen) pooTu 'put' (poo <u>T</u> reen, poo <u>T</u> een, poo <u>Tu</u> veen)

3.43 Other patterns distinguishing transitive/intransitive. Aside from the usual situation described in 3.24, there are some other phonological characteristics of verbs which follow various sorts of patterns.

3.431 Strong verbs with contrast of nt/tt in the past. Some transitive/intransitive pair of verbs are identical in the present and future markers, but contrast in the past in that the intransitive member has nt past while the transitive member has tt past.

naTa (intrans.) 'walk' kkr, nt, pp

naTa (trans.) 'cause to walk, run; manage' kkr, tt, pp

3.432 Stems with NC versus CC. Other pairs are distinguished by a contrast between stems with a nasal consonant plus homorganic stop in the intransitive versus no nasal but double consonant stop in the transitive/causative.

tirumpu (intrans.) 'return, come back'

tiruppu (trans.) 'return (something), bring back'

Sometimes there are verbs where the semantic relationship is obscured historically, as in:

tuunku 'sleep' tuukku 'lift'

The semantic relationship here may have originally been tuunku 'hang' (e.g. in a hammock) vs. tuukku 'hang something' (e.g. hang up a hammock).

(Continued on p. 80).

3.5 Modal auxiliaries. In English the so-called modal auxiliaries 'may, can, must, might, should, ought, could', etc., have their Tamil equivalents in forms which are attached to the infinitive of the verb. If that verb happens to be aspectually marked (cf. 3.6) the modal is attached to the infinitive of the aspect marker. The negative forms of the modals differ from the positive forms, often strikingly, but behave syntactically the same.

<u>English</u>	<u>Tamil</u>	<u>Negative</u>
can; be able	-muTiyum*	-muTiyalle; (habitual) muTiyaatu
may; let's	-laam	-kuuTaatu "should not"
must, should, ought	-Num	-veeNTaam "need not"
let; may	-TTum	-kuuTaatu, -veeNTaam

<u>Examples:</u>	<u>Positive</u>	<u>Negative</u>	
'(x) can come'	vara-muTiyum	vara-muTiyalle vara-muTiyaatu	'(x) was not able to come' 'can not come'
'(x) may go'	pooka-laam	pooka-kuuTaatu	'(x) may not go'
'let's go'			'(x) should not go'
'(x) must eat'	caappiTa-Num	caappiTa-veeNTaam	'(x) need not eat'
'(x) may bring'	koNTaara-TTum	koNTaara-kuuTaatu	'(x) should not, may not bring'
'let (x) bring'		koNTaara-veeNTaam	'(x) need not bring'

Since modals are never marked for PNG, the same forms are used regardless of the person-number-gender of (x), the subject.

3.51 Homonymy with lexical verbs. Note that some of the modals in 3.5 as well as some of the aspect markers in 3.6 ff. seem to resemble certain "lexical" or "main" verbs. An example above is muTi (II v.i.) 'he finished'. These modals and aspect markers are best kept separate from lexical verbs, as their meanings are quite different. Historically, they may be derived from or related to lexical verbs, but in the modern language, equating them causes more problems to arise than it solves.

3.52 Use of the aspect marker /aaku/ with the modal /Num/. The aspect marker /aaku/ (cf. 3.615) is often used to indicate that the action of the main verb to which it is attached is the 'expected result'. Thus, a sentence like /poosT vant-aaccu/ means 'the mail has come, as someone expected', or 'the mail finally came'.

When the modal /Num/ 'must' is affixed to a verb marked with the aspect marker /aaku/, the construction means 'x must happen because y expects it' and thus indicates that a great deal of certainty or definiteness is involved. This is perhaps equivalent to the English adverb 'absolutely' rather than 'definitely', i.e. 'You absolutely have to come' for many speakers is more definite than 'You definitely have to come'. Compare:

niinka vara-Num	You must come.
niinka vant-iTa-Num	You definitely must come.
niinka vant-aaka-Num	You absolutely have to come.

Since /aaku/ is an aspect marker, it is added to the past stem of the verb.

3.6 Verbal Aspect Markers. In Tamil, certain suffixes can be added to a verb which add certain verbal semantic nuances to the meaning of the sentence. These nuances have to do with such things as relative time, completeness or definiteness of the action, duration of the action, simultaneity of one action with another, etc. In English, some of these notions are supplied by using auxiliaries such as "have", "be(-ing)", or by using adverbs such as "definitely", "while", "for sure", etc.

In Tamil these "aspect markers" are added to the past stem of the verb in the place of PNG markers, and then tense markers, modals, or whatever, are added to the aspect marker, followed by PNG markers, if applicable. (PNG markers are never added to modals, so if a modal follows the aspect marker, there will be no PNG.) Verbs which have past tense suffixes in /-in/, such as /vaanku/ 'buy', past /vaankin-een/ delete the /-n/ before adding aspect markers. Verbs like /poo/ 'go' and /aaku/ 'become, happen' have the forms /pooy/ and /aay/ before aspect markers, e.g., /pooy-iTa-Num/ '(one) must definitely go'; and /aay-Tu-cci/ '(it) definitely happened'.

3.610 Inventory of Aspect Markers.

<u>Aspect Marker</u>	<u>Meaning</u>	<u>Example</u>
<u>(v)iTu</u>	definitely, completely, for sure	vant- <u>iTu</u> -nka 'be <u>sure</u> to come' pooy- <u>iTa</u> -laam 'one may go <u>along</u> ' paattu- <u>TT</u> -een 'I <u>definitely</u> saw'
<u>iru</u>	"perfect" tense ("action was already past with reference to the present") "stative" "suppositional"	vant-irukkreen 'I <u>have</u> come' pooy- <u>irunt</u> -appa 'when (x) went and <u>stayed</u> ' paatt- <u>irukka</u> -Num '(x) must <u>have</u> seen' maRe penc- <u>irukku</u> 'it <u>seems to have</u> rained'
<u>kiTTiru</u>	"durative"	eturpaattu- <u>kiTTirukkroom</u> 'we have <u>been</u> expecting, we <u>were</u> expecting' vantu- <u>kiTTirukkreen</u> 'I <u>am</u> coming'

<u>koo</u>	"reflexive"	vaanki- <u>kkoo</u> -nka 'buy <u>for yourself</u> '
	"simultaneous"	pooTTu- <u>kiTTu</u> 'while <u>wearing</u> '
<u>aaccu</u>	"finality"	vant- <u>aaccu</u> 'it <u>finally</u> came'
	"expected result"	
<u>pooTu</u>	"completive; malicious intent"	eRuti- <u>pooTT</u> -aan 'He wrote it <u>off</u> ' avane konnu- <u>pooTTaanka</u> 'They killed him <u>in cold blood</u> '
<u>taLLU</u>	"completive, distributive"	pustakankaLe kuTuttu- <u>taLnaaru</u> 'He gave the books <u>away</u> '
<u>tole</u>	"completive, impatience, disgust"	pooy- <u>tole</u> ! 'go <u>get lost</u> !'
<u>vay</u>	"future utility", ("in reserve")	ais-waaTTare kuTicci- <u>veppoom</u> 'We'll <u>stock up</u> on ice water'
<u>poo</u>	"completive, change of state"	oTenci- <u>pookum</u> 'it'll <u>get</u> broken'

3.611 /(v)iTu/. When tense markers are added to aspect markers, the aspect markers act like ordinary verbs. /(v)iTu/ is conjugated like /caappiTu/: present /-iTr-/, past /-TT-/, future /-iTuv-/. /iru/ and /kiTTiru/ act like the verb 'be', with past /-nt/, present /-kk-/, and future /-pp-/. /koo/ has the past form /kiTT-/, present /-kar-/, and future /-kov-/. /aaccu/ usually occurs only in the past, and does not agree in PNG with the subject. It may also occur as an infinitive /aaka/. In the present and future, /(v)iTu/ sometimes has the form /-iru/, but should not be confused with the other aspect marker with the same shape.

3.612 /iru/ gives the nuance which we have in English with the perfect tense, i.e., that the result of the action continues, or is still relevant. /naan vant-irukkreen/ 'I have come (and I'm still here).' It must not be confused with /(v)iTu/ although it is easy to do so in dialects where /(v)iTu/ is realized phonetically as /-iru/. However, the tense markers of the two are quite different. /(v)iTu/ has the tense markers /-iTr-/ or /-irr-/ for present; /-iTT-/ for past; and /iTuv-/ or /-iruv-/ for future. /iru/ has the tense markers /-kk-/ for present, /-nt-/ for past, and /-pp-/ for future. Compare:

/ (v) iTu/

/iru/

pres.	vant-iTr- <u>een</u> -irr-	'I am definitely coming'	vant-irukkreen	'I have come'
past	vant-iTT- <u>een</u>	'I definitely came'	vant-irunteen	'I had come, I came and stayed'
fut.	vant-iru- <u>veen</u> -iT <u>u</u> -	'I'll definitely come'	vant-iruppeen	'I will have come'

The form / (v) iTu/ is given for 'completive' with a /v/ in parentheses because, although the /v/ never occurs phonetically, it sometimes conditions the vowel that follows it to become /-u/ or long /-uu/, if preceded by a retroflex consonant, e.g., /caappiTTu/ + / (v) iTTeen/ becomes, in some dialects, /caappiTTuTeen/ 'I definitely ate'.

3.613 /ko-/. The semantic notion provided by this aspect marker is that the action of the lexical verb 'reflects' in some way on the doer of the action. This is usually called 'reflexive' but it is not always clear that this notion characterizes /ko-/ completely. In some cases /ko-/ indicates emphasis of the fact that the speaker is carrying out the action himself, or for his own benefit. The past of /ko-/ is /kiTTu/. In the sentence:

draacee paRam vaanki-kiTTu-pooriinkaLaa? 'Will you take along some grapes?'

/kiTTu/ is best translated into English as 'along (with you)'

ceruppe pooTTu-kiTTu, kooyilukk-uLLe pooka-kuuTaatu.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

'Don't go into a temple while wearing your shoes (having-put on ...)

7 6 5 4 3 2 1 2 3

In this sentence, /kiTTu/ seems to correspond to English 'while (verb)ing'.

3.614 /kiTTiru/. This aspect marker is distinct from /ko-/ or /kiTTu/ or /iru/. It means 'durative' or 'continuing' action. It has the same tense markers as /iru/, namely /-kkr/, /-nt-/, and /-pp-/. We have had sentences with this aspect marker such as:

onkaLe eturpaattu-kiTTiru-kkroom 'We-have been expecting you'

1 2 3 4 4 2 3

Contrast this with:

eturpaatt-irukkroom 'We have expected you'

eturpaatt-oom 'We expected you'

3.615 /aaku/. The semantic notion contributed by this aspect marker is that the action is completed finally, or as expected by the speaker. It occurs only in the past, as /aaccu/, and never agrees in PNG with the subject, or apparent subject, which seems to indicate that the sentence which precedes /aaccu/ is really the subject of /aaccu/. Examples:

tapaal vant-aacu 'The mail came as expected' or 'The mail finally came'

inta kaNakku ellaam paatt-aaccu 'These bills have all been checked'

Because of the non-agreement of the apparent subject with /aaccu/, sentences with this AM often translate best in English by passive constructions, where the "agent" of the action is not specified. This is apparent in the example immediately above; the literal translation might be "the seeing of these bills is finally completed" but the looser, better translation is the passive one shown above. Since Tamil has no real passive, however, the passive translations in English must be attributed to the "agent-less" nature of the Tamil sentence.

For a discussion of the special use of /-aaka/ with the modal /-Num/ 'must, want', cf. 3.52.

3.616 /pooTu/ 'malicious intent'. This AM is basically a completive marker like /viTu/, and has tense markers present /-Tr/, past /-TT-/ and future /-uv/. In some dialects of ST, however, there is a difference between /pooTu/ and /viTu/, namely that the use of /pooTu/ indicates that the speaker attributes mischievous or malicious motives to the subject of the sentence. Examples:

(with viTu) (a) pooliiskaaran tiruTane konnu-TT-aan
The policeman definitely killed the thief.

(with pooTu) (b) pooliiskaaran tiruTane konnu-pooTT-aan
The policeman definitely killed the thief in cold blood.

cuntaram oru periya poyye tuukki-pooTT-aan.
Sundaram mischievously fabricated a big lie.

Often, /pooTu/ is used with a main verb whose meaning already involves the notion of mischief or malice, so that the combination can be rendered in English with one English lexical item, e.g., in (b) above, kill in cold blood might be translated murder.

Phonologically, /pooTTu/ is often reduced to /-puTTu/ or /pTu/ as in /viTTupTu/ 'having definitely (mischievously) left' and /caappiTTuppuTTu/ 'having eaten'.

3.617 /taLLu/ 'riddance'. This AM is also completive but has the additional nuance of 'distributing something to unspecified recipients'. It occurs only with transitive main verbs and acts like a Class III verb as far as tense markers are concerned.

kamalaa pustakankaLe kuTuttu-taLL(i)naa.

Kamala gave the books away.

Because of the nuance of 'unspecified recipients' it is never possible to specify the recipients in a sentence containing the AM taLLu, or to use it in a sentence in which the recipients are specified, e.g.,

*kamalaa pustakankaLe ava koRantekaLukku kuTuttu-taLL-naa

is not a possible sentence in Tamil, just as the translation,

*Kamala gave the books away to her children

is also strange.

3.618 /tole/ 'impatience, disgust'. The use of /tole/ indicates that the speaker is impatient or disgusted with either the behavior or the personality of some second or third person in the sentence. /tole/ is a 'strong' verb but has two past tense markers, one in -nc- and one in -cc, depending on whether the main verb is transitive or intransitive respectively. /tole/ is usually translated in English equivalents as an epithet, such as 'damn it', 'you rat', or something stronger.

- Examples:
- a) ate een munnaaleyee colli-tolekka-kuuTaatu?
Why couldn't you say that beforehand, damn it?
 - b) tiisis innum muTiccu-tolekkale-yaa?
Haven't you finished your thesis yet, slowpoke?
 - c) pooy-tole!
Go and get lost!
 - d) ate uutti caappiTtu tolecci poonkaLeen.
Why don't you pour out (the food), eat it and get going, for the love of Mike!

Because the use of /tole/ is confined to highly emotional contexts, its indiscriminate use by non-native speakers is not advisable. The main verb to which /tole/ is ultimately related is LT /tulai/ or /tolai/ and means 'ruin, go to ruin, wreck, cause to perish'. The use of /tole/, obviously, will win few friends and influence few people.

3.619 /vay/ 'future utility'. The aspect marker /vay/ resembles the lexical verb /vay/ 'put, keep'. It can occur with other aspect markers, but /vay/ always immediately follows the main verb, with other AMs following /vay/. It is used only with transitive verbs. The idea underlying the use of /vay/ is that the action of the main verb is done with the intent of its having some 'future benefit' or 'future utility'. Ordinary tense forms may be affixed to /vay/ so that /vay/ does not replace tense markers.

E.g., we can get the following contrasts:

- a) ais vaATTare kuTicci veppoom 'We will drink ice water for future use'
- b) ais vaATTare kuTicci veccoom 'We drank (stocked up on) ice water'
- c) ais vaATTare kuTicci vekkroom 'We drink (stock up on) ice water
(for future use)'
- d) ais vaATTare kuTicci vecc-irukkroom 'We have drunk (tanked up on) ice
water (for future use)'
- e) ais vaATTare kuTicci veccu-kITTirukkroom 'We are drinking (tanking up
on) ice water (for future use)'

3.62 /poo/ as a quasi-aspect marker 'change of state'. With verbs indicating 'change of state', such as keTu 'spoil' and aaru 'cool', the verb /poo/ 'go' is often used as a completive aspect marker instead of, e.g. /viTu/ (e.611).

Examples:

mutti poo 'go to seed'
peruki poo 'get big(ger)'
aari poo 'cool off'
muRuki poo 'sink; get ruined'
kaancu poo 'dry up, wither'
keTTu poo 'get spoiled'
eerpaTTu poo 'get so that, develop'
oTenci poo 'get broken'
cettu poo 'die'
aRuki poo 'rot, get overripe'

3.7 Negatives. For an outline of the negative forms of the various verb forms discussed in these sections, cf. 6.1.

3.8 Defective verb forms. There are in Tamil a number of verbs which are called "defective" because they lack many of the forms that regular verbs have. Also, their subjects are often in the dative case, because they cannot agree in PNG with 1st and 2nd person subjects or third person animate subjects. However, they have some forms that regular verbs do not have, such as habitual vs. non-habitual aspect. In form they resemble some of the modals, such as /muTi-/ 'be able'.

The most common defective verbs are /puri-/ 'understand', /veeNum/ 'need, want', /teri/ 'know', /keTe-/ 'be available, have', and 'piTi-/ 'like'.

Paradigms. The most common forms of these verbs are as follows:

Infinitive:	piTikka 'like'	puriya 'understand'	teriya 'know'	keTekka 'be available'	veeNTiya 'need, want'
Habitual:	piTikkum	puriyum	teriyum	keTekkum	veeNum
Neg. hab.:	piTikkaatu	puriyaatu	teriyaatu	keTekkaatu	veeNTaam
Past, non-habitual:	piTiccatu	purincatu	terincatu	keTeccatu	veeNTiyatu
Neg. Past, non-hab.:	piTikkalle	puriyalle	teriyalle	keTekkalle	veeNTiyatulle

3.81 Syntax. When the subject of the above verbs is animate (i.e., 1st or 2nd person, or 3rd person animate), it is in the dative case. Examples:

/atu enakku piTikkum/ 'I like that' ('That to-me like')
 1 2 3 2 3 1

/raajakkumaarikki maale keTeccatu/ 'The princess got her necklace'
 1 2 3 1 3 2
 ('To-the-princess the necklace was-available')
 1 2 3

/avamukku baaSe puriyalle/ 'He didn't understand the language'
 1 2 3 1 3 2
 ('To-him language not-understood')
 1 2 3

/en tampikki kaappi veeNTaam/ 'My younger brother doesn't-want coffee'
 1 2 3 4 1 2 4 3
 ('To-my-younger brother coffee not-wanted')
 1 2 3 4

It may seem in these examples that the dative-subject nouns are not actually the subjects, since the other nouns (which would be objects in English) are in the nominative. However, this is shown not to be the case by the following examples: If the 'object' noun is animate, it must as usual be marked accusative. Thus some sentences may seem to have no subject, since one noun is in the dative and the other is in the accusative. It is easier, therefore, to consider the dative case noun to be the semantic subject:

/avar-e enakku teriyalle/ 'I didn't-know him' ('Him to-me not-known')
 1 2 3 2 3 1 1 2 3

If we consider /avaru/ 'he' to be the subject, we cannot explain why it is marked accusative. The nouns in the other examples are merely neuter nouns unmarked for

accusative, rather than subject-nominatives.

