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**AN ANALYSIS OF ERRORS IN  
TAMIL DAILY NEWSPAPERS**

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**A dissertation submitted in partial  
fulfillment  
of the requirements for the degree of  
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**DEDICATED TO MY DEAR PARENTS  
THE LATE  
MR & MRS. S. SINAPPAN SADAYAMMAL**

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## **ABSTRACT**

This is an exploratory study undertaken by the investigator to identify and classify the errors committed by editors of three Tamil daily newspapers in Malaysia. This study involves the three major Tamil daily newspapers, The Tamil Ne:san, Malaysia Nanpan and Thina Muracu. These dailies are the major Tamil newspapers published in Malaysia and are read by most of the Tamil readers.

A total number of 50 articles published by the three dailies for a period of one month have been analyzed in order to find the errors and the frequency in which they have occurred. The errors were identified and categorized as follows:

### **1. Systematic Errors**

- 1.1 Junctional features
- 1.2 Illogical / Incomplete sentence construction
- 1.3 Junction features
- 1.4 Using the wrong English / Malay translation
- 1.5 Unnecessary splitting of words

### **2. Performance Errors**

- 2.1 Addition / Omission of a letter
- 2.2 Omission / Replacement of a word
- 2.3 Wrong usage of punctuation marks
- 2.4 Unnecessary joining of words

## 2.5 Unnecessary splitting of words

The analysis showed that the most problematic aspects of Tamil for these dailies are the junctional features involving 'punarcci' rules and the unnecessary splitting of words 'col utaippu'.

The findings of this study showed eleven major areas in which the writers are weak. The editors of these dailies need guidance in the aspects of writing Tamil. The editors should take into consideration these problematic areas when preparing their news. The proof-readers too should be more careful while doing their job. With constant check on these errors, the investigator feels, that errors that appear in Tamil dailies could be avoided.

## **ABSTRAK**

Kajian terperinci ini dilakukan untuk mengenalpasti dan mengategorikan jenis-jenis kesilapan yang dilakukan oleh akhbar harian Tamil di Malaysia. Kajian ini meliputi tiga buah akhbar harian Tamil yang terbesar iaitu Tamil Ne:san, Malaysia Nanpan and Thina Muracu. Ketiga-tiga akhbar ini masih diterbit dan menjadi sangat popular di kalangan pembaca Bahasa Tamil.

Sejumlah 50 rencana atau berita yang diterbitkan oleh ketigatiga buah akhbar harian untuk tempoh satu bulan telah digunakan dalam kajian ini. Rencana atau berita ini telah digunakan untuk mengira jumlah kesilapan yang diulangi. Kesilapan-silapan tersebut telah dikategorikan seperti berikut:

1. Kesilapan Sistematik
  - 1.1 Penggunaan /puñarci/
  - 1.2 Ayat yang tidak logik / tidak lengkap
  - 1.3 Sambungan kata majmuk yang silap
  - 1.4 Penggunaan perkataan Bahasa Inggeris / Bahasa Malaysia yang silap
  - 1.5 Pengasingan kata yang silap

## 2. Kesilapan Penggunaan

- 2.1 Menambah / Menggugurkan huruf
- 2.2 Menambah / Menggugurkan kata
- 2.3 Penggunaan tanda baca yang silap
- 2.4 Sambungan kata majmuk yang silap
- 2.5 Pemisahan kata yang silap

Analisis kesilapan-kesilapan dalam kajian ini telah menunjukkan bahawa dua aspek Bahasa Tamil merupakan masalah besar kepada ketiga-tiga akhbar harian tersebut. Kesilapan-kesilapan tersebut melibatkan hukum ‘puṇarcci’ dan hukum ‘col utaippu’

Dapatan daripada kajian ini menunjukkan sebanyak sebelas aspek menjadi masalah kepada akhbar-akhbar harian Tamil tersebut. Pengarang bagi akhbar-akhbar harian tersebut memerlukan panduan untuk menulis berita atau rencana dalam akhbar mereka. Para pengarang harus mengambil perhatian tentang aspek-aspek masalah ini semasa menyediakan berita mereka. Para pembaca pruf juga harus berhati-hati semasa menjalankan tugas mereka. Dengan adanya pemerhatian yang berterusan pengkaji berpendapat bahawa kesilapan bahasa dalam akhbar harian Tamil boleh dielakkan.

Scheme of Transliteration of Tamil Letters as Adopted by  
The Investigator

Vowels	
a	அ
a:	ா
i	இ
i:	ஈ
u	உ
u:	ஊ
e	எ
e:	ஏ

ai	ஐ
o	ஓ
o:	ஓ
au	ா

Special Letter	
ak	ஃ

Consonants	
k	କ୍ତ
n	ନ୍ତ
c	ଶ
ñ	ଞ୍ଚ
t̪	ଟୁ
n̪	ଣୁ
t̪	ଢୁ
n̪	ନ୍ଦୁ
p	ପୁ
m	ମୁ
y	ଯୁ
r̪	ର୍ଜ
l̪	ଲୁ
v̪	ବୁ

ତୁ	ତ୍ତୁ
ତେ	ତ୍ତେ
ତ୍ତୁ	ତ୍ତୁ
ତ୍ତୁ	ତ୍ତୁ

Sanskrit Letters	
s	ଶ
ks	କ୍ଷ
h	ହୁ
j	ଜୁ
sh	ଶୁ
sri	ସ୍ରୀ

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