3.82 Modals. These verbs can have modals affixed to them, like other verbs, and as always, they are attached to the infinitive. Examples:

/inta kaTeyle kaappi keTekkalaam/ 'Coffee may be available in this shop'

/niinka keeTTaa, teriyalaam/ 'If you ask, you might find out'

3.83 Purpose: In order to: Some other derived verbal forms, such as verbal nouns, verbal participles (particularly negative), and conditional, are possible with these verbs. Examples:

/atu teriyaratukku, uurukku pooyTTeen/ 'In order to know that, I went to town'

/puriyaaTTaalum, avan pooraan/ 'Even if he doesn't understand, he'll go'

/baaSe puriyaama, intyaavukku vanteen/ 'I came to India without knowing the language'

3.9 Verbalizers: aTi, eTu, paNnu, paTu, piTi, collu.

3.91 In Tamil a number of lexical verbs can be added to other constituents with the effect of making verbs of them. The commonest and most general of these verbs is paNnu 'make, do'. It can be added to a noun to make a verb, and is the most common way of making verbs out of English words.

Draiv paNnu 'drive (a car)' (literally: 'make drive')

vaakking paNnu 'walk, go walking'

kaappi paNnu 'copy, make a copy'

boor paNnu 'bore, make a hole'

paNnu can be attached to both nouns and verbs (borrowed from English), but always with the effect of having been added to nouns; that is, what precedes paNnu is an NP in Tamil, regardless of whether it is an NP or a VP in English.

3.92 aTi 'pejorative'. aTi, literally 'beat', is used as a verbalizer, usually with a pejorative nuance. Compare:

kaappi aTi 'cheat, copy against the rules'

(kaappi paNnu 'copy')

boor aTi 'bore someone'

(boor paNnu 'bore a hole')

kuLir aTi 'feel uncomfortably cool'

veyil aTi 'feel uncomfortably hot'

Dall aTi 'be dull, boring, be depressed'
vereTTi aTi 'drive out'

In some other combinations, however, aTi is not pejorative.

tanti aTi 'send a telegram' (lit.: 'beat wire')

aTi is appropriate in this phrase because of the action of tapping the telegraph key.

3.93 eTu 'inchoative'. eTu is used as a verbalizer to express the notion 'inchoative' or the beginning of an action.

paci eTu 'begin to get hungry' (lit.: 'take hunger')

vali eTu 'begin to hurt'

taakam eTu 'begin to get thirsty'

(Note that 'get sleepy', however, is expressed with vaa 'come'; tuukam varatu '(I'm getting sleepy'.)

3.94 paTu 'experience emotions' and 'passive'.

3.941 paTu is used with nouns expressing the notion of feeling and experiencing emotions:

kaSTap-paTu 'experience difficulty'

cantooSap-paTu 'feel pleasure'

kavale-paTu 'worry, be troubled'

perume-paTu 'feel proud'

aacep-paTu 'desire'

vekkap-paTu 'feel shame'

3.942 paTu with other verbs: 'passive'. When paTu follows the infinitive of another verb, the notion is similar to the English 'passive':

/raaman avanaale kollap-paTTeen./ 'Raaman was killed by him.'

As in English, the subject (semantic object) is in the nominative, with the agent marked by -aale 'instrumental'. There is some debate among grammarians as to whether this construction is a 'true passive' in the sense of the passive in Indo-European languages. There is some evidence that the construction is somehow borrowed, since it does not occur in most colloquial speech, but is found usually only in more literary usage. If found in spoken Tamil, it most probably represents the influence of the literary dialect.

3.95 piTi 'increase, augment'. piTi 'seize, hold, grasp' is used with certain nouns to indicate an increase of something.

mare piTikkiTu 'the rain is falling harder, really coming down'
timir piTi 'get smart, get wise'

3.96 collu: performative verbs. When collu 'say' is used with certain nouns, other performative verbs are formed.

poy collu 'lie, tell an untruth'
badil collu 'answer, retort'

4.1 Pronouns and PNG

4.2 Deletion of Pronouns

4.3 Genitive and Oblique Forms

4.4 Demonstrative Pronoun

4.1 Pronouns and Person-Number-Gender Markers. Finite verbs in Tamil are marked with person-number-gender (PNG) suffixes to agree with the PNG of the Noun Phrase (or Pronoun) which is the subject of the verb. PNG markers are the same for all tenses, except for the neuters, which are somewhat idiosyncratic (see below). The finite verb consists of:

Verb stem + Tense			+	PNG
var (come)	+	r (pres)	+	een (1st sg.)
poo (g)	+	n (past)	+	aan (3rd masc. sg.)
caappiT (eat)	+	T (future)	+	oom (1st plural)
vaanku (buy)	+	v (future)	+	iinka(L) (2nd plural)

The PNG markers and pronouns they agree with are:

I.	naan 'I'	-een	naanka(L)/naama 'we'	-oom
II.	nii 'you'	-ee	niinka(L) 'you' (plural, pol.)	-enka/-iinka
III.	avan 'he'	-aan	avanka(L) 'they' (animate)	-aanka
	ava(L) 'she'	-aa(L)	avaru 'he, she' (polite)	-aaru
	itu/atu 'it'	atu*		
	inam. Noun			

The consonants in parentheses are deleted when in word-final position, e.g., /ava poora/ 'she goes', but are present if suffixes are added, e.g., /avalukku/ 'to her' or /ava pooraalaa/ 'Does she go?' Inanimate nouns always take the neuter singular--there is no way of referring to more than one such noun without numerals or (optional) plural marker, e.g., /anta reNTu bassu anke pooccu/ 'Those two busses went there.' Note that the verb to be /iru/ has a different PNG form than other verbs in the neuter present, i.e., the expected form /*irukkratu/ is usually replaced by /irukku/ 'it is' or by /irukk-atu/. In the past the expected form /iruntatu/ 'it was' does occur.

4.2 Pronoun Deletion. Pronouns in the nominative case may often be deleted from a sentence since their semantic information is repeated by the PNG marker of the verb. When there is ambiguity, as in the 1st person plural (both /naanka/ 'exclusive' and /naama/ 'inclusive' take the same PNG marker /-oom/), deletion is rarer. However, it may still occur, even with modals and negatives, where there is no PNG marked on the verb. Thus in a sentence like /naan pooreen/ 'I am going' the /naan/ can be deleted to get /pooreen/, which is still unambiguously 'I go'. But /naan pookalaamaa/ 'May I go?' or /naan pookalle/ 'I didn't go' may have the pronoun deleted, with the resulting /pookalaamaa/ 'May (someone) go?' and /pookalle/ 'Someone didn't go' being ambiguous.

As a rule of thumb, delete only when no ambiguity will result. For emphasis, leave the pronoun in, e.g., /naan pooreen/ 'I will go.'

4.3 Genitive and Oblique Forms. The possessive forms of the pronouns, and the oblique forms (with addition of case) differ from the Nominatives in the 1st and 2nd persons, but not in the third person.

	<u>Person</u>	<u>Nominative</u>	<u>Genitive</u>	<u>Dative</u>	
	1st	naan 'I'	en 'my'	en-akku 'to me'	Note dative has the form /-akku/ instead of /-ukku/ with these.
	2nd	nii 'you'	on 'your'	on-akku 'to you'	
sg.	3 masc.	avan 'he'	avan 'his'	avan-ukku 'to him'	
	3 fem.	ava(L) 'she'	ava(L) 'her'	avaLukku 'her, to her'	
	3 neut.	atu 'it'	*atukku (atan)	atukku 'to it'	
plur.		naanka(L) 'we'	enka(L) 'our'	enkaLukku 'to us'	
		naama 'we'	namma 'our'	nammakku 'to us'	Forms ending in /-a/ have /-L/ added before case endings except <u>namma</u> .
		niinka(L) 'you'	onka(L) 'your'	onkaLukku 'to you'	
		avaru 'he' 'they'	avaru 'his' 'theirs'	avarukku 'to him' 'to them'	
		avanka(L) 'he', 'they'	avanka(L) 'his', 'theirs'	avankaLukku 'to him', 'to them'	

*The genitive of the neuter singular /atan/ is rare in ST and is usually replaced by the dative, e.g., /atukku tale/ 'its head' or /atu tale/ 'ibid.'

4.4 Demonstrative Pronouns. Cf. 5.1 (Demonstrative Adjectives).

5.0 Adjectives

5.1 Demonstrative Adjectives

5.2 Comparison of Adjectives

5.0 Adjectives. There are very few 'true' adjectives in Tamil, i.e. there are very few adjectives one could enter in the dictionary as such. Most adjectives are derived from verbs or from nouns (cf. sections 2.5 and 6.52). The few adjectives that are not derivable from something else are the following:

periya	'big'	putu	'new'	veLLa	'white'
cinna	'small'	paRaya	'old'		
nalla	'good'	pacce	'green, fresh; cool (as water)'		
keTTa*	'bad'	karuppu	'black'		

Many of the adjectives have a final /a/ but not all do. Other color adjectives such as /niilam/ 'blue' and /cempu/ 'red' are nouns and must be converted into adjectives by derivational suffixing (see below). Some color names are borrowed, or the color concept is borrowed, and are formed by addition of /kalar/ 'color' to the word: /mancaL kalar/ 'turmeric color', 'yellow'; /kaappi kalar/ 'coffee color', 'brown'; /pacce/ 'green' probably includes some greenish-yellow that English speakers would classify as yellow. */keTTa/, although included above, is not a true adjective, since it is derivable from /keTu/ 'spoil, go bad'.

5.01 Use in the sentence and with nouns. Adjectives immediately precede the noun: /cinna payyan/ 'small boy'; /putu viiTu/ 'new house'; /pacce taNNi/ 'cool water'; etc. Adjectives are indeclinable and invariable for PNG; /reNTu putu viiTukku/ 'to the two new houses'; /muuNu nalla pustakanka/ 'three good books'.

5.02 Predicate Adjectives: termination in -tu and -cu. If the adjective is in the predicate, as in English 'this house is new', it must be nominalized in Tamil by the addition of /-tu/ or in some cases, /-cu/. Example: /inta viiTu putucu/ 'This house is new.' In some cases, the consonants of the stem also undergo morphophonemic alternation when nominalized: /cinna --> ciricu/. The following is a list of nominalized forms of true adjectives:

pericu	'big thing'	putucu	'new thing'
ciricu	'small thing'	paRayatu	'old thing'
nallatu	'good thing'		
keTTatu	'bad thing'		

Nominalizations of the sort in English 'good man' are also possible: /periyavan/ 'big man', /cinna-van/ 'small man', /nallavaru/ 'good man', etc.

5.1 Demonstrative Adjectives. Tamil has demonstrative adjectives, pronouns, and other pro-forms which form sets of three, differing only in the initial vowel. If the vowel is /i/, the meaning is 'proximate'; if the vowel is /a/ the meaning is 'distant'; if the vowel is /e/, the meaning is wh-interrogative. Examples: /itu/ 'this thing'; /atu/ 'that thing'; /etu/ 'which thing?' The closest thing to this in English is the alternation between /th/ and /wh/ in sets like 'that/what' or 'then/when'. Examples:

<u>Distant</u>		<u>Proximate</u>		<u>Wh-interrogative</u>	
'that thing'	atu	'this thing'	itu	'which thing'	etu
'that' (adj.)	anta	'this' (adj.)	inta	'which' (adj.)	enta

6.0 Introduction of Syntax

6.1 Negative: /ille, -lle, -aa-, etc./

6.2 Interrogative: /-aa, e-/

6.3 Reportative: /-aam/

6.4 Quotative: /-NNu/

6.5 Participles, Verbal Nouns

6.6 Wh-interrogative: /e- words/

6.7 Conditional: /-aa(1), -aaTTaa(1)/

6.71 -Nu + Conditional

6.72 Negative Conditional

6.8 Concessive

6.9 Consecutive Action

6.0 Syntax: Introduction. Basically, the order of constituents in a simple Tamil sentence is Subject-Object-Verb. Other orders can be found, but they range from simple stylistic variation to unusual 'afterthought' word order, where the speaker has not formed the sentence well and adds things after the basic order has been established. Compared to English, Tamil syntax is often the mirror-image of the order in an English sentence, particularly when there are relative clauses, quotations, adjectival and adverbial clauses, conjoined verbal constructions, aspectual and modal auxiliaries, and other complexities.

6.01 Nouns. The simplest Tamil sentence consists of two Noun Phrases, with no verb present in the surface structure:

itu	pustakam		This (is a) book.
1	2	1	2

Such Noun-Noun constructions can also be very complex, with embedded verbal constructions, adjectival participles, and what-not:

naanka	tiiveTTi	koLLutturavanka	ille
1	2	3	4

We (are)	not	people-who-set-fire-to	torches
1	4	3	2

Nouns which are the subject of a sentence are usually in the nominative case, except in certain constructions involving stative and/or defective verbs, and in constructions involving /iru/ when it means 'have'.

Noun phrases which are the subject of a sentence are generally the first constituent in the sentence. Adjectives and other members of the Noun Phrase precede the Noun. Case markers, plural markers, and certain quantifiers follow the Noun, as in:

avan-ukku	'to him'
1	2 2 1
koRante-ka	'child-ren'
1	2 1 2
paal-ellaam	'all the milk'
1	2 2 1

6.02 Verbal syntax. As mentioned above, verb phrases are generally the last constituent in the surface structure of a Tamil sentence. The order of various constituents of the Verb Phrase is basically as follows:

Verb stem + tense infinitive + (aspect) + (modal) + Person-Number-Gender
(condit) negative

When aspect is present, the tense marker must be past; aspect has its own tense markers as well, or modal/negative; PNG is present if modal and negative are not.

(Cf. individual sections on these categories for a discussion of the syntax of various categories).

In general, the order of constituents in a Tamil verb phrase is the opposite of English. Compare:

vantu	-ki	Tirunt	-irukka	-Num		must	have	been	com-ing
1	2	3	4			4	3	2	1 (2)

6.03 Adjectival syntax. Within the Noun Phrase, adjectives always precede a noun. If there is no nominal form present, there can be no adjective. That is, a sentence like English 'This is good' is not possible in Tamil; rather, a Tamil sentence must have the form 'This thing is a good thing' or 'This one is a good one'.

itu	nalla	-tu.		This	thing	is	(a)	good	thing.
1	2	3		1				2	3

For the formation of adjectival clauses, cf. 6.52.

6.04 Adverbs. There are no true adverbs in Tamil, i.e. none that one could list in the dictionary. They are all formed by the addition of /-aa(y)/ to nouns or nominalized adjectives, with one exception: /nalla + aa/ --> /nallaa/, although /nallataa/ also occurs. (In Brahmin dialect this item is regular, i.e. /nallaa/ does not occur, but the nominalization of /nalla/ is /nannaa/; /nallataa/ also occurs.)

Adverbial forms of adjectives occur in identity statements with copula /iru/.

Contrast: Nominalized adjectives

Adverbial

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| 1. inta viiTu putucu | inta viiTu putuc <u>aa irukku</u> |
| 'This house is new' | 'This house is new now' |
| 2. itu cari | itu car <u>iyaa irukku</u> |
| 'This is okay' | 'This is okay now' |
| 3. atu nallatu | atu nall <u>aa irukku</u> |
| 'That's (a) good (thing)' | 'That's good now' |
| 4. inta kaalam rompa <u>moocam</u> | inta kaalam rompa moocam <u>aa irukku</u> |
| 'This weather is very bad' | 'This weather is bad now' |

These two columns differ in meaning; the sentences with nominalized adjectives mean 'habitually (so-and-so)' while the sentences with adverbial -aa iru- mean 'temporarily, at the moment (so-and-so)'. Thus, sentence 2: itu cari: 'This is all right, this is permanently all right'. itu cariyaa irukku: 'This is all right now, at the moment'.

6.1 Negative Forms.

6.11 Ordinary negatives (non-future, non-habitual). The simplest kind of negative in Tamil is formed by adding -lle to the infinitive of the verb. This form means, in general, non-future and non-habitual, i.e. beginning in the past and extending into the present.

pooka-lle 'didn't go, isn't going'

vara-lle 'didn't come, isn't coming'

In the case of the verb iru 'be, stay, reside', the negative is simply ille. The form involving the infinitive, i.e. irukkalle, is found only when iru is suffixed to another verb, e.g. , as an aspect marker (cf. 6.3).

naan vant-irukkalle 'I didn't, haven't come'

avan caappiTtu-kiTT-irukkalle 'he hasn't been eating'

6.12 Habitual Negative. The Habitual Negative is the only productive negative form in Tamil which is not formed by affixing some negative morpheme to the infinitive. Rather, it is a sentential negative, formed by adding ille to the present verbal noun.

Examples: avan pootuvaa paTattukku pooratu-lle.

He doesn't usually go to the movies.

naan caataaraNaaa maamicam caappiTratu-lle.

I don't usually eat meat.

Note that this form only means Habitual Negative when there is a time adverb like /pootuvaa/ 'generally' or /caataaraNaaa/ 'usually' in the sentence. Without these adverbs, the sentence is interpreted to mean immediate future negative.

6.121 Past Habitual Negative. It is also possible to form a past habitual negative by embedding the habitual negative form before -NNu irunt-PNG.

muRu skaalarSip kuTukkratulle-NNu iruntaanka

They didn't use to give full scholarships.

itu varekkum naan hinti paTatte pooratulle-NNu irunteen.

Up until recently I never used to go to Hindi movies.

6.122 Alternative form of Negative Past Habitual. Another form, contrasting with that in 6.121, and used perhaps in different dialects, is a form where the modal -kuuTaatu 'should not, must not' is affixed to the verb and embedded before -NNu irunt-PNG.

poona varuSam, naan hinti paTattukke pooka-kuuTaatu-NNu-irunteen.

Last year I made a point of not going to any Hindi movies.

6.13 Future Negative. Unlike most other negative forms, the future negative is marked for Person, Number and Gender. Being a negative, the formation involves the use of the infinitive of the verb, plus the future negative morpheme /maaTT-/ to which are attached regular PNG markers which agree with the subject, or in the case of the neuter, /aatu/.

Examples: avan vara- maaTT- aan 'he will-not come' (PNG)
 1 2 3 4 1 3 2 4
 niinka tuunka- maaTT- iinka 'you will-not sleep' (PNG)
 1 2 3 4 1 3 2 4

The morpheme /maaTT-/ is used with all forms except the neuter, where the morpheme /aatu/ is found instead. /-aatu/ 'means' both future negative and neuter and, like /maaTT-/, is attached to the infinitive.

 atu var- aatu 'it won't come'
 1 2 3 1 3 2

The /-a/ of the infinitive is deleted before /-aatu/. Note that this negative is not a habitual negative; since the future positive form is identical with the habitual form (e.g., /ava poovaa/ means both 'she will go' or 'she would habitually go', 'she used to go'), it is important to note that this form is not the negative of the habitual. Another form, seen in 6.12, is used to express habitual negative action.

6.14 Negative Result Clauses: Verbal Noun -anaale: Negative result clauses, such as /avaru peecinanaale, naan pookalle/ 'since he was to speak, I didn't go' (which is an example of a positive-negative result clause) are formed by taking the verbal noun, e.g., /peecinatu/ and adding /-anaale/ 'since'. The positive forms occur with either the past or non-past verbal nouns. The negative result clause is formed the same way, except that the negative verbal noun is used, e.g., /varaatatu/ + /anaale/ --> /varaatatanaale/ 'since (it) did not come'. The negative verbal noun is tenseless, like all good negatives in Tamil; it is formed by taking the infinitive and adding -aat- + -atu, as in: var(a) 'come' + aat- (neg.) + -atu --> varaat-atu 'that which does not come'. This is true for all verbs except iru which has ill- as the stem instead, i.e., illaat-atu. The negative result form of iru is thus illaat-at-anaale 'as a result of not being' or 'since there wasn't (something)'. Note, this negative, like all other negatives, is formed with the infinitive base: /var-aatu/, /pooka-aatu/, /caappiT-aatu/, etc. with deletion of /a/ before /aa/. Therefore, to get a negative result clause, take the infinitive, add /aatu/ and delete one /a/; add /atu/ and delete /u/; and add /anaale/ and delete /u/.

6.15 Negative simultaneity: Vb¹ -aame Vb². The simultaneous negative is formed by adding the suffix -aame 'without' to the infinitive forming the so-called 'negative adverbial participle'. It simply means 'without verb-ing'; cf. 6.522.

caappiTaaame vanteen 'I came without eating'

peecaame ukkaanteen 'I sat without speaking'

As the examples above demonstrate, the subject of the two verbs must be the same. However, if it is not, a causal relationship is implied:

avaru varaame, naan pooneen 'since he didn't come, I left'

In this example there are two subjects, avaru and naan; consequently, there is a cause-and-effect relationship implied. When -aame is used with two subjects and the two subjects are not identical, -aame forms are synonymous with -aatatanaale forms.

avaru varaatatanaale, naan pooneen 'since he didn't come, I left'

A discussion of -aatatanaale can be found in Section 6.14.

6.151 Simultaneous negative plus iru: durative negative. The negative adverbial participle (vb + aame) when followed by the verb /iru/ in its 'stative' meaning, is equivalent to the English 'to persist in not doing (something)' or 'to continue' or 'keep on not doing such-and-such', e.g., /paNam anupp-aame irukkriinka/ 'you continue to not send money'. This semantic complex is the negative equivalent of verbs with /kiTTiru/ 'durative', e.g., /paNam anuppi-kiTTiru-kkrinka/ 'you continue to send money'.

6.16 Obstinate Negative: Vb + maaTTeen-nkatu. The future negative 1st person singular, when followed by the quotative verb /-n-/ in its finite form, i.e. /-nkatu/, /nkraan/, /NNaaru/, etc., gives the meaning 'refuse to do such-and-such'. For example:

tuNi kaaya-maaTTeen-nkatu 'the clothes refuse to dry'
(literally: "The clothes say, 'I won't dry'.")

koRante caappiTa-maaTTeen-nkatu 'the child refuses to eat'
(literally: "The child says, 'I won't eat'.")

payyan skuulukku pooka-maaTTeen-nkraan 'the boy refuses to go to school'

Since it is possible for inanimate objects to be the subject of these sentences, it is not feasible to call this a quotative form, i.e., the literal meaning, 'the x says it won't y' is not a possible semantic interpretation here. Rather, the meaning 'x refuses to y' is to be preferred. Note that the PNG marker attached to /maaTT-/ is always 1st person singular in form, i.e., /-een/. It never agrees with the subject--only the PNG of the 'quotative' verb agrees with the subjects.

uppu varamaaTTeen-nkatu 'the salt refuses to come out (of the shaker)'

Note that the tense of the verb /-n-/ can be past or present:

avan pookamaaTTeen-NNaan 'he refused to go'

avan pookamaaTTeen-nkraan 'he refuses to go'

Future does not occur.

6.161 The Obstinate Negative Embedded: cf. 7.33.

6.17 The archaic tenseless negative. There is in the modern language an archaic tenseless negative which is a remnant from Old Tamil where PNG markers are added directly to the stem with no tense marker intervening. This formation is preserved mainly in certain idiomatic expressions, e.g.:

(aaLe-ye)		(the man)'
(onkaLe)	kaaN-oom (literally: 'we do not see	(you)'
(yaareye)		(anyone)'

Here the PNG marker -oom is added directly to the stem of the verb kaaN 'see'. This expression is used idiomatically to mean something like 'I don't see a soul; there's nobody around, nobody in sight'. This negative cannot be generated indiscriminately, since it is unproductive. The system is preserved also in the future negative animate, where PNG markers are affixed directly to the stem maATT- (cf. 6.13).

6.2 Interrogatives. Interrogatives, or question sentences, are formed in Tamil in a number of ways, the most common being by the addition of suffixes or prefixes, rather than by subject-verb inversion as in English.

6.21 The question marker suffix /-aa/. The type of question where the speaker simply requests information (usually the "truth valve") about some event is formed by the addition of the suffix /-aa/ to the last element in the sentence.

raaman vantaaru 'Raman came' + /aa/ --> raaman vantaar-aa? 'did Raman come?'

avarukku oru makaLaam 'they say he had a daughter' + /aa/ -->
 avarukku oru makaLaam-aa? 'do they say he had a daughter?'

('is it true that they say he had a daughter?')

The usual rules about retention and deletion of final vowels and consonants apply with the use of /-aa/. That is, final /-u/ is deleted from all nouns (for exceptions, see the section on Noun sandhi, 1.311) before the addition of /-aa/, as in the first sentence above. Other vowels are retained and glides /v/ and /y/ are inserted according to the usual rules: /y/ after /e/ and /i/; /v/ after /a/, /o/ and /u/.

Examples: maRe 'rain' --> maRe-y-aa 'rain?'

 nari 'fox' --> nari-y-aa? 'a fox?'

 puu 'flower' --> puu-v-aa? 'a flower?'

 viRaa 'festival' --> viRaa-v-aa? 'a festival?'

6.22 The question marker prefix /e-/. Question markers similar to English 'wh-' question words, 'which, when, why, where, who', etc., have the Tamil equivalent in words which begin usually with /e-/, e.g., /enke/ 'where', /ettane/ 'how many' /evaLavuv/ 'how much'. For a detailed explanation of /e-/ forms, see sections 4.4 and 5.1.

Note, however, that the question marker /-aa/ and the question words can never occur in the same sentence, unless one of them is a quotation of something someone had said elsewhere, e.g. /avaru enke-NNu connaar-aa/ "Did he say 'where'?"

6.4 Quotative Sentences. In Tamil we find many sentences with the 'quotative' marker -NNu. They cannot all be considered to have the same semantic value. Some are used to indicate indirect speech while others indicate direct quote. Still other uses express intent while others indicate thought. When the verb is finite, as in /-nkraanka/, the semantic value is equivalent to English 'they say' or 'people say' or 'it's rumored that ...'.

6.41 Direct and indirect speech. To generate sentences such as English 'John said that he would come' or 'Harry asked what time it was' or 'Mary thinks the weather will be nice', one uses /-NNu/ plus verbs such as /collu/ 'say', /keeLu/ 'ask, hear' /nene/ 'think'. One simply takes the sentence which is being indirectly quoted and embeds it in the matrix sentence 'Noun-NNu verb'.

Examples: jaan [varraar]-Nu connaaru 'John said he would come.'

raaman [ettane maNikki irukku]-NNu keeTTaaru 'Raman asked what time
it was.'

meeri [kaalam nalla irukkum]-NNu neneccaanka
'Mary thought the weather would be nice.'

When we do this in English, we change the verb of the quoted sentence to conform in tense to the other verb, i.e., will becomes would; is becomes was, etc. In Tamil, it is not necessary to do this. The embedded sentences have verbs with the same tense as they would have if directly quoted, e.g. in English, 'Mary said, 'The weather will be nice'.' What does change in Tamil is the pronoun, e.g., in the first sentence John is being indirectly quoted. If we were quoting him directly in Tamil, as in English, we would say /jaan [naan varreen]-NNu connaaru/. 'John said, 'I will come'.' Thus the only difference in Tamil between direct and indirect speech is in the pronoun concord. In the 2nd and 3rd sentences above, there is no way for us to know whether the quote is direct or indirect, since Raman and Mary are not talking about themselves.

Thus in Tamil surface structure is simpler for asking questions or quoting statements about other questions than it is in English. Suppose we have the following situation in English: Bob asks, 'Did the train come?' John didn't hear Bob's question, so he asks Harry, 'Did Bob ask whether the train had come?' Two changes must be made in Bob's question by John, in English. In Tamil the situation is simpler: Pillai asks /reyil vantaaccaa?/ 'Did the train come?' Raja asks Sundaram /piLLe reyil vantaaccaa-Nu keeTTaankaLaa?/ 'Did Pillai ask whether the train had come?' Raja is not obliged to change the surface structure of Pillai's question.

6.42 Intent. Ordinarily, the semantic notion of intent, i.e., 'x intends to do y' is expressed in Tamil by a construction involving the verb (of the action which is intended) in the form of the modal /-laam/, followed by 'quotative' /-NNu/ and the verb /iru/ or /nene/ 'think' in a finite form with PNG agreeing with the subject.

Example: /avaru male pakkam pooka-laam-NNu irukkraaru/ or /nenekkraaru/
1 2 3 4 5 6 7

He intends to go to the mountains.
1 7,5,6 4 2,3

In some dialects, particularly western dialects (Coimbatore and Salem districts) near the Kannada-speaking area, as well as in the Tamil-spoken in Mysore State, the modal used is /-Num/ 'must' instead of /-laam/ 'may'. There is, however, no difference in meaning and furthermore, there is no notion 'must' intended. The meaning is still 'intend to do such-and-such'. The above sentence in these dialects would thus be:

avaru male pakkam pooka-Num-NNu irukkraaru (or) nenekkraaru.

He intends to go to the mountains.

6.51 Adverbial Participles (past).

6.511 Positive. Two sentences, the action of one of which is subsequent to the action of the other, can be conjoined to produce one sentence of the English type, 1) 'After coming to India, 2) I studied Tamil.' To conjoin the two Tamil sentences, take the verb of the first, give it past tense and delete PNG. If there is no vowel following the past marker, add /u/. Example: 1) /naan intiyaavukku vanteen/; 2) /tamiR paTicceen/. The tense is already past, so delete PNG to get /naan intyaavukku vant/. Add /u/ to /vant/ and the conjoined sentence reads /naan intyaavukku vantu, tamiR paTicceen/. This form of the verb without PNG is often called the Past Adverbial Participle. With most verbs there is no problem of its formation, but verbs which have past markers /-in-/, instead of the expected participle, e.g., */vaankinu/ 'having bought, after buying', have the form /vaanki/ without /n/. Furthermore, a few verbs, namely /aaku/ 'become' and /poo/ 'go' have, instead of the expected */aanu/ and */poonu/ the forms /aay/ and /pooy(i)/. These sentences translate as 'after verbing' in English but there is no 'word' meaning 'after' in the Tamil sentences because this notion is given by the construction. The two actions are understood to be consecutive.

6.512 Negative -aame, aama(1). The negative ('past') participle is attached to the infinitive, and has the form -aame (LT aamai) or -aama(1). Its meaning is 'not having verb-ed' or 'without verb-ing' or 'instead of verb-ing'. The negative adverbial participle of the copula iru is formed with the negative stem ill-: illaame 'not being', 'without (being)', 'instead of (being)'.

pook-aame 'without going, instead of going'

var-aame 'without coming, instead of coming'

camekk-aame 'without cooking, instead of cooking'

When two clauses are conjoined and the first NP is not identical to the second, there is a result implied between the two clauses.

avar var-aame, naan pooyTTeen.

he come not I go-def-past-PNG.

'Since he didn't come, I left.'

cf. 6.14 for other Negative Result Clauses.

6.52 Adjectival participles.

6.521 Positive adjectival participles: past or present tense marker plus -a. The adjectival participle is formed by deleting PNG from the past or present tense marker and replacing it with -a.

Embedded before a noun phrase only, the adjectival participle is used in relative clause constructions in situations where English often uses lexical adjectives.

Examples: naan paa-tt-a payyan The boy I saw
 1 2 3 4 4 1 2/3

 neettu kay maatta paNam The money borrowed yesterday
 1 2 3 4 4 2/3 1

 etuttaapple iru-kkr-a viiTu The house which is opposite
 2 3 4 5 5 4 2/3 1

Note that the -a of the adjectival participle is syntactically equivalent to 'which, that' of the relative clause in English. The -a in Tamil is always present, although the English word may be deleted.

Adjectival participles can also be embedded before 3rd person pronouns (atu, avan ava(L), avanka(L), avaru) with the meaning, 'He (etc.) who verb-s/ed.'

 naan neettu paatt-avan 'He-who I saw yesterday'
 1 2 3 4 4 1 3 2

 marattu meelee irukkr-atu 'That-which is at-the-top of-the-tree'
 1 2 3 4 4 3 2 1

 kaNakku tiitt-avanka-kiTTe pooyi
 1 2 3 4 5

 'Going to the people (with) whom we paid-off the account'
 5 4 3 2 1

Often these third person pronouns are best translated with phrases like 'the people who', 'the thing which', 'the man/woman who' rather than literally. Since they are noun phrases, they can take case and post-positions, other adjectives, and can be subjected to all the normal rules governing noun phrases.

6.522 Negative Adjectival participle: -aata. A negative adjectival participle can be formed by affixing -aata to the infinitive of the verb. There are, obviously, no tense distinctions in the negative adjectival participle.

 eppavum ill-aata tiruNaalu 'a holiday not (being) like always'
 1 2 3 4 4 3 2

 ('an unusual day')

 iNNekki var-aat-avanka 'the people who didn't come today'
 1 2 3 4 4 3 2 1

As with the positive adjectival participle, the negative participle can also be affixed with pronouns, as in the example above.

6.53 Adjectival Relative Participles. Use in sentences; Hints in translation.

1. First step is to examine the English sentence and decide what kind of relative clauses it contains. If the English sentence contains relative clauses with DIRECT or INDIRECT quotations, it will be necessary to do something different from what you would do with relative clauses introduced by 'who, which, what', etc. These relative clause markers are often deleted, along with the verb, in English. They are not deleted in Tamil, so English sentences with deletions will first have to be restored to their pre-deletion stage. Example: the sentence, 'I saw a man from Mysore' might be derived from 'I saw a man WHO CAME from Mysore'. The phrase, 'who came' will first have to be reinstated in the English.

However, first check that the relative clauses in English are not DIRECT or INDIRECT quotations. For example, 'Tell the man from Maturai that there is a scorpion in his suitcase'. In this sentence (henceforth known as S1) the underlined clause is an indirect quotation. You can tell that this is what it is by making it direct: 'Tell the man from Mysore, "There's a scorpion in your suitcase."' Also, indirect or direct quotations usually have a main verb such as 'say, think, know, ask, fear, believe', etc.

Procedure: Take this clause and convert it to a direct quotation. Then, place immediately after it the quotative marker /-NNu/ and proceed to the next step.

2. Suppose the English sentence were not S1, however, but S2:

'Tell the man from Mysore about the scorpion in his suitcase.'

Procedure 2: After each noun in the English, add a relative marker such as 'who, which, that' plus a verb:

'Tell the man WHO CAME/IS from Mysore (?) about the scorpion WHICH IS/WAS in his suitcase (?).'

In this sentence, nouns which should NOT have Wh+Verb added have [(?)] after them. If it doesn't make sense to insert something here, don't.

Procedure 3: Place all English PREPOSITIONS after their appropriate nouns, and add any which may have been deleted, such as 'to' after 'tell':

'Tell [the-man-to WHO CAME/IS Mysore-from][the scorpion-about WHICH IS/WAS
 1 2 3 1 2
 suitcase-in].'
 3

Procedure 4: Reverse the order of the constituents in each major clause:

'Tell [Mysore-from WHO CAME/IS the-man-to] [his suitcase-in WHICH IS/WAS
the scorpion-about].'

Procedure 5: Put the verb at the end:

'[Mysore-from WHO CAME/IS the-man-to] [his suitcase-in WHICH IS/WAS
the scorpion-about] tell.'

Procedure 6: Decide which verb you want from the CAME/IS and IS/WAS choice. This choice depends on what is intended semantically in English. If you happened to generate this sentence in English, you would know what you intended. Otherwise the choice is arbitrary.

'Mysore-from WHO CAME the-man-to] [his suitcase-in WHICH WAS the
scorpion-about] tell.'

Procedure 7: DELETE 'WH'-words and definite articles (the):

'Mysore-from CAME man-to his suitcase-in WAS scorpion-about tell.'

Procedure 8: Add the vowel /-a/ to each verb in capital letters:

'Mysore-from CAME /-a/ man-to his suitcase-in WAS /-a/ scorpion
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
about tell.'
13 14

Procedure 9: Substitute Tamil morphemes for English morphemes:

maysuur-leruntu vant-a avan-ukku avaru peTTi(y)-le irunt-a teeLu
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
patti collu.
13 14

Procedure 10: Apply morphophonemic rules to get proper morphophonemics:

maysuurleruntu vantavanukku oru teeLu avaru peTTiyle irukku-Nu collu.

6.6 WH-interrogatives and suffixes. Wh-interrogatives can combine with various suffixes such as /-um/, /-oo/, /-aavatu/, and with negatives and conditionals with interesting semantic results.

6.61 WH-interrogatives + /-um/. Examples:

/eppa/ 'when' + /um/ --> /eppa-v-um/ 'always, every time'

/yaaru/ 'who' + /um/ --> /yaar-um/ 'everyone, everybody'

/enke/ 'where' + /um/ --> /enke-y-um/ 'everywhere'

Not all /e-/ words can be combined with /um/, however. */enta/ + /um/ 'which' and */etum/ 'which thing' do not occur. Instead, where one would expect /etu/ + /um/, we get /ellaam/ 'all, everything'. Since /enta/ has to be followed by a noun, the expected /enta/ + Noun + /um/ is replaced by /ellaa/ + Noun + /um/. E.g.:

ellaam viiTT-le-y-um 'in all houses'

1 2 4 3 1/4 2

When /ellaa ... um/ modifies a 'count' noun, that noun must be in the plural (or at least be an unmarked plural, as above), as in English. When /ellaa ... um/ modifies a mass noun, it follows the Noun and is then realized as /ellaam/, e.g. /paal-ellaam/ 'all the milk', /uur-ellaam/ 'the whole town'. /ellaa uur-um/ also occurs, but means 'all the towns'. /ellaarum/ is used with animates and means 'all people'. 'Every' as an adjective is otherwise realized as /ovvoru/ 'each, every', e.g. /ovvoru camayam/ 'every time, sometimes'. 'Every day' /denam/ or /ovvoru naalu/.

Some of the other /e- + um/ types do not occur at all, e.g. /*eppaTiyum/ and /*evvaLavum/.

6.62 WH-interrogatives + /-oo/. With this suffix, we got 'indeterminate' pro-forms. Examples:

enke-y-oo	'somewhere'	yaaroo	'somebody'
eppaTiyoo	'somehow'	etoo	'some'
eppavoo	'sometime'	ettaneyoo	'several'

We do not get /enta/ + /oo/, of course, since a Noun must intervene.

6.63 WH-interrogatives + /aavatu/. This suffix makes things even less specified or doubtful. Examples:

enke-y-aavatu	'somewhere or other'
yaaraavatu	'somebody or other'
etaavatu	'some kind or other'
eppaTi-y-aavatu	'somehow or other'

6.64 WH-interrogatives + /um/ + Negative. If /um/ + negative is added to /e-/ forms, we get 'no-wh-' type expressions. Example:

enke-y-um ille	'nowhere'
eppa-v-um ille	'never'
yaar-um ille	'nobody'

The expected */etum ille/ does not occur; instead we get /oNNum ille/ 'nothing'.

The same construction with a negative verb can also occur:

yaarum var-a-lle 'nobody came'
avaru enkeyum pooka-lle 'he didn't go anywhere'
oNNum kuTukka-lle '(he) didn't give a thing'
enakku anke yaarum teriyalle 'I don't know anyone there'

The literal meaning of /-um ille/ is 'not even' and used with Nouns instead of /e-/ forms, it has this meaning:

oru paysaav-um ille 'not even a paysaa'
oru kap kaappi-y-um pooTalle '(They) didn't even offer me a cup of coffee'

6.7 Conditional. 'If'-type sentences are formed by adding, in the place where PNG would normally occur, the suffix /-aa(1)/*. This is added to the past stem of the verb only, and thus tense and PNG are neutralized, i.e., the conditional of a verb gives us no information about tense or PNG.

Examples: paatt-aa... 'If one sees...'
avaru vanta... 'If he comes...'

If the verb is used with an aspect marker, such as /iru/ or /(v)iTu/, the suffix /-aa/ is added to the AM in the past:

avan vant-irunt-aa 'If he had come...'
poosT vantiTTaa 'If the mail definitely came...'

*In some dialects, a variant /-aakkaa/ occurs instead of /-aa(1)/:

avar vant-aakkaa/ 'If he comes...'

Since tense is neutralized in the conditional, the tense of the verb in conditional clauses is determined (interpreted semantically) by the tense of the verb in the larger context, usually the verb in the next clause:

avaru vanta, naan pooreen 'If he comes, I'll go'
etoo koncam paNam kuTutta, uur-ellaam cutti-kaaTTreen
'If you give me a little money, I'll show you the whole town'
tanti vant-irunta, naan pooy-iruppeen
'If a telegram had come, I would have gone'

Since the conditional marker is added to the past of the verb, it is also not possible to have conditionals of certain modals and other categories, except by certain periphrastic constructions (cf. 6.71 below).

6.71 Syntactic Conditional: /-Nu/ + /aa(1)/. If what precedes /-Nu/ is a sentence or a Noun, /aa(1)/ can be added to the /-Nu/. When a noun precedes /NNaa/, the meaning is somewhat difficult to translate idiomatically in English. A literal translation is not possible (e.g., 'if one says X...'), but the loose translation is generally something like, 'as far as X is concerned' or 'regarding X...' or 'since you mentioned X...' or 'speaking of X...'

cinimaa-NNaa, avanukku payttyam
'As far as movies are concerned, he's just crazy (about them).

kari-NNaa, enakku rompa iSTam
'Now curries, that's something I really like.'

When a sentence precedes the /-NNaa/, the construction is equivalent to the ordinary conditional, semantically. That is, the following sentence pairs mean the same thing:

avan vantaan-NNaa... 'If he comes...'
avan vanta... 'ibid.'

The /-NNaa/ type of conditional is usually chosen only when the verb that precedes it cannot be conditionalized the ordinary way, i.e., it has no past stem. Modals or habitual negatives are of this type:

atu veeNum-NNaa, naan varreen 'If that is needed, I'll come.'

The meaning of /-NNaa/ is often epistemic, i.e., it can often be translated 'If it is true that...' or 'If it is such that...' or 'If it turns out that...', etc.

6.72 Negative conditional /-aaTTaa/ or /aaTTi/. The negatives of the conditional are formed by the addition of a negative morpheme /-aaTT-/ to the infinitive (which is what always occurs before Negative, followed by the conditional morpheme /-aa(1)/).

vara-aaTT-aa 'If (he) doesn't come'
1 2 3 3 2 1

A morphophonemic rule reduces vowel sequences /a-aa/ to /aa/, i.e., /vara-aTTaa/ becomes /vara-aTTaa/. In some dialects, /aaTaa/ is replaced by /aaTTi/, e.g., nii collaaTTi 'if you don't say'. Modals and defective verbs can also have negative conditionals:

pooka-muTiyaaTTaa 'If (one) can not go'
1 2 3 4 4 2 3 1

6.721 Negative conditional of /iru/. The verb 'to be' /iru/, which is irregular in its negative (/ille/ instead of the expected /irukka-lle/), also has a negative conditional which uses the /ill-/ as the verb stem to which the negative and conditional morphemes are added:

illaaTTaa 'if it is not...'

This often is equivalent semantically to English 'otherwise' as in:

alamaariyle pooTu. illaATTaa, kaancu pookum.
 1 2 3 4 5

'Put it in the cupboard. Otherwise, it'll dry up.'
 2 1 3 4/5

6.73 The conditional plus -taanee 'emphatic' is often used without a result clause with the meaning 'I told you so' or 'If you'd only verbed'.

keTTaa-taanee 'If you (had/would) only ask(ed).'

6.80 Concessive. By the addition of /-um/ to the /aal-/ suffix, we get the notion, 'even if...', 'it doesn't matter if...'.
even if...', 'it doesn't matter if...'.
 'even if...'

avaru vant-aalum, naan pooreen 'Even if he comes, I'll go.'

paNam vant-irunt-aalum... 'Even if the money had come...'

niinka pookalaam-Nu iruntaalum... 'Even if you intend to go...'

6.81 Concessive + /e-/ words. If an /e-/ word is followed by a verb in the concessive, we get clauses which translate in English as /no matter wh-' or 'wh- ever':

eppa paattaalum jannal pakkam naalu peeru kuuTi ninna mayamaa-taanee irukkraanka.

'Whenever you look a bunch of people are crowded around the window.'

A looser translation might be: 'always' or 'every time you look' or 'every time you turn around' or simply 'often'.

yaaru vantaalum, cari 'Whoever comes, it's okay.'

('It doesn't matter' or 'doesn't make any difference who comes', etc.)

enke poonaalum, ate vaankalaam 'Wherever you go, you can buy it.'

6.82 Syntactic Concessive. In addition to the "morphological" concessive form discussed in 6.80 above, there is another form called the syntactic concessive, formed by the use of the quotative verb /-NNu/ in its conditional form /-NNaa(1)/. By the addition of /-um/ or /kuuTa/ to /-NNaa(1)/, we get the syntactic concessive. What is embedded before /-NN-/ is, of course, a complete sentence with a finite verb (if there is any verb), in contrast to the morphological concessive, where /-aalum/ or /-aa + kuuTa/ is added to the past stem of the verb. Thus we get sentences like:

veeNum-NNaalum, naan pookamaaTTen

'Even if necessary, I won't go.'

tamiR puriyum-NNaalum, avan ingliS peecuvaan

'Even if (you) understand Tamil, he'll speak English.'

6.83 Negative Concessives. The negative concessive forms are formed by the addition of a negative morpheme /-aaTT-/ to the infinitive followed by the conditional morpheme /-aa(1)/ and the concessive /-um/ or /kuuTa/.

pooka-aaTT-aalum 'Even-if (one) doesn't go...'
 1 2 3 3 2 1

A morphophonemic rule reduces vowel sequence /a-aa/ to /aa/, i.e., /varaaaTTaa/ becomes /varaaTTaa/.

A negative syntactic concessive can be formed by embedding a negative sentence before the ordinary /-NNaalum/ of the syntactic concessive.

puriyalle-NNaalum, cari

'Even if (you) don't understand, it's okay.'

6.9 Consecutive action. Tamil has a number of ways to express one action following another. Most of these constructions differ slightly in how they express the immediacy of the action that follows. That is, one can express whether the action is almost simultaneous, follows on the heels of another action, or merely follows it sometime afterward.

6.91 Consider sentences like: /avaru maturekki pooyiruntappa.../ and /naan varappa, avaru kooyilukku poonaaru/. These are formed by the addition of /appa/ 'when' to the adjectival participle. This expresses actions which are, for all practical purposes, simultaneous to the other action, or are triggered by the onset of another action: 'I saw him when I went to Maturai' and 'When I came, he went to the temple.'

6.92 Immediate consecutive action may be expressed by suffixing -um to the past verbal noun, as in:

cinimaa viTTatum, enke caappiTalaam? 'After the movie (lets out) where shall we eat?'

viTT-atu + um 'As-soon-as (x) lets-out'
 1 2 2 1

naan poonatu- + um 'As soon as I went...'

avaru caappiTatum, Tawnukku poonaaru 'As soon as he ate, he went to town.'

For an explanation of formation of verbal nouns, see 6.522.

6.93 Another way of forming the immediate consecutive is by adding the postposition /oTane/ 'immediately' to the past adjectival participle. Without /oTane/, this form cannot occur, but must be replaced by the adverbial participle:

compare: naan matureykki pooyi, avare paatteen.
 'After going to Maturai, I saw him.'

with: naan matureykki poona-oTane, avare paatteen.
 'Right after I got to Maturai, I saw him.'

6.9 Verbal Noun and dative. Forms with the verbal noun in the present and the dative case, followed by /pinnaale/ or /appram/ both mean 'after'

caappiTr-atu-kku pinnaale... 'After eating...'

pooratu-kk(u) appram ... 'After going...'

No immediacy is expressed with these forms.

6.9 Infinitive for simultaneity. In some cases, the infinitive can be used to express simultaneity. This is very common in LT and less so in spoken.

avan vara, naan caappiTTeen.

As he came, I was eating.

naama oNnu nenekka, naTantatu veere oNNaa pooccu.

While we were thinking one thing, what happened was something completely different.

This use of the infinitive can be replaced by adjectival participle plus -appa in most cases:

avan varrappa, naan caappiTTeen.

- 7.0 Complex syntax and miscellaneous topics
 - 7.1 Syntactic Modality: Probability, Possibility and Chance
 - 7.2 Reduplication
 - 7.3 The quotative verb /-NNu/ in complex sentences
 - 7.4 Factive /the quotative verb adjectivally (-nkra) as a verbal noun (-nkatu, -nkravaru)
 - 7.5 Onomatopoeic expressions with /-NNu/
 - 7.6 Poola and maatiri
 - 7.7 Cleft sentences
 - 7.8 Clitics: /oo/, /ee/, /aa/, /um/
 - 7.9 Paar and all its interesting ramifications

7.0 Complex Syntax and miscellaneous topics.

7.1 Syntactic Modality: Probability, Possibility and Chance.

7.11 In addition to the "morphological" modals /laam/ 'may', /-Num/ 'must', and /muTi/ 'can', there are syntactic constructions which give various degrees of probability and/or possibility. One of these, a form which generally can be translated '(it) might just be possible that (x)' or 'perhaps (x) will (y)', takes the form of a verb appearing in the concessive (cf. 6.8) followed by the same verb with the modal /laam/ affixed to it. Examples:

- a. reyil vant-aalum vara-laam.
'The train might just possibly come.'
- b. ankeyruntu tirumpi vara-veeNTiyirunt-aalum irukka-laam.
'It might just be necessary to come back from there.'

In terms of chance and probability, the degree of certainty underlying the semantics of this form could be said to be approximately 40%, i.e., the chances are less than even that the event in question will occur.

7.12 60% or more certainty. When the degree of certainty or probability that an event will occur is greater than chance, i.e., more than 50%, a different construction from that in 7.11 is used, namely, one where the verb in the concessive is followed by the same verb in the future/indefinite, instead of with the modal laam.

- iruntaalum iruppaan. 'He will probably be (there).'
- poonaalum poovaanka 'They will probably go.'

Note that the reduplicated verbs with concessive and either /laam/ or future/indefinite can be affixed to other verbs to get more complex constructions, as in 7.11b. above.

7.13 Negative Probability. The Negative of the forms in 7.11 is formed by affixing the 'negative participle' /aame/ to the verb in question and following it by /iruntaalum irukkalaam/, e.g.

- avan pook-aame iruntaalum irukkalaam.
'He might not go; perhaps he won't go.'

Similarly, the negative of 7.12 is formed by affixing -aame to the verb, and following it by /iruntaalum iruppeen/, e.g.

avan maamicam caappiT-aame iruntaalum iruppaan.

'He probably won't eat meat.'

The 'expected' negative forms, i.e., something like /*pookaaTTaalum pookamaaTTaan/, while acceptable grammatically to a native speaker, would not be assigned the meaning a speaker of English would expect and would not be used by a native speaker.

7.2 Reduplication.

7.21 Reduplication, positive-negative. Vb₁ past ppl. pos. + vb₁ p. ppl. neg.

A reduplicated verb where the first verb is in the form of the positive past participle plus optional -um followed by the same verb stem in the form of the negative past participle means 'before (even) verb-ing'.

vant-um var-aame	'before even coming'
caappiTtum caappiTaame	'before eating'
vantum varaatatam	'before coming, even before coming'
entirucci entirukkaame	'before (I) get a chance to even get up'
paattum paakkaatatumaa	'without seeing, before seeing, i.e., blindly, ignorantly'
terincum teriyaame	'without knowing, unknowingly, whether knowingly or not'
kuLiccum kuLikkaame	'before even bathing, i.e., early in the morning'

While the first instance of the verb is usually the simple past participle (positive) plus or minus -um, the second member can be various forms of the negative participle, either adjectival or adverbial, and often with an adverbial -aa(y) attached, as in paattum paakkaatatumaa 'unseeingly, blindly, ignorantly', which of course translates best as an English adverb.

7.22 'Echo-word' reduplication. In Tamil, as in other Dravidian languages, there is a kind of reduplication process which consists of taking a lexical item, e.g., puli 'tiger' and following it with the same item reduplicated, except that the first consonant and vowel are replaced by the CV sequence ki-, e.g., puli ki-li. The meaning of this construction is '(Item) and other things like it'.

puli <u>kili</u>	'tigers and other beasts'
paraTTe <u>kiraTTe</u>	'nasty words, aspersions, etc.'
kaappi <u>kiippi</u>	'coffee and so on'
pooyTtu <u>kiiTtu</u>	'going, and other activities'
paampu <u>kiimpu</u>	'snakes and other reptiles/ pests'
maram <u>kiram</u>	'trees and things'

Note that if the vowel of the first item is a long one, the vowel in ki becomes kii. Note also that verbs can also be the 'item' involved in the process, as in pooyTtu kiiTtu above.

7.23 Emphatic reduplication of infinitive and finite verb. Verbs can be reduplicated for emphasis by taking the infinitive of the finite verb and adding emphatic -ee to it while placing it before the finite verb, i.e. vb₁+infinitive+ee + vb₁ finite.

(pooka) maaTTa-v-ee maaTT-eeen 'I just won't (go), that's all.'
muTiya-v-ee muTiyaatu '(I) just can't possibly (do it).'
irukka-v-ee irukku 'It's there, no doubt about it.'

7.24 Distributive Reduplication. Reduplication of pronouns has a distributive function, i.e., it specifies different kinds of things, or links different things in a certain relationship, or distributes qualities among various members of a set of things.

enna + enna --> enn-enna 'what kinds of (things are there)?'
 enke + enke --> enk-enke 'where all; in what different places?'
 enk-enke pooyirukkiinka? 'where all did you go?'
 enn-enna paRam vaankaNum? 'What all kinds of fruit should (I) buy?'
 avanka + avanka --> avank-avanka 'all kinds of different people'
 avank-avanka manevi avank-avankaLukku aRakaa-taan teriyum
 different wives different beautiful is known
 people's to people
 To each different person his own wife is beautiful.
 atu + atu --> at-atu 'each and every thing'
 at-atukku 'to/for each and every thing'
 at-atukku neeram kaalam irukku
 time season
 For each and every thing there is a time and place.

7.25 Reduplicated onomatopoeic expressions. For a discussion of onomatopoeic expressions, cf. 7.5.

7.3 The quotative verb -Nnu in complex sentences. (Cf. 6.4 for a discussion of -Nnu in simple sentences.)

7.31 -Nnu: relative clause/embedded sentence marker. In Literary Tamil there is a verb en which historically meant 'say, think, mean' and occurred in all finite and non-finite forms. In ST the stem of this verb has the form /-n-/ but not all the finite forms occur. Furthermore, it is not clear that syntactically it is a verb in deep structure. The most common form of it is the 'past participle' which in spoken BT is -nnu and in NBT -Nnu. If we take this item to be a verb, it would mean literally, 'having said, thought, meant', but since it is used in many different ways,

not all of which can be assumed to overtly represent explicit oral or mental activity, it is more convenient to consider -NNu and its finite forms to represent a number of different things in both surface and deep structure.

The commonest use of -NNu is as a marker of relative clauses, which in English are usually marked with that, as in:

I	said	<u>that</u>	I	would	come.	naan	varuveen-	<u>NNu</u>	conneen.
1	2	3	4	5	6	1/4	6	5	3 2

The English relative clause marker, that, is often deleted, as in 'I said (that) I would come' but in Tamil the -NNu is always present in surface structure. Many kinds of other embedded sentences and clauses are followed by -NNu in Tamil, and we will consider -NNu in these to be simply a marker that something is embedded. Usually what precedes -NNu is a complete sentence, i.e., it could stand alone without what follows -NNu. When non-sentences precede -NNu, it must take a different form; these are discussed in 7.3, 7.4, and 7.5 below.

7.32 -NNu in intent constructions. In addition to the 'intent' constructions described in 6.42, there are some alternate constructions and additional problems connected with intent.

7.321 The commonest intent construction has the structure vb-laam-NNu + iru.

naan	pooka-	laam-	<u>NNu</u>	irukkreen.	I	intend	to	go.
1	2	3	4	5	1	3/4/5	2	

In most of these constructions the copula iru can be replaced by the verb nene 'think, hope' without semantic change, except that the constructions with nene seem to be somewhat more definite in intent.

7.3212 It should be also noted that the semantic range of these constructions in English involves not only intent, but decision, feeling like, wanting to, as in:

naan	male	pakkam	pookalaam-	<u>NNu</u>	irunteen	'I	decided	to	go	to	the	mountains.
naan	cinimaavukku	pookalaam-	<u>NNu</u>	irukkreen.	'I	feel	like	going	to	the	movies.'	

7.3213 Tense. The tense of iru/nene can only be past or present; future cannot occur, just as in English '*I will intend to go' is unacceptable for some speakers and strange for most others.

7.3214 As mentioned in 6.42, there is a form with the modal Num instead of the modal laam. This form occurs mostly in western dialects and means the same as the common laam form. Both iru and nene occur with the -Num modal with meanings as described in 7.321.

7.3215 Another form of intent construction also occurs, where the verbs iru/nene are replaced by nouns neneppu 'thought' and utteecam 'intent'.

naan	pookalaam-	<u>NNu</u>	utteecam.	'I	intend	to	go;	my	intent	is	to	go.'		
anke	reNTu	maacam	irukkalaam-	<u>NNu</u>	neneppu.	'I	intend/my	thought	is	to	stay	here	two	months.'

7.322 Verbal Noun plus -aa(y) plus iru/nene/collu etc. Another kind of intent construction involves the use of the verbal noun (cf. 6.5) plus the adverbial -aa(y) plus the verb iru, nene, collu, and some others. There is no -Nnu in these constructions but there is some evidence to indicate that it might be present in deep structure. Examples:

Since this construction is equivalent syntactically to the S--NNu constructions, sometimes the meaning of Verbal Noun + aa + Verb is not intent but simply an embedding construction.

7.323 Noun + dative + aa-NNu: 'intended for'. A Noun in the dative followed by -aa + NNu means 'for the special use of Noun', 'intended especially for Noun'.

In their house there is a separate car intended for his exclusive use.

'I said that he said "I will come".'

7.331 Obstinate Negative Embedded. Since the obstinate negative has the structure of an embedded sentence before the 'quotative verb', it is not possible to embed it

before another -NNu + verb when the subject of the second verb is 1st person, which make the subjects the same and would violate the requirement of non-identify of subject N.P.'s discussed in 7.33 above. Thus, an obstinate negative sentence like:

(d) naan varamaaTTeen-NNeen 'I refused to come'

cannot be embedded before -NNu conneen 'I said that' as in:

(e) *naan varamaaTTeen-NNeen-NNu conneen 'I said that I refused to come.'

because of this condition, although sentence (d) can be embedded before -NNu connaan 'he said' because the subjects of the two verbs are different:

(f) naan varamaaTTeen-NNeen-NNu connaan 'He said that he refused to come.'

In order for (e) to be grammatical, the first -NNeen must be deleted, as in:

(g) naan varamaaTTeen-NNu conneen. 'I said that I refused to come.'

(also: 'I said, "I will not come".')

7.4 Factive: the quotative verb adjectivally (-nkra) and as a verbal noun (-nkratu, -nkravaru).

7.41 In English, factive relative clauses are introduced by 'the fact that' preceded by verbs like 'know, forget, remember', etc.

(a) I forgot about the fact that Tom doesn't speak Tamil.

(b) The fact that he doesn't speak English surprises me.

These contrast with non-factive sentences such as:

(c) I forgot about Tom's not speaking Tamil.

(d) His not speaking English surprises me.

These last two sentences refer to specific instances of some event, rather than general facts about someone or something; it is possible that Tom in (c) actually speaks Tamil, but didn't happen to speak it during the incident referred to, while in sentence (a), it is not possible that Tom knows Tamil.

In Tamil, factive sentences consist of a sentence followed by -nkra + NP or -nkratu plus verbs like teri 'know', mara 'forget', poy collu 'lie', etc.

(a) Taam-ukku tamir varaatu -nkrate patti maranteen.
1 2 3 4 5 6 7

I forgot about the-fact-that to-Tom Tamil doesn't-come.
7 5 5 2 1 3 4

- (c) Taam tamiR peecaataate-patti maranteen.
 1 2 3 4 5

I forgot about Tom's not-speaking Tamil.
 5 4 1 3 2

- (d) mantiri lancam vaankraaru-nkra poyye patti maranteen.
 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

I forgot about the fact-that it's a lie that the minister takes bribes.
 7 6 4 5 4 1 3 2

- (e) Daalarukku eeRare ruupaa nkra reeTTu poyyaa pooccu.
 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

(To-the-dollar 7 1/2 rupee rate like-a-lie went.)
 1 2 3 4 6 7

The seven and a half rupees to the dollar rate is deceptive.

Often, as in sentence (e), the factive -nkra is used more as a verbalizer than as a fact-establishing construction because of the lack of any other verb in the construction Daalarukku eeRare ruupaa '(There are) seven and a half rupees to the dollar.' Often in English -nkra corresponds to prepositions like 'of, which is' as in, 'the rate of seven and a half rupees to the dollar'.

In sentence (d), there is a translation problem, i.e., literally (d) says 'I forgot about the lie that it is a fact that the minister takes bribes' which seems strange to some English speakers. However, perhaps 'contend falsely that it is a fact' as a translation for X-nkra poy collu might help overcome this problem in English. (I am indebted to E. Annamalai for this example.)

7.42 -nkravaru: (someone) called 'X'; 'X' by name. The present animate verbal noun of the quotative verb -n-, which has the form -nkr-avaru, is translated in English as 'someone called X' or 'X by name'.

venkaTaacalam-nkravaru viiTu itu-taan-nkaL-een?
 1 2 3 4 5 6

Might this be the house of the man-called VenkaTaacalam?
 6 3 6 2 1

7.5 Onomatopoeic expressions with -NNu. Onomatopoeic expressions, similar to words in English like 'bang, crash, thud, whiz, zap, zonk, crunch', etc., are formed in English by prefixing the onomatopoeic item before -NNu.

tiTiir-NNu	suddenly	catak-catak-NNu	chopping sound
Takku-NNu	knocking sound; regularity	vaLa-vaLa-NNu	chattering, babbling
coTTe-coTTe-NNu	dripping wet	cal-cal-NNu	chattering, babbling
jill-NNu	chilly	damaar-damaar-NNu	bumping, thumping
paTaar-NNu	crashing	maTa-maTa-NNu	gushing
maTaar-NNu	thump, bonk	kaTa-kaTa-NNu	clickety-clack
umm-NNu	seriously; like a bump on a log	bussu-NNu	whoosh; puffed up
Takaara-NNu	suddenly	curukka-NNu	quickly (anger)
giDu-giDu-NNu	running quickly	caTuk-NNu	spontaneously
		caTa-caTa-NNu	rain drumming

Often these expressions are used where adverbs in English would be more common, as in jill-NNu irukku for 'it's chilly' or umm-NNu for 'seriously, like a bump on a log'.

Some expressions, when reduplicated, have slightly different meanings, i.e., Takku-NNu can mean 'knock, knock' but Takku-Takku-NNu means 'regularly, like clockwork, with mechanical efficiency'.

Note that the phonological structure of some of these expressions violates the usual rules about morpheme structure in Tamil--retroflex consonants can occur in initial position, some consonants are voiced initially, consonants occur finally without automatic vowels, and in general, the usual phonological constraints about what are possible words in Tamil are suspended.

7.6 poola and maatiri.

7.61 Sentence + poola irukku. As a postposition meaning 'like', poola follows the accusative case. When a sentence precedes poola and iru follows, the construction has the meaning 'it seems as if X' or 'it seems to be the case that X'.

avaru pooraar <u>poola irukku.</u>	'He seems to be going.'
He goes like is	'It seems that he will go.'

avare enkeyoo paatteen <u>poola</u>	'It was as if I had seen him somewhere before.'
him somewhere I saw like	'I had the feeling I'd seen him somewhere before.'

iruntatu.
it was

7.62 poola also has a contracted form -ple or -pla. This is added to what seems to be a conditional ending -aal attached to the present stem. In LT the l in -aal

assimilates to alveolar r before the p in poola; in ST a further step is taken and the r assimilates and/or deletes.

avaru var-r-aal + p(oo)la irukkraaru --> avaru varraapla irukkraaru

The verb iru after contracted p(oo)la agrees in PNG with the noun phrase subject rather than being neuter to agree with a sentential subject. The meaning of this contracted construction is slightly different from S + poola irukku construction.

avaru varraapla irukkraaru 'It seems as if he's coming (but he's really not).'

When the contracted pla is not followed by iru, the meaning is 'as, like' as in

ankammaa colraapla (acinkamaa irukku). 'As Angamaa says, (the place is filthy).'

7.63 Contracted pla in other expressions. pla also occurs in some other constructions, most particularly in the expression etuttaaple 'right opposite, right in front'. Apparently the LT form for this is etir (opposite) + taan (emphatic) + poola 'as if opposite'.

7.64 maatiri, paTi. maatiri and paTi are nouns which mean 'way, fashion, manner, likeness'. They are therefore preceded by adjectival forms, and if sentences are embedded before them, the verbs in the sentences are in the form of adjectival participles.

naan onkaLe enkeyoo paatteen + maatiri irukku.

naan onkaLe enkeyoo paatt+a maatiri irukku.

I you somewhere saw like is

'It is as if I saw you somewhere; I think I've seen you somewhere before.'

7.7 Cleft sentences. In Tamil, as in English, there exists a kind of sentence called the 'cleft sentence'. They differ slightly in form and meaning from ordinary declarative sentences in that the 'focus' or 'emphasis' is on a special part of the sentence not ordinarily emphasized. Their form is different in that the subject of the sentence does not seem to agree with the verb, whereas actually the subject of the verb is sentential or clausal, so the verb is marked for neuter PNG.

non-cleft sentences

Is he going to the market?

What is he doing?

Raman is going to the market.

cleft sentences

Is it that he is going to the market?

Is it the market that he's going to?

What is it that he's doing?

What Raman is doing is going to the market.

Where Raman is going is to the market.

In English, the cleft and psuedo-cleft sentences have 'it' and 'what' as part of the

surface output, while the non-cleft sentences have 'he' or 'Raman' as the subjects. In English as in Tamil, the subject of the cleft sentence seems to be a whole clause or phrase, i.e., the subject of 'what Raman is doing is going to the market' is 'what Raman is doing'.

In Tamil, the cleft sentences differ from the non-cleft in that the verb is conspicuously marked only for neuter PNG:

non-cleft sentences

naan maarkettukku pooreenaa?
Am I going to the market?

tuNiye koNTuvarreyaa?
Did you bring the laundry?

naan ete ceyreen?
What will I do?

cleft sentences

naan maarkettukku poorataa?
Is it that I'm going to the market?

tuNiye koNTuvarrataa?
Is it that you have brought the laundry?

naan ete ceyratu?
What is it that I will do?
What am I supposed to do?

In Tamil the meaning of the cleft sentence is often similar to that of modals, i.e., 'supposed to' instead of 'will', as in the last example above.

7.8 Clitics oo, ee, aa, um, een. In Tamil there is a class of constituents known as clitics, so-called because they can be attached to many different kinds of constituents but can never occur alone. They are therefore neither verbal nor nominal suffixes.

7.81 Doubt markers -oo and -een.

7.810 The clitic -oo is added to different kinds of constituents to indicate vagueness, ambiguity, or doubt in the speaker's mind about the certainty, veracity or whatever of some event or circumstance.

Ordinary sentences

ammaa irukkaanka.
Mother is there.

enke 'where'

yaaru' who'

Sentences marked with -oo

ammaa irukkaankaL-oo.
I wonder if Mother is there.

enkeyoo 'somewhere or other'

yaaroo 'someone or other'

For a discussion of -oo with Wh-interrogatives, cf. 6.62.

7.811 The ultra-polite doubt marker -een. When -een (literally 'why') is affixed to a sentence in final position, the meaning is politeness with doubt and with a nuance of servility and/or obsequiousness. This is, of course, often used with caution or when great respect is being attempted. Compare:

venkaTaacalaam-nkravaru viiTu itu-taan-unkaL-aa?
 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Is this the house of-the-man-named VenkaTaacalam?
 7 4-5 3 2 1

venkaTaacalam-nkravaru viiTu itu-taan-unkaL-een?

Could this possibly be the house of the man named VenkaTaacalaam, if you please?

Note that -een occupies the place of the clitics (-aa, etc.) so if the question is interrogative, it replaces the normal clitic -aa.

kaTTaayamaa kuTuttiTrinkaLeen?

You'll most certainly give it to him, I should think.

ayyaa-kiTTee oru koraccalaana vaaTakeyle oru viiTu paakka collunkaL-een.
 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Would-you-be-so-kind-as-to tell the master to find me a low-rent house?
 10 9 1/2 8 3 4 5 7

7.82 Vb₁ + oo, Vb₂ + oo. When two finite verbs have -oo affixed to them in the same sentences, the meaning is neither nor or whether or not. A sentence containing two negative verbs + oo affixed to each means 'neither verb₁ nor verb₂'.

naan caappiTaleyoo, pookaleyoo. 'I neither ate nor went.'

When verb₁ is negative and verb₂ is positive, the meaning is 'whether or not'.

avanukku baaSe puriyumoo, puriyalleyoo avan poovaan.

Whether he knows the language or not, he'll go.

7.821 English whether-or-not in interrogative constructions. When an English interrogative sentence containing whether or not is translated into Tamil, -oo ...-oo is not used. Rather, -aa (...-aa) is required.

I asked whether he was coming (or not). avaru varraar-aa-NNu keeTTeen.

Ask whether he's going to give the tuNiye tarraanaaa, pooyTTu varraanaaa-NNu
 clothes or go away. keeLu.

7.83 e-word Vb+oo, a-word Vb. When an e-word (Wh interrogative) is followed by a verb +oo, followed by the equivalent a-word plus a verb, the meaning is 'A is equal to B'.

anke evvaLavu vaankamuTiyumoo, inke avvaLavu vaankamuTiyum.

However much you can buy there, you can buy here.

ettane pustakankaLe paTicceenoo, attane avarum paTiccaaru.

As many books as I read, he also read. (He read as many books as I did.)

7.84 -um...-um, -aa...-aa: Conjunctions.

7.841 -um...-um, 'and'. When two similar constituents in a sentence are affixed with -um...-um, the meaning is 'and'.

avar-um naan-um pooroom. He and I are going.

Usually, the constituents must be the same in order for them to be conjoined, i.e., two nouns, two verbs (infinitives), two adverbs, etc. can be conjoined, but not one noun and one adjective, for example.

7.842 -aa...-aa 'either, or'. When two similar constituents have affixes -aa...-aa, the meaning is 'either...or'.

avan vantaanaa pooraanaa? Did he come or is he going?

itaa ataa? This or that?

7.85 Emphatics -ee, taan, taanee.

7.851 There are two emphatic particles in Tamil, -ee and taan. They both are translated in English as 'only, itself, just', etc. but they are used differently in Tamil. The basic difference is that -ee means 'one compared to many' while taan means 'one and only one (compared to none)', 'just'. Thus:

inke-yee irukku It's right here (rather than somewhere else).

inke-taan irukku It's here (and only here).

Occasionally, both occur, as taan-ee, as in

keeTTaa taanee If (you'd) only ask/listen.

7.852 Presupposed Knowledge. -ee has another meaning not associated with taan, namely, presupposed knowledge. Its use indicates that the speaker thinks that the hearer ought to already know something. A sentence with -ee in this meaning has a special intonation pattern — — — — —.

bas inta vaRiyle pookaat-ee? But the bus doesn't go this way
— — — — — (don't you remember?)

7.9 The verb paar in various disguises. The verb paar 'see' has the basic meaning, 'see, look' but unlike other verbs it can be used in many different ways with special semantic interpretations.

7.91 paar meaning 'try verb-ing'.

7.911 Verb_{infinitive} + paar.

A verb in the infinitive form plus paar means 'try to verb'.

anke pooka paatteen I tried to go there.
oru uuci pooTa paakkreen I'm trying to get a shot.

7.912 Verb + past participle + paar. A verb in the past participle plus paar means 'try verb-ing' rather than 'try to verb'.

anke pooy paatteen I tried going there.
oru uuci pooTTu paakkreen I'll try getting a shot.

The difference in meaning is that with this construction one tries something to see what the result will be, i.e., tries to see whether there will be any success, whereas with 'try to verb', the idea is that the action one tried might not have even come about.

Certain combinations of verb paar in English are translated by separate lexical items:

colli paar (literally 'try saying') 'explain'

7.92 paattu meaning 'at, towards' (direct the attention). Cf. 2.343.

7.93 paattu + verb. paattu preceding another verb means literally 'seeing, having seen' + verb: paattu poonka 'go while seeing; watch where you go'. The general notion with this use of paattu is 'deliberately, intentionally, purposefully, on purpose'.

aracaankam etaavatu paattu ceyyaNum.

The government ought to take deliberate action.

paattu 'of all X's (for something to happen)'. When paattu is used with time expressions, the idea is 'of all the times for X to happen'. iNNekki paattu vantaanka: 'They came today of all days.' 'They deliberately came today when I didn't want them to.'

ippa cinimaavukku pookalaam-NNu irukkraan, appaa meTraasleruntu varra naaLaa paattu.

He wants to go to the movies now, of all times, when Father is about to arrive from Madras.

Sometimes pooyi is also present in such sentences as:

iNNekki pooyi kate eRuturaaree, paNam varra naaLaa paattu.

He's going to (go and) write a story today, of all days, when money is coming.

7.94 Postpositions plus paar. Unlike most other verbs, paar can have postpositions prefixed to it to form other lexical items: meel 'above' + paar 'see' --> 'oversee, supervise'; etur 'opposite' + paar 'see' --> 'look forward, expect'.

Nouns can also be prefixed to paar to form a new lexical item: veele 'work' + paar 'see' --> '(to) work'.

*** (The rest of this page is a continuation from p. 30.)

3.433 Pairs with doubled stem-final consonant in the causative. Some intransitive verbs have transitive analogs formed by doubling the final consonant of the intransitive member:

ooTu (intrans.) 'run'	ooTTu 'cause to run; drive'
uutu (intrans.) 'blow'	uuttu 'pour, cause to flow'
aaku 'become'	aakku 'cause to become'
uuru 'ooze, flow'	uuttu (LT uurru) 'pour, squeeze'

Such pairs are usually both Class III verbs.

3.434 Pairs with an added suffix, usually -vi.

teri 'know'	terivi 'cause to know, make known, teach'
anuppu 'send'	anuppuvi 'cause to send, dispatch'

Verbs with causative formation in -vi are members of Class VI.

3.435 Derived causatives. In modern Spoken Tamil a newer causative stem formation process is becoming more common. Under this process a new stem is derived from the past stem of another verb, e.g.

naTattu 'cause to run, go; manage'	(from the past stem of naTa)
paTuttu 'cause to feel' (from paTu 'feel, experience')	

Note that although the past stem of paTu 'feel' is paTT- rather than paTutt-, the causative is formed on the past stem of paTu 'lie', a Class VI verb, but used as the causative of paTu 'feel' also.

ENGLISH-TAMIL GLOSSARY

ability	kayttirame cakti tuppu
abundance, plenty	vaLam ekkaccakkam
account	kaNakku akkaunTu
accustomed to (be accustomed to)	paRaka paRaku
ache headache	vali tale vali
acquire (be acquired) be found	aampiTu IV v.i. akappaTu
act, dance without acting	aaTu III v.i. aaTaama
add	kuuTTu
advance	munpaNam
advertisement	veLamparam
advice thought, opinion, counsel	apippraayam yoocane yoocanai (LT)
affable be affable, to soft-soap	upacaraNe (paNNa)
affect	kanam
afford	taanku III v.i.
after	appuram
afterwards, after what then	pinne pinne-etu
again	marupaTi tirumpi
age, a period of time	yukam

album	aalbam
all the time	eppappaattaalum
alone	taniyaa
separate	tani
aloof	taLLi
angry	koopam
mad	koovam
be angry	kooviccukko
you should have seen how angry	keekkaNumee koopatte
annoyance, hindrance	akkramam
anxiety, worry	kavale
anything	etaaccum
whatever, what kind of	ennenna
appearance	taricanam
approximately	cumaar
areca nut	koTTai paakku
arise, come about, become, happen	eerpaTu IV v.i.
around	
go around	cuttu
to feel light-headed	tale cuttutu
arrive	vantu ceeru
art	kale
as for him	avan paaTTukku
as for it	atu paaTTukku
as if	poola (irukku)
for himself	tanakkaaka
ascertain, act boldly, endeavor (as a verb)	tuNi II v.i. and v.t.
ask	keeLu V v.t.
	keeL (LT)
attempt	muyarcci
attractiveness	mavucu

auspicious time to find the appropriate time for marriage	mukuurttam mukuurttam paaru
author	aaciriyar
avenge oneself if we had wanted to get revenge	tiittukko tiittukkaNum-NNaa
awake	muRi
away, further off, aloof outside the town	taLLi uure viTTu taLLi
bad not bad that's too bad	moocam teevale, paravaa-ille, moocamille aTaaTaTaa
balance, remaining balance	paakki
bamboo	muunkil
bathroom	baattruum
battlefield, confused noise	amarkkaLam
bazaar	maarkkaT kaTet-teruvu
bear black bear	karaTi
beat (a drum) beatings	koTTu jaDaa(u)
beautifully beauty	aRakaa aRaku
become cause to become it has become	uNTaaku uNTaakku aayipooccu
before before that	munnaaTi atukku munnaaTi
begin have begun	aarampi aarampiccaaccu
believe	nampu

bell	maNi
the sound of a bell	maNi ooce
below	kiiRe
besides that	atooTu
betel leaf	vettalai
bicycle	caikkil
big	periya, perucu
extensive	vicaalamaana
great, large	makaa
bill, account	kaNakku
bind	kaTTu III v.t.
biscuit	biskaT
bitch at	toNa-toNa
blame	paRi
blend	kala
mix together	kalakku
blink	muRi
blow	viicu
board	palakai
a board used to test the quality of literature (in Cankam literature)	cankap-palakai
body	uTampu (LT) oTampu (ST)
boldly written	koTTe koTTeyaa
borrow	kay maattu vaanku
boss	ejamaan
owner, boss	mutalaaLi or motalaaLi
first person	mutal aaLu
bother	uyire vaanku
disturbance	tontaravu

box	peTTi
match box	tiippeTTi
boxer, wrestler	baylvaan
boy	payyan
boys	piLLeyaaNTaan
	pacanka
brain	muule
break	oTe VI v.t.
breathe	muuccu
X was so quiet it was as if he didn't breathe	muuccu viTrat-illeyaam
bride	maNamakaL
brightness	veLiccama
bring	konTu vaa
come after taking	eTuttiTTu vaa
bring along	aRaccittu vaa
bring in, cause to become	uNTaakku
brother-in-law	attaa
husband	attaa
	maccaan
brush	braSu
budget	baDjaT
bug	puucci
bed-bug	muuTTe puucci
bundle	kaTTu
burn	cuTu IV v.t.
burning	takanam
the burning of Ceylon	lankaa takanam
business	kaariyam
	viyaapaaram
busy	mummaram
state of being busy	
butter	baTTar
buttermilk	mooru

Calcutta cutlet (name of a type of food)	kalkattaa kaTlaT
call	aRe kuuppitu
care take care of careful be careful	kavani jaakkrate pattaram
cart bullock cart	vaNTi maATTu-vaNTi
cash cash box cash table, a table with a drawer for money	paNam kallaappeTTi kallaavu
cat	puune
certainty, necessity, urgency, assurance	avaciyam niccayam
Ceylon	lankaa ilankai (LT)
chance, opportunity	camayam
change small change	maattu cillare
chastity	maanam
cheap, easy	leecaa
check has been checked	paatt-aaccu
chest (in the body) it looks as if I am going to stop breathing	nencu nencu appaTiyeE ninnuTam poo irukkee
chicks	kooRi kuncu
choice free choice, plenty, liberal	taaraaLam
chutney pea chutney	tovayal paruppu tovayal

clear up clear up the debts	tiir kaTane tiir
clever person, shrewd operator	keTTikkaaran
clock, dial, watch	kaTiyaaram (kaTikaaram)
close keep closed	caattu muuTu III v.t. muuTi vay
clothes sari	poTave, tuNimaNi ceelee
clump, mass (of something)	paTalam
come, come in, hello	vaanka
comfortably (idiomatic, depending upon circumstances)	haayiyaa
completely	puuraa
compound buildings in a compound	peeTTe
concentrate, busy	mummaram
condiments, spices, curry stuffs	macaalaa
connoisseur, fans demand	kraakkikaL kraakki
contemplating	yoociccikkiTTu
convenience convenient	vacati vacatiyaa caukariyam
convict	keeTi
cooking	camayal
cool (down or off)	kuLir
correct, neat, regularly	oRunkaa
counsel	yoocanaai
count try counting (and see what the result is)	eNNu eNNip-paaru
country, area, region	naaTu

country	naaTu
foreign country	veLi naaTu
courage, enthusiasm	tempu (Te)
crashing, crashing noise	maTaar (onomatopoeic)
craze, madness	payittiyam or payttiyam
cricket	krikkiT
crisp	sorr-NNu
nice and crisp	sorr: this is onomatopoeic for the sound that batter make when it is immersed in hot oil; however, "sorr" is usually used with the meaning given above
crowd	kumpal (ST)
crowded	kuuTTam (LT)
cunning	kuuTTamaa
customs	tantaram
cut off	vaRakkam
dagger	vaaTikke
daily	aru VI v.t.
danger	piccuva
dark, no light	tinam tinam
pitch dark	tenamum
date	apaayam
deaf	iruTTu
dear	kumpiruTTu
debt	teeti
left for debt	ceviTu
	anpuLLa
	kaTan
	paakki

deceit deceive	puraTTu eemaattu
deed	ceyal
deep deep thinking	aaRam aaRnta cintane
default wrong, deficiency, defect	kora (LT kurai)
deficate drive out of the way	otukku III v.t. otukki + viTu = otukkiviTu
deficiency, decrease	kammi (Pers.)
deficit	paTraakkurai
deliver	oppi
demand	kraakki kiraakki
demolish, destroy	iTi VI v.t.
descend, get off, out	erakku
desire	aace
develop abundance, fulness, fertility, productiveness	vaLa vaLam
dhobi (washerman)	calavakkaaran, vaNNaan
dhoti (man's garment, wrapped around the lower body)	veeTTi veeSTi
dignity, honor, chastity	maanam
directly, straightaway	neeraa
discontent, dissatisfaction to be discontented	kurai (LT), kore (ST) koreppaTu
discontinue, cease, stop	oRi
displeased to be displeased with a person	caliccikkoLLa

dispute, problem, objection

distance, remoteness
from a distance

disturbance

don't
don't you know?

door

doubt

drama

drink
drink up

drive out, go about making a lot of trouble,
making a fuss with
try to make trouble

dry
to dry
dry clean

dull

dust
dust of the ground
full of dust

each, every

eager, desire
eagerly
earnestness

ear

earn

easily

easy
be easy, be like water off a duck's back

takaraaru

tuuram
tuurattule

tontaravu

ille

katavu
vaacal

canteekam

naaTakam

kuTi
kuTicci vay

vereTTi-aTi
vereTTi aTikka paaru

kaay
kaaya
Draivaas

Dall

tuuci-tumpal
puRuti
puRuti + maNTi = puRutimaNTi

ovvaru or ovvoru

aace, aaval
aaval-aa
aaval

kaatu

campaati VI v.t.

curukka-NNu , leecaa

leec u
taNNi paTTa PaaTam

edition	malar
efficiency, good conduct, regularity	oRunku
egg	muTTe
either...or	aavatu...aavatu
electrified fully or completely electrified	fuLLiy eLektrifayD
elephant	yaane
else who else?	pinne yaaru
empty	kaali
end, final	muTivu
enquire	vicaari VI v.t.
enter	noRe
enthusiasm, vigor, strength, courage	tempu (Te)
entire	muRu
entrance steps, door	vaacal
envy	poraame
errand to come on an errand	tuutu vaa
error, mistake	pecaku
especially besides that	atuleyum atooTu
establishment of any kind, trademark	vilaas
estimation, regard	matippu
evening	caayantram
every	ovvaru or ovvoru

evict	kaali paNNa collu
examine, consider, take care of, provide	vicaari
except	tavira
expand	viri
expense	celavu
extend, stick out	niiTTu III v.t.
extensive, big, having everything	vicaalamaana
eye	kaNnu
evil eye	tirusTi
face	mokam
fainting, dullness, perplexity	mayakkam
faithfulness	vicuvaacum
fall, fall out	viRu II v.i.
shake off	otaru III v.t.
familiar	
to be familiar with	paRaka
be familiar with, be accustomed to	paRaku
family	kuTumpam
family man, man who has children	piLLekuTTikkaaran
famous	prabala
fault	kuttam
favor	
in favor of	caatakamaa
fear	payam
terrible	payankaram
fellow, boy	piLLeyaaNTan
man, fellow	manuSan
fenugreek	ventayam
fiercely, quickly	mummaramaa

fighting time	yutta kaNTam
figures	figarz
finance	niti
find out, realize	terencikkoo, teri II v.t.
fine	joor (Pers.)
finish it will finish your life finished	muTi tiirttu pooTum aayTuccu
fire continuous flame set fire	tii neruppu eriyra neruppu koLuttu
firmly, tightly	irukka or irukki
first	motal
fish	miin
fitting, proper	eettam
flow, ooze, pour blow	uuttu III v.t. uutu
flower flower shop	puu puuk-kaTe
fly (off the handle)	para
fodder	tiivanam
food	naaSTaa (H)
fool (N)	muTTaaL
foot (measurement)	aTi
foot (part of body)	paatam
forbid, restrain to forbid, to restrain	kaTTuppaaTu kaTTuppaaTu paNNa

force (N) a person who gets what he wants by using force	vallaTi vallaTi vampu
foresee did we foresee	kaNTomaa
forest one who lives in the forest	kaaTu kaaTTup-peeruvaRi
forget don't forget to say	mara VII v.t. marantiTaama colliTunka
fort, stronghold	kooTTe
fragment, bit, piece	tuNTu
fraud	poraTTu
free, no cost, at no cost	ooci
free air	friy yer
freedom with half freedom	cutantaram paati cutantarattooTa
friend	toosth (H)
front in front of you	etir (LT), etukka (ST) onkaLukku etukka
fry	pori, cuTu cuTTu + pooTu = cuTTup-pool
fun, joke, show, wild goose chase great fun be funny the thing about that	tamaaS (H) baDaa majaa (H) veeTikkayaa iru ennaanNa
funeral drum marriage drum	koTTu koTTumeeLam
gabbing, chatting	vaay-viiccu
garbage	kuppe (ST), kuppai (LT)
garden	garDen
gate outer gate	vaacal velivaacal

generation, entire family

gently, slowly

get, receive, buy

gift, reward
as a gift

give

glow, shine, give light
continuous flame

glue

go
start out

god
God
Oh, God

good
good-for-nothing fellow
good-looking

good-bye, see you again

gravey

great (big)
it looks great

grinding stone
a flat stone used to grind spices

grocery
grocery store
grocery man

guest

guy, great soul
guy, fellow
what a guy

parampare

metuvaa

vaanku III v.t.

paricu
paricaaka

taa (Imper. of the irregular
transitive verb)

eri II v.i.
eriyra neruppu

picin

poo
purappuTu

teyvam
kaTavul, aaNTavan
kaTavuLee
aaNTavaa

accaa (H),
kuTTic-cevaru
leccanam, nalla(tu)
paarveyaaka = paarve + aaka

pooyTTu-vaanka

kurumaa
koRampu

makaa
paleejoor

ammi

maLike
maLikekkaTe
maLike kaTekkaararu

viruntaaLi

makaraaci
manuSen
enna manuSen

hand (N)	kay
by one's hand(s)	kayyaala
change hands, loan from a friend for short time	kay maattu
without any legal evidence.	
happiness, joy	urcaakam
	cantooSam
harm	paRi
hawk	paruntu
dove	puraa
head	tale
feeling light-headed	tale cuttutu
head over heels	tale poora maatiri
headache	tale vali
heart	manacu (ST), irutayam (LT)
in your heart	manacule
heaven	
for heaven's sake!	appaa!
heavy	eeka
	palamaa
heavy rain	palamaana maRe
help	utavi, otavi
hen-pecked	payattukkuriya
hereafter	inimee
hesitate	tayanku
hide	mare II v.i.
by hiding	maracci
high, more	atikam
hindrance	akkramam
to be a hindrance	kurukka-nil
in between	kurukka
stand	nil
trouble, problem, troublesome	eTancal
history, story	puraaNum

holy day, festival day	tirunaal
home	hoom viiTu
honor, chastity honor, face, pride for the sake of price, to save face, for honor's sake honorable, worthy	maanam mukam mukattukkaaka matippukkuriya
horoscope	raaci-palan
hot hot season	cuuTu kooTe kaalam
how much	evvaLavu
hungry begin to get hungry	paci paci eTukkutu
hurry in a hurry, urgent	avacaram
husband	attaa kaNavan, maccaan
hut small hut, shed back portion of the hut	kuTice pantal pin kooTTi
idea I have an idea	yooCane oNnu tooNutu
ignoring, neglecting	alaTciyam
imagination	karpane
immediately	takaara-NNu uTane
impatient	aattaram
impudent fellow	atikappracanki
impulsive	paTTu paTTu
inform, give notice, warn notice, information	arivi VI v.t. arivippu
injustice	aniyaayam

intercede, talk for someone
plead

invade

invite, call

involve

irascibility, quick temper
quick-tempered person

item
about the item

job
profession, work
have lost (my) job

join

joke, show

jump

just
just, a mere

justice
justice, honesty
no justice

keep
if (one) keeps
to keep
at least for the sake of keeping a promise,
keeping one's word

kerosene

kick out

kill by cutting the throat, cut off
cut my throat

kind, type, sort
any kind of
what kinds of

parincu-peecu
pari IV v.i.

paTe eTu

aRe VI v.t.
kuuppiTu

iiTu paTu

munkoopam or munkoovam
munkoovakkaarar

carakku
carakke-patti

veele
uttiyookam
veele pooyiTuccu

ceeru

tamaaS

taaNTu III v.t.

cummaa
verum

niiti (skt)
nyaayam
niiti-ille, nyaayam-ille

vai VI v.t.
veccaa
vaccirukka

kaappaatturatukkaakavaavutu

maNNeNNe

ote VI v.t.

aru VI v.t.
en kaRutte aru

vitam, tinucu
enta vitamaana
ennenna

kitchen	aTuppankare kiccan
knock knock-knock	taTTu Takku-Takku-NNu
know	teri II v.i.
ladle small ladle with a small ladle in hand	karaNTi karaNTiyum kayyumaa
lamp	viLakku
landlord any/every landlord	viiTTukkaararu enta viiTTukkaaranum
late	leeT
laugh (v)	ciri VI v.i.
lazy person	cootaa (H)
lead cause to lead	naTa VI v. . naTattu
learn (reflex.)	kattukkoo V v.t. kaTrukkoL (LT)
least at least at least a little	aaccum koncamaaccum
leave	kiLampu III v.i.
leave that aside	viTTuttaLLu
leech	aTTe
less	koraccal
letter	kaTitam
letter (alphabet)	eRuttu
level, position, state	nele nile (LT)
lie lie, measure lie, deceit	paTu VI v.i. aLa poy

life	poLappu, poRappu, peReppu (LT: piRaippu) laifu uyiru enkaLukku it-taen poLappaa
do you think we have nothing better to do	
lift	tuukku III v.t.
light, lamp	vilakku
like just like, same as as you like	kaNakkaa iSTattukku
like, as if, seems as if	poola
limit	aLavU
line clothes line, wire	koTi
liquids the end product of two liquids being blended together	kaSaayam
little at least a little bit very little, very few	koncam koncamaavatu konca (maa) nancamaa
live the one (we) lived	kuTi-iru kuTiyirunta
livelihood	poRappu
load	eettu
loan short loan without a bond	kaTan kaymaattu
lock	puuTTu
look for look here!	ala VI v.t. intaanka
lost get lost gone	pooy tole or pooy tolai (LT) pooy + viTTatu
lots of	ekkaccakkamaa

lottery	laaTTri
luck	atirSTam
luck, fortune	yookam
bad luck	doogaati (H)
	durgati
lucky man	puNNiyavaan
lucky woman	puNNiyavati
lying down, reclining	paTutta paTi
madness	payittiyam
	payttiyam
manage (caus.)	ooTTu
manage, tackle	camaaLi VI v.t.
manage, run (caus.)	naTattu
many	pala
many people	pala peer (LT), pala peeru (ST)
marriage	tirumaNam
marriage drum	kalyaaNam
	meeLam
marriage badge, trinket worn around the neck	koTTumeeLam
by women as a sign of marriage	taali
mass (of something)	paTalam
master	maasTar
match, stick	kucci
match box	tiippeTTi
matter, message, news	ceyti
matter, business	kaariyam
	camaaccaaram
what's the matter?	enna camaacaaram
measure	aLa
meet	canti VI v.i.
stand around in the street	cantiile nillu
memory	manam, nyaapakam
calculate from memory	manakkaNakku

merchant	vyaapaari viyaapaari (LT)
mere	verum
message messenger come as a messenger, come on an errand	ceyti tuutan, tuutu tuutu vaa
midnight	artta caamam
milkmaid	paalkaari
mind, heart in your heart bear in mind	manacu manacule manacu paNNa
minute, moment, instant 24 minutes--one Indian hour	nimiSam (skt) naaRi
mischief	kiNTal
mistake	tappu pecaku
mix	kala III v.t.
moment the right moment, the perfect moment	vinaaTi camayam
money get paid money order	kaacu, paNam kaacu keTekkum maNiyaarDar
more some more	atikam innamum
morning	kaalamparam
mortar, a stone mortar used for circular grinding	aaTTu kallu
mother	ammaa
mother-in-law	maamiyaar
mountain	male
moustache	miice

move	nava
if you move a foot	oru aTi-navantee
movie, picture	paTam
multiply	perukku
mumble	munumunu
municipality	municippaaliTTi
murrel (a type of fish)	varaal miin
nail	aaNi
small nail	
name	peeru
by name, a man called...	enkiravaru (LT)
name matching	peeru poruttam
nasty	acinkam (skt)
nature	iyarke
neat	oRunku
neatly	oRunkaa
neck	kaRuttu
need, want, necessity (n)	teeve
neglect	purakkaNi
negligence	alaTciyam
neighborhood	akkam-pakkam
neighbors	akkam-pakkattule-uLLavanka
next door neighbors	aTutta viiTukkaaranka
news	camaaccaaram
good news	guD nyuusu
newspaper	pattirikke (LT)
nick name	paTTap-peeru
nobody in sight	yaareyumkaaNoom

noise
 nuisance
 noise, disturbance
 confused noise
 a lot of noise

 nonsense

 nook, corner

 nose

 notebook

 notice

 nourishing, very nourishing

 nowadays

 nut

 objection

 odor
 bad odor

 office, business office

 oil

 old

 omen
 bad omen

 once
 little, once in a while

 one
 one by one, piece by piece

 oneself
 for oneself

 only

cattam
 ovattaram
 tontaravu
 amarkkalam
 kuuccal

 maTattanamaana

 kooTi

 muukku

 nooTTu

 nooTTiis

 nirainta puSTi

 kaalam itu, ippa
 i.e., this season, time

 paruppu

 aacceepane

 naattam

 kaariyaaleyam

 eNNe

 paReya, paRacu

 apacakunam

 oru mure
 cetta

 ek (H), onru (LT)
 ovvoNNaa

 tanakku, cf. tan, taan

 maTTum

ooze	uutu
open	tera
open, expand (eyes)	viri
opinion	yoocane
opposite	etur, etir
right opposite to (oneself)	etuttaappla
order	aarDar, aaDar
	paviyam
ordinary, simple, customary, anything common	caataaranam
orphan	anaate
other	matta
others	mattavanka
	perattiyaaru
on the other hand	ennaTaa-NNaa
otherwise	mattapaTi
outrage, violence	aTaavaTi
outside	veLippakkam
	veLiye
own (as in my own)	contam
owner, proprietor	mutalaaLi
ox	erume
an ox which lives in the forest	kaaTTerume
pack, pack up	muuTTekaTTu
page	pakkam
paid, get paid	kaacu keTekkum
	campaLam keTekkum
pain	vali
feeling pain	valikkutu
paint	peynTu
palace	maaLike

parcel	paarsal
part on his part; as for him partner	avan paaTTukku kuuTTaaLi kuuTTaaNTi
pay pay off	campaLam eNNi-vay
penetrate	tole
people	aaLunka jananka or janankaL
perfect	laayakkaana
permanent, stable	nile nerantaram
perplexity, dizziness	mayakkam
person	aaLu peeru
person, fellow, athlete	payal
pick up pick up with the hollow of the hand	eTu III v.t. aLLu
picture (n) movie, film picture elegant house painter	cittram, ooviyam paTam ooviyamaana viiTu ooviyan
piece, fragment, bit	tuNTu
pipe (for water, sewage, etc.) separate pipe	payp tani payp
pity what a pity!	paritaapam kaNTraaviyee!
place no place at all	eTam oru immi eTam ille
planets the influence of the planets causing pain, poverty, etc.	kerakac-caaram

play	veLeyaaTu III v.i.
plenty, many, lots of	ekkaccakkam
poem poem sung for waking up the deity in a temple	tirupaLLi eRucci
poison	viSam
poor	eeRe
poster	cuvoroTTi
pot	toTTi
pour	koTTu uuttu
powder powder can	poTi poTi-Tappaa
power, ability	cakti
presume clothes	tuNi II v.i./v.t. tuNi (n)
price low price	vele kuraynta vile
pride, vanity	perume
problem big, big problems quarrel	praccane, takaraaru eTancal baTaabaTaa peejaar (H) caNTe, takaraaru
productiveness, fertility	vaLam
profession, work, job	uttiyookam
profit	laapam
profound deep or profound thinking	aaRnta cintane
promise at least for the sake of keeping a promise	vaakkuruti kaappaatturatukkaakavaavatu
prosecuted will be prosecuted	taNTanekkuLLaaviir

protect	kaappaattu
pump (the bicycle with the feet)	miti
pumpkin	puucinikkaa (ST) puucanikkaay (LT)
purity, cleanliness pure forest, worthless, nothing	cuttam cutta-jankuL
put put back	vai tiruppi vai
qualified	taakutiyuLLa
quarrel	vampu caNTe
quickly	jaltiyaa (H) curukkaa
quiet be quiet (dur. neg.)	amaiti (LT) peecaame iru
rain begin to rain, pour	maRe maRe piTi
reach, join	ceeru
ready	tayaar
realize	teri Iiv.i. terincukkoo
reclining	paTutta paTiyaa
regard, estimation estimate, regard, respect	matippu mati VI v.t.
regularly	tavaraamal oRunkaa
religious to repeat a religious phrase (e.g. "Hail Mary")	cakacernaama arccane
relative	rileeSan
remainder	miiti miccam

rememberence remind	naapakam, nyaapakam nyaapakap-paTuttu
rent	vaaTake
repeatedly, over and over again	paTiccu paTiccu
replace a roof; take apart and re-do a roof	piricci pooTu
reason	kaaraNam
respect	mariyaate
reward	paricu
ribbon silk ribbon with decorations on it	kuncam
rice cake (made by steaming rice) cooked rice thin rice cake or chip	iTli cooru appaLam
right quite right yes right, well right, privilege right to enjoy	cari rompa cari balee (H) urime anupava baattiyate
road, street	teru caale (LT)
roof	kuure maaTi
room	are
rose young rose plant	roojaap-puu roojaacceTi roojaakkaNnu
run run away run wild, run riot, come running all over oneself	ooTu III v.i. ooTip-poo viRunt-aTicci ooTi vaa
rupee 1/100th of a rupee	ruupaa kaacu paycaa
rush be in a rush	avacarapaTu

sauce, gravey	koRampu
savings	ceemippu (LT)
save money	ceettu vay
savory dish	kaaram
say	collu
explain	collip-paaru
scheme, try to get	aTi pooTu
school	paLLikkuuTam
scratching the head with the fingers (indicates doubt)	cori
screen	iiskriin (Ta-Engl)
	taTTi
scuffle	iRupari
season, time	kaalam
this season, this time	kaalam itu
secret	kuTTu
	rakaciyam
see (reflex.)	paattukkoo
	kaaN (LT)
	kaaNu, paaru (ST)
seems as if	poola
seize, attack	muTruke-iTu
self	coya
your own self	onka coya
selfish	cuyaarjitam
	cuyanalam
senseless	paTu-paavi
senseless boy, son of a gun	paTu-paavi payapiLLe
separate	piri
separate, alone, free from troubles	tani
"series", the title of the serial program	cuuryakaanti

servant	eTu-paTi cookkara (H) cookkra ceevakan
messenger servant	
settle, clear up debts	tiir
settle in	kuTi
all to settle	kuTivantame
several, manifold	
shake, wave	pala
shame	aaTTu
shed, barn, cow shed	veTkakkeeTu
shirt	maaTTukkoTTam
show (v)	caTTe
shrewd operator	kaami kaaTTu III v.t.
shut	keTTikkaaran
shut up, shut your mouth	muuTu cap-cip vaaye muuTu
silk	paTTu
similar	maatiri
simple	caataaraNam
sincerely yours	ippaTikku
sinful, wretched	paavi
sinful or wretched fellows	paavi payalkaL
sir (plural form)	-unkaL
singular form	-unka
sir	ayyaa! (respectful address)
sit	kuntu ukkaaru
skill	caamarttiyam
skillful, expert person	nipuNan

sky	antaram aakaayam
sleep (v) the appearance of sleep, look sleepy sleep (n)	tunku tuukka kalakkam tuukkam
slam sound of a door when it is slammed	paTaar-NNu (onomatopoeic)
small	poTi ciriya
snacks	paccaNam
soft-soap to soft soap someone	upacaraNe
something or other unnecessary talking irrelevant talking	eteyeteyoo
soon, immediately	uTane
soul great soul	makaraaci
sound	ooce cattam
specialty, wonder	aticayam speSal, tani
spend to spend	kaRi kaRikka
spoil get spoiled, get lost it has spoiled	paaRaakku keTTup-poo paRaakkiTTutee
squash	parankikkaa
shh don't make a sound	muuccu muuccu viTaatee
stable	nile
standing	niNNukkiTTu
stare	mora

start out	porappaTu purappaTu
stick	oTTu III v.t.
stomach bread and butter	vayiru vayttu poRappu
stop, cease, discontinue	oRi niruttu
store room	sToor-ruum
storm	poyal (ST) puyal (LT)
stove	aTuppu
strain	alaTTu III v.t.
street, road side-street from street to street	teru teruppakkam terut-teruvaa
strong	straang
struggle, scuffle, procrastination	iRupari
stupid	maTayan muTTaaL
subtract	kaRi
sudden	tiTiir
sunrise	pooRutu viTital pooRutu-purappaTutal
surplus	upari (skt)
surprise, showing surprise mild surprise ah-ha!	ennaa (ennaa kaattu!) ennee (LT) aTi cakkee ookoo
sweet	suviiT
table table with a drawer for money	meeje kallaap-peTTi

take and come	vaankikiTTu vaa
take off, subtract come after taking	kaRiccikkoo eTuttu-TTu vaa
tally figures add up to the right amount	tali figarz tali
taste	ruci
taxi	Taaksi
tea	Tii
teasing	keeli
teeth	pallu
tell do tell!	collu ate collu
temple	cannitaanam kovil
thief thievish, roguish	tiruTan tiruTTu
think, consider thinking, contemplating ponder, consider, deliberate thinking (n)	vicaari VI v.t. yoociccikkiTTu yooci VI v.t. cintane
timely thinking, timely	camayookita putti
this this many	ittene
thought	yoocanai or yoocane
throat	toNTe
tie, bind	kaTTu
time	veeLe
times	taram
tin sheet used for roofing	takaram
tired, be tiresome	kaLeppu

tit for tat	
logomachic retort	eeTTikki-pooTTi
if you'll have advertising, I'll have some too!	eeTTikki-pooTTi veLamparamaa?
today	iNNekki
today only, today itself	inree
together	
to be together	kuuTa
together, at the same time	ceettu
always together in that place	kuuTi ninna mayamaa
tolerate	caki
(we) can't tolerate the trouble	tolle tanka muTiyalle
to tolerate	cakikka
tongue	naakku
torch	tiiveTTi
set a torch to, arsonize, set fire	tiiveTTe koLuttu
total	mottam
town	naaTu, paTTaNam
one who lives in town	naaTTup-peruvali
transfer	maattu
treasure	potayal
trick	tantiram
one who has been tricked, fool	muTTaal
tricks (pejorative)	neekku
trouble	eTancal, tontaravu, cankaTam
to trouble, to bother	kaRuttarukka
trouble, mischief	kurumpu
all your mischief or doing trouble	kurumput-tanam ellaam
troublesome	uvattaram
troublesome person	caniyan
true	
it's true	vaaStavam
trust, believe	nampu
truth	uNme
try, attempt	muyarcci

twist	muri II v.i.
two	doo (H) reNTu
type, kind	tinucu
typist	Taipist
udder	maTuvu maTuvu + aaTTam = maTuvaaTTam
ugliness	avalaccanam aruvaruppu
umbrella	koTe
uncle (mother's brother's daughter)	taaymaaman
unfair, unjust, wrong	aniyaayam
unique unique name	tani tanip-peeru
unnecessary trouble	viiNciramam
until, up to	vare
upset be upset, complain about what (big issue) are you upset about	korapaTu perucaa korapaTTukkuriinka
urgent	avacaram arjanT
use usefulness	upayooki payan
vacate	kaali paNNu
vagrant, vagabond	naaTooTi
vanity	perume
vegetable at least some vegetable greens	kaaykari kiireyaavatu
violate if one violates	miiru III v.t. miirinaal
violence	aTaavaTi

visible		tooNu, toonru (LT)
be visible		
visit		vijayam
voice of doom, dangerous voice		apayakkural
wait (v)		kaattiru
wait, have patience, bear with something		poruttukkoo (reflex.)
		kaattukkoo (reflex.)
wake		entiri
after waking up		entiriccu
walk, lead		naTa VII v.i.
cause to walk, lead, manage		naTattu
walking		vaakking
wall		cuvar (LT), covaru (ST)
wander		ale
wandering		aletal
wander, walk about		tiri II v.i.
want (n)		teeve
warn		eccari VI v.t.
warning, notice		arivippu
wash		kaRuvu
to wash		kaRuva
waste		viin
waste one's life		kaalam taLLu
watch, clock		kaTiyaaram
wristwatch		kaTikaaram
watch		vaaccu
water		taNNi
hot water		veNNi
watery		taNNiyaATTamaa
wave, shake		aaTTu
way		vaRi
in that way, that, so		appaTi
wear		vuTuttu

welcome (v)	varaveeru
welcome (n)	varaveerppu
well	kiNaru
very well	caukkiyam
wet	nane
what?	kiyaa (H)
what is this	ennatu
what's that	eetu
	eetu + eetu = eet-teetu or eeteetu
white, whitewash	veLLe
whitewash	cuNNaampu
whole, entire	muRu
wind	kaattu
window	jannal
with	vitt
wonderful, very good	pramaatam
word	vaartte
work	warkk
work, job	uttiyookam
	veele
worry	kavale
worth	takum
wretched woman (sarcastically)	puNyavali (ST)
	puNNiyavali (LT)
wrist	maNikkaTTu
write	eRutu
story writer	kataaciriyar
	kata-aaciriyar
yesterday	neetu
day before yesterday	muntaanaa

TAMIL-ENGLISH GLOSSARY

acinkam (S)	nasty
accaa (H)	good
akappaTu (LT)	be found, acquired
akkam-pakka	neighborhood
akkaunTu	account
akkramam	annoyance hindrance
alaTciyam	ignoring, neglecting
alaTTu	strain
ale II v.i. alanci paaru	wander look for someone
aLa VII v.t.	measure
aLavU III v.t.	limit
aLLu III v.t.	pick up in the hollow of the hand
amarkkaLam	confused noise, agitation, battlefield
ammaa	mother
ammi	a flat stone used to grind spices, etc.
aniyaayam	unjust, unfair, injustice, wrong
anpuLLa	dear
antaram	sky
anti	late afternoon, evening
anupoova paattiyam	the right to enjoy

aNNekki	that day
apacakunam	bad omen
apaayakkural	frightening voice
apaayam	danger
apippraayam	advice, opinion
appaLam	thin rice cake or chip
appaTi	that, so, in that way
appaa!	for heaven's sake!
appuram	after
are	room
arivippu	notice, information
aruvaruppu	ugliness, disgust
arjanT	urgent
artta caamam	midnight
aru VI v.t.	kill by cutting the throat
aRaku	beauty
aRe	invite, call, summon
aRecciTTu vaa	bring along
atec-collu	do tell, that is to say
aticayam	special, wonder, admiration
atikam	high, more, plenty
atikapracanki	impudent fellow
atirsTam	luck
atoo	over there
atooTu	beside that

at-taanee	that's what
atuleyum	especially
attaan	brother-in-law, husband
aTaaTaaTaa	"that's too bad" (idiomatic)
aTe	accumulation of dust or sediment
aTi	foot
aTi VI v.t.	beat, stir
aTi cakkee!	how about that! (Indicates mild surprise)
aTi pooTu	to scheme, try to get
aTukkaLe	kitchen
aTuppankare (N.Br.)	kitchen
aTuppu	stove
aTutta	next
aTutta viiTtukkaaranka	next door neighbors
aTTe	leech
avacaram	in a hurry, urgent
avacarapaTu	be in a rush
avaciyum	certainly
avalaccanam	ugliness
avan paaTTukku	on his part; as for him
ayyaa	sir, master
aace	eager, desire
aaciriyar	author
aacceepane	objection

aaccum	at least
aaDar	order
aakaayam	sky
aalbam	album
aaLu	person, man
aaLunka	people
aampiTu IV v.i.	be obtained, found
aaNi	nail
aaNTavaa!	oh God!
aaR II v.i.	be deep, profound
aarampam	beginning
aattiram	impatience
aaTu III v.i.	act, dance, move, shake
aaTTu III v.t.	shake, wave, dance
aaTTu kallu	a stone mortar used for circular grinding
aavalaa	eagerly
aaval	earnestness, eagerness
aavatu...aavatu	either...or
aayi pooccu	it has become
aayTuccu	finished
baDaa majaa (H)	great fun, enjoyable
baDjaT	budget
bampaay paacanti	name of a type of sweet desert
baTaabaTaa peejaar (H)	big, big problems

baTTar	butter
baylvaaN	athlete
baakki (paakki)	arrears, remaining balance
baalee (H)	yes, right, well
baattrum	bathroom
biskaT	biscuit
braSu	brush
caikiL	bicycle
cakacarnaama accane	repeat a religious phrase, e.g. "Hail Mary"
caki VI v.t.	tolerate, bear, endure
cakti	power, ability
calavakkaaran	dhobi, washerman
caliccikkoo	be displeased with a person
camaya1	cooking
camayam	chance, time, opportunity
camayookitam	timely thinking, good timing
camaaccaaram	news, matter
camaali IV v.t.	manage, tackle
campalam	pay, salary
campaati VI v.t.	earn
caniyan	troublesome person
cankapalake	device used to test the quality of literature
cankaTam	trouble

canteekam	doubt
canti	meet, meeting
cantooSam	joy, pleasure, gratitude
caNTe	quarrel
cappcipp	shut up, shut your mouth
carakke-patti	about the item
cattam	noise
caTTe	shirt
caukariyam	convenient
caukkiyam	very well
caa	die
caamarttiyam	skill
caatakamaa	in favor of
caataaraNamaana	ordinary, simple
caataaraNam	customary, anything common
caattu III v.t.	close, shut a door
caayantram	evening
cece	expression of disgust
celavu	expense
cetta	small, short, little
cetta kaatu kuTu	hark, listen for a minute
ceyti	matter, message, deed
ceeru	reach, return
ceettu	together, at the same time

ceevakan	servant, messenger
cillare	small change
cintane	thinking
ciri	laugh
cittram	picture
collu	say
colli-paaru	explain
contam	own
cori	scratching the head with the fingers (indicates doubt)
coya	self
onke coya	your own self
cookkara (H) cookkra	servant
cooru	cooked rice
cootaa (H)	lazy person
cummaa	just, without reason, repeatedly
cuNNaampu	whitewash
curukka-NNu	easily
curukkaa	quickly
cutta	pure, clean
cutta-junkaL	pure forest, worthless, nothing
cuttu	go around
cuTu	fry, burn
tale cuttu	to feel lightheaded
cuvaroTTi	poster

cuvaru	wall
cuyaarjitam	selfish
cuuryakaanti	"series"; title of the serial program
cuuTaa	hot
cuuTTu	present, adorn, crown
doogati, durgati (H)	bad luck
Dall	dull
DraivaaS	dry clean, dry wash
ecamaan, ejamaan	boss
eccari	warn
eeRe	poor
ek (H)	one
ekkaccakkam	plenty, lots of
enkiravaru (LT)	by name, a man called X
enta viiTtukkaaraan-um	any/every landlord in town
entiri	wake up, get up
ennatu	what is this?
ennaTaa-NNaa	on the other hand, on the contrary
ennaa (LT: ennee)	(exclam.) showing surprise
ennaanNNaa	if you ask what
ennenna	anything, whatever
eNNe	oil
eNNi-vay	pay off
eNNu	count

eNNi paaru	try counting (and see what the result is)
eppa-paattaalum	all the time
erakku III v.t.	lower, bring down
eranku	descend, come down
eri	glow, shine, give light
eriyra neruppu	continuous flame
eRutu	write
eRuttu	letters (alphabet)
etaaccum	anything at all, something
eteyeteyoo	something else, unnecessary (talk)
etukka	in front of you
etur, etir	opposite
etuttaapplee	right opposite to
eTam	place
eTanca1	troublesome, hindrance, trouble, problem
eTu-paTi	servant
eTuttu-TTu vaa	bring, come after taking
evvaLavu	how much
eeKa	heavy
eemaattu	deceive
eerpaTu	arise, become
eet-eetu	what
eetu	what's that

eettam
eettu III v.t.
eeTTikki-pooTTi
figarz
friy yer
fulliy eLekTrifayD
gaarDen
guD nyuus
guSii (H)
haayiya

hoom
ellaame
ille
immi
inimee
innamum
inree (LT)
intaanka
iNNekki
ippaTikki
iranku (LT) III v.t.
irukki
iRupari
iSTattukku
ittane

fitting, proper
load
tit for tat, logomachic retort
figures
free air
fully electrified
garden
good news
tasteful
comfortable (idiomatic, depending on the
circumstances)
home
besides, instead of
no, not, you know?
miniscule part, 1/200th part of a unit
hereafter
still, some more
today only
look
today
sincerely yours
drop down, step down
firmly
a struggle, scuffle, procrastination
as you like
this many

iTi	demolish, destroy
iTli	steamed rice cake
iyarke	nature, inherent quality
iiskriin	screen
iiTu paTu	involve
jaDaa (H)	beatings
jalti (H)	quickly
jananka	people
jannal	window
jaakrate	careful
jooraa (Pers.)	fine
kala	mix
kalkattaa kaTlaT	calcutta cutlet
kale	art(s)
kalyaaNam	marriage
kallaappeTTi	cash box; cash register
kallaavu	cash table; a table with a drawer for money
kaLeppu	tired, tiresome
kaLi	spend
koRampu	sauce, gravy
koRutti	try to burn
koRuttu (LT: koRu)	set fire
koTi VI, v.i.	boil
koTe	umbrella
koTeye maTakku	close, fold up an umbrella

koTu (LT), kuTu (ST)	give
koTi	clothes line, wire
koTTai paakku	areca nut
koTTe koTTeya	boldly
koTTu	pour
koTTu	funeral drum
koTTumeeLam	a marriage drum
koopam	anger
kooRik-kuncu	chicks
kooTe kaalam	hot season
kooTi	nook, corner
kooTTeyuur	place name
kooTTe	fort, stronghold
koovam	angry, mad (adj.)
koovi	be angry
kooviccukko	be angry (reflex.)
kooyyaapeeTTai	place name
kraakki, kiraakki	demand
kraakki-kaL	connoisseurs
krikkiT	cricket
kucci	match
kuLi VI v.i.	bathe, wash
kuLir	cool
kuLirra	cooled down
kumaaracaami	person's name

kump-iruTTu	no light; dark
kumpal	crowd
kuni II v.i.	bend
kunca m	a silk ribbon with decorations on it
kuntu	sit
kupeeracaami	person's name
kuppattoTTi	garbage can
kuppe	garbage
kuraynta vile/vele	low price
kurukka-nil	to be a hindrance
kurukka nil, nillu	in between stand
kurumaa	gravy
kurumpu	trouble, mischief
kurumput-tanam ellaam	all your mischief or doing
kuttam	fault
kuTi VI v.t.	drink
kuTi	live, inhabit, reside in
kuṭiyirunta	lived (adj.)
kuTice	hut
kuTicci vai	drink up
kuTu VI v.t.	give
kuTumpam	family
kuTTi	young of cats, etc.
kuTTi-cevaru	a good-for-nothing fellow

kuTTu	secret
kuuccal	a lot of noise
kuuppiTu	call
kuure	roof
kuuTi poo	emigrate
kuuTi ninna mayamaa	always together in that place
kuuTu	to be together
kuuTTam	crowd
kuuTTaaLi	partner
kuuTTaaNTi	partner
kuuTTu	add
laccaNam, leccaNam	good qualities, splendor
laifu (E)	life
lankaa	Ceylon
layakkaana	right, perfect
laapam	profit
laaTTrI (E)	lottery
leccanamaa	good-looking
leecaa	cheap, easy
leeT (E)	late
lillii	girl's name
macaalaa	condiments, spices, curry stuffs
maccaan	brother-in-law
makaraaci	guy, great soul
makaa	big, large, great
malar	edition

male	mountain
maLike	grocery
maLikekaTe	grocery shop
maLike kaTekkaararu	grocery man
manacu	mind, heart
manacule	in your heart
manacu paNNu	bear in mind, do a little favor
manam	memory
manakkaNakku	calculate from memory
manuSen	guy, fellow
enna manuSen	what a guy!
maNamakaL	bride
maNi	bell
ooce maNi	the sound of a bell
maNiyaarDar	money order
maNNeNNe	kerosene
mara	forget
mara or mare (LT)	hide
marantiTaama colliTunka	don't forget to say
mariyaate	respect
marumakan	son-in-law (male ego's sister's son; female ego's brother's son)
marupaTi(yum)	again
marutaiyyan	owner
maRe	rain
maRe piTi	begin to rain, pour

matippu	regard, estimation
mati VI v.t.	estimate, regard, respect
matippukkuriya	honorable, worthy
mattapaTi	otherwise
mattavanka	others
maTattanam	nonsense
maTayan	stupid
maTakku	fold up, bend
maTaar	crashing noise
maTuvu	udder
maTTum	only
mavucu	attractiveness
mayakkam	faintness, swoon, perplexity
maaLike	luxurious house, palace
maamiyar	mother-in-law
maanam	dignity, honor, chastity
maNikkeTTu	wrist
maariyaattaa	name of a feminine deity
maarvaaTi	a merchant caste found residing in large urban areas in Northern India
maasTar	master
maatiri	like
maattal	transfer
maattu	change
maati	roof, upstairs
maatu	buffalo, ox

maaTTukkoTTam	cow shed, barn
metuvaa	gently, slowly
meeLam koTTumeeLam	marriage drum (also used for important affairs)
miti	pump (the bicycle with the feet)
miice	moustache
miin varaal miin	fish murrel (a type of fish)
miiru	violate
miiti, miccam	remainder
mokam	face
mora or mure (LT)	stare
motal, mutal	first
motalaali	boss, owner
mottam	total
mooru	buttermilk
mukam	face, honor, pride
mukattukkaaka	for the sake of face, honor or pride
mukuurttam-paaru	to find the appropriate time for marriage
mummaram	concentration, be deeply involved in
mummaramaa	fiercely, busily
municippaaliTTi	municipality
munkoovakkaararu	easily irritated person
munpaNam	advance
muntaanaattu	day before yesterday
munumunu	mumble

munnaaTi	before
atukku munnaaTi	before that
muri	twist
muRi VI v.i.	awake, open eyes
muRi	blink
muRu	whole, entire
mutalaaLi	boss, owner
mutal	first
aalu	person
muTi VI v.t.	finish
muTi II v.i.	can, be able
muTivu	decision, final
muTruke-iTu	seize, to grab something as soon as one sees it
muTTaaL	fool, stupid
muTTe	egg
muYarcci	try, attempt
muucc	sssh
muuccu viTaate	don't make a sound
muuccuviTratu-illeyaam	X was so quiet, it was as if he didn't breathe
muuccu	breathe
muukku	nose
muuLe	brain
muunkil	bamboo
muuTu	close
muuTTe puucci	bug, bed-bug
muuTTekaTTu	pack up
naLa bahavaan-vilaas	proper name

nampu III v.t.	trust, believe, count on
nane	wet
naTattiTu	run (of its own accord)
nava oru aTi-navantee	move if you move a foot
naynaa	hey, man!
naakku	tongue
naaRi	24 minutes (one Indian hour)
naaSTaa	food
naattam	bad odor
naaTakam	drama
naaTooTi	vagrant, vagabond
naaTu	town, region, state
naaTTuppeeruvali	one who lives in the town
nela, nile (LT)	level, position, state
nencu	chest
nerantaram	permanent
neruppu eriyra neruppu	fire continuous flame
neekku	tricks (pejorative)
neeraa	directly, straightaway
niccayam	definite, assurance, truth
nile (nileyaa)	permanent, stable
nimiSam	minute, moment, instant
niNNukkiTTu	standing
nipuNan	skillful, expert
niraynta puSTi (LT)	very nourishing

niti	finance
nii oNNu	you're really something
niiti	justice
nyaayam	honesty
niittu III v.t.	extend, stick out
noRe	enter
nootiis	notice
nootTu	note
nyaapakam	rememberence
okkaaru or ukkaaru	sit
oppi VI v.t.	deliver, tell from memory
oru immi eTam ille	no place at all
oru mure/more	once
oRi	discontinue, cease, stop
oRunku	good conduct, correct, neat
otaru	fall out
oteyamaaku	rise
otikki + viTu	defecate
oTe	break
oTTu	stick
ovattaram	noise, bother
ovvoNNaa	one by one, piece by piece
ovvaru	each, every
ooce	sound
ooci	free, no cost

ooccile	at no charge
ookoo	interjection indicated surprise
ooTi-poo	run away
ooTu III v.i.	run
ooTu	roof tile
ooTTu	manage (caus.)
ooviyam	precious
pacanka (pl. of payyan)	boys
paci	hungry
paci eTu	begin to get hungry
paccaNam	snacks
pakkam	page, area, vicinity
paakki	remaining balance
palakaaram	snacks
paleejoor	it looks great
palam	heavy
palamaana maRe	heavy rain
palapeer	many people
pala	many, several, manifold
peeru	person's name
pallu	tooth
paLLikkuuTam	school
pankajam	person's name (female)
pantal	small hut, shed
para	fly (off the handle)

paramacivam
 parampare
 parankikkaa(y)
 paricu
 paricaaka
 parincu-peecu
 pari IV v.i.
 paruntu
 paruppu
 paruppu tovayal
 paRaku
 paRaakkittatu
 paReya
 paRi VI v.t.
 paRi (n)
 pattaram
 pattirikke
 paTalam
 paTam
 paTaar-NNu
 paTe eTu
 paTi
 paTiccu paTiccu
 paTraakkure
 paTu

person's name
 entire family, generation
 squash
 gift, reward
 as a gift
 talk for someone, intercede
 pleade, intercede
 hawk
 nut, pulse
 pea chutney
 be familiar with, be accustomed to
 it has spoiled
 old
 harm, blame, scold
 blame, fault, guilt
 be careful
 newspaper
 a mass of something
 picture, movie
 sound a door makes when it is slammed
 invade
 step, stair
 over and over again
 deficit
 lie, recline

paTu-paavi	senseless
paTu-paavi payapiLLe	senseless boy, son of a gun
paTutta paTiyaa	lying down
paTTam	nickname
paTTa-peeru	nickname
paTTatte cuuTTu	give a nickname
paTTu	silk
paTTu paTTu	impulsive(ly)
paviyam	orderliness
payal	person, fellow
payam	fear
payan	usefulness
payankaram	terrible
payattukkuriya	henpecked
payittiyam (LT)	madness, craziness
payttiyam (ST)	
payp	pipe (for water, sewage, etc.)
tani payp	separate pipe
paakki	left over, debt
paalaampaaL	woman's name
paaLaavutu (ST)	spoil
paaRaakutu (LT)	
paalkaari	milkmaid
paarsel	parcel
paarveyaa	good-looking
paattaaccu	has been checked
paattukkoo	see (reflex.)

paaTi cutantaratt-ooTayaavatu

paavam

paavi

paavi payalkaL

pecaku

perattiyaaru

perucu

peruki poo III v.i.

peruku III v.t.

perukku

peruma

peRappu

peTTey

peTTi or poTTi

pey I v.i.

peyNTu

peecaama iru

peeru pooruttam

picin

piccuva

piLLekuTTikkaaran

piLLeyaaNTan

pin kooTi

pera, pora, pira (LT)

pinne

with half freedom

too bad, pity

sinful, wretched

sinful, wretched fellows

error, mistake

others

big

get bigger

increase

multiply

pride, vanity

livelihood

buildings in a compound

box

fall

paint

be quiet

name matching

glue

dagger

a person who has children

fellow, boy

back portion of a house or hut

be born

afterwards

pinne-etu	then, what then?
pinne yaaru	who else?
piri	separate
piricci pooTu	replace a roof, take apart
piTi VI v.t.	hold, seize
poRappu, piReppu (LT)	life
enkaLukku it-taan poRappaa?	do you think we have nothing better to do?
porappuTu	go, start
poraTTu	fraud
pori	fry
poruppu	responsibility
poruttukkoo (reflex.)	wait, have patience, bear with something
poTave	clothes
potayal	treasure
poTi	small
poTi	powder
poTi Tappaa	powder can
poTTi or peTTi	box
poy	lie, deceit
pooccu-Taa	it is all over, that is it
pooy + viTTatu	gone
poola	like, as if, seems as if
poraame	envy
pooRutu viTital	sunrise
pootum	enough

pooTu	serve (food), put
poyal, puyal (LT)	storm
pooyTTu-vaanka	goodbye, see you again
puNyavati	lucky woman
purappaTu	start out, set out
purakkaNi	neglect
puraTTal	deceit, lying
puraaNam	history
puriyaame	without understanding
puRuti	street dust, dust of the soil
putuppaTTi	place name
putti	judgement, wit
puuciniikkaa(y)	pumpkin
puuk-kaTe	flower shop
puune	cat
puuraa	all over, completely
puuTTu	lock
puuvu (ST), puu (LT)	flower
prabala	famous
praccane	problem
pramaatam	wonder, very good
pratiyaaru	others
raaci-palan	horoscope
raatiri	night
resepSan haall	reception hall

rileeSan	relative
rompa cari	quite right
roTTi	bread
roojaa	rose
roojaaceTi, roojaakkaNNu	young rose plant
sorr-NNu	nice and crisp
speSal	special
straang	strong
sToor-ruum	store room
suviit	sweet
takanam lankaa takanam	burning the burning of Ceylon
takaram	tin sheet which is used for roofing
takaraaru	dispute, problem, objection
takum	worth
tale	head
tale cuttutu	feel light-headed
tale poora maatiri	head over heels
tale vali	headache
taLLi	away, further off
taLLu uure viTTu taLLi	push, shove outside the town
tamaaS (H)	fun, joke, show
tanakku	dative form of the reflexive pronoun, -taan: his, hers, itself; it means: for oneself
tani	separate, alone, free from troubles
tani	unique
tanip-peeru	unique name

tankacaami	person's name
tarma cankaTam	difficulty in figuring out which of two duties is proper
tarreeNNaaru	He said, "I will give."
taTu VI v.t.	hinder, restrain, partition
taTTi	screen
taTTu III v.t.	knock
tavaraamal	regularly
tavira	except
tayanku	hesitate
tayaar	ready
tayavu	favor, goodness, kindness
tayavu ceytu	please
taa	give
taakutiyuLLa	qualified
taali	badge or symbol worn around the neck as a sign of marriage
taanku	afford, bear
taaNTi poo	overcome, surpass
taaNTu	jump, pass, cross
taaraaLam	free
taaymaaman	mother's brother
tempu (Te)	courage, enthusiasm
tera, tira (LT)	open
terincikkoo	find out, realize

teru	street, road
teruppakkam	streetside
teru-teruvaa	from street to street
teyvam	god
teeti	date
teevale	not bad, better
teeve	need, want, necessity
tinam tinam	every day, daily
tinucaana	type, kind
tiri	wander, walk about
tirumaNam	marriage
tirumpi, tiruppi(yum)	again
tirunaal	holy day
tirupaLLi eRucci	poem sung to wake up the deity in a temple
tiruSTi	evil eye
tiruttu	thievish, roguish
tiruTan	thief
tiTiir(-NNu)	sudden(ly)
tii	fire
tiippeTTi	matchbox
tiir	settle, clear up debts
tiirttu pooTum	it will finish your life
tiittukko	avenge oneself
tiittukkaNum-Naa	if we had wanted to get revenge
tiivanam	fodder

tiiveTTi	torch
tiiveTTi koLutturavanka	those who set fire
tole VI v.t.	kill, finish off, destroy
tolle taanka muTiyalle	we can't tolerate the trouble
toLe	penetrate
tontaravu	bother, noise, disturbance
toNa-toNa	bitch at
toNTe	threat
toTTi	pot
toonNu (LT:toon <u>ru</u>) III v.t.	be visible, seem, appear
oNNu tooNutunka	I have an idea
toosth (H)	friend
tuNi	presume, act boldly, endeavor, ascertain
tuNi or tuNimaNi	clothes
tuNTu	piece, fragment, bit
tuppu	ability
tuuci-tumpal	dust
tuukka kalakkam	the appearance of sleep, look sleepy
tuukku	lift
tuurattule	from a distance
tuuram	distance, remoteness
tuutu	messenger
tuutu vaa	come as a messenger or on an errand
TaipisT	typist
Takaar-NNu	immediately
Takku-Takku-NNu	knock, knock

Tali	tally
figarz Tali	figures tally
Taaksi	taxi
Tiffan	early morning snack
Tii	tea
ukkaaru	sit
uLLa	being
uNTaakku	bring in, cause to become, create
upacaraNe	affable, to soft-soap someone
upari	surplus
upayooki	use
urcaakam	happy, joy
urime	right
utavi, otavi (ST)	help
uttiyookam	profession, work, job
uTampu, oTampu (ST)	body
uTane, oTane (ST)	soon, immediately
uvattaram	trouble
uyiru	life
uyire vaanku	bother, annoy
uutu	blow
uuttu	pour, give
vacati	convenience
vacatiyaa	convenient
vaccirukka	to keep

vali	ache, pain
valikkutu	feel pain
vallaTi	force
vallaTi vampu	a person who gets what he wants by using force
vaLakkam	customs
vaLa	develop
vaLam	abundance, fullness, productiveness, fertility
vampu	quarrel
vantu ceeru	arrive, get to/at
vaNTi	cart
varaveeru	welcome (v)
varaveerppu	welcome (n)
varaal miin	murrel (type of fish)
varekki	up to
varekkum	until
vay	place, put, keep
vayiru (LT)	stomach
vayttu poLappu	bread and butter
vaacal	entrance steps, door
vaaccu	watch
vaakking	walking
vaanka	come in, come
vaanku	get, receive
vaankikiTTu vaanka	take and come

vaartte	word
vaastavam	it's true
vaaTake	rent
vaaTikka	customs
vaay	mouth
vaay(ttatu)	happen
vaay-viiccu	too much talking
vai	keep
veccaa	if kept
vekkam (ST), veTkam (LT)	shyness, coyness, embarrassment
vele	price
veLivaacal	outer gate
vell	well
veLamparam	advertisement
veLeyaaTu	play
veLiccam	brightness, sunlight, light
veLinaaTu	foreign country
veLippakkam	outside
veLiye	outside
veLLe	white, whitewash
venkaTacaami	person's name
ventayam	fenugreek
veNNi (ST), veNNiir (LT)	hot water
vereTTu III v.t.	drive out, chase away
verum	just, a mere
vettale	beetel leaf

veTkakkeeTu	shame, feel shame
veele	job
veele pooyiTuccu	lose one's job
veeLe	time
veeNi	person's name (female)
veeTikke	joke, act, spectacle, fun, proceedings
veeTikkayaa-irukkutu	this is funny
veeTTi	dhoti
vicaalamaana	extensive, big, having everything
vicaari	enquire
vicaaricci	having enquired
vicuvaacum	faithfulness
vijayam	visit
vilaas	establishment of any business, trademark
viLakku, veLakku (ST)	light, lamp
vinaaTi	moment
viri	open, expand
viruntaaLinka	guests
viRu	fall
viRunt-aTicci ooTi vaa	to come running, falling all over oneself
viSam	poison
vitam enta vitamaana	kind, sort any kind of
vitt	with

viTu IV v.t.	leave, quit, let, permit
viTTu	after
viTTuttallu	leaving that aside
viicu	blow
viiN	waste
viiNciramam	unnecessary trouble
viiTTukkaararu	landlord
vuTuttu	wear
vyaapaaram, viyaapaaram (LT)	business
vyaapaari, viyaapaari (LT)	merchant
warkk	work
yaane	elephant
yaareyum kaaNoom	nobody in sight
yocane, yoojane	advice, thought, opinion, thinking
yociccukkiTTu	thinking, contemplating
yocci VI v.t.	deliberate, consider, ponder
yookam	luck, fortune
yookkiyate	honesty, integrity
yukam	age
yunkaL	sir (pl.)
yutta kaNTam	fighting time